



The Prospector

Prospect United Methodist Church

Ebony, Virginia

February 2014

<http://www.prospectumc-ebonyva.org/>

Reflections from our Pastor:

I sit today to write this article for the Prospector, after shoveling the walks and preparing to make it safe for us to come to church Sunday. This has got to be the wildest winter Jan and I have ever experienced in Virginia. I saw a snowman on Facebook that had several knives in its stomach and the headline read, "Die Winter!" Although winter seems to have a pretty good hold, right now.

I'm sure most of you have read the headlines or watched the news today as the Marriage Ban has been deemed Unconstitutional in Virginia. Our Attorney General called it a "Great Day for Virginia." Our Sermons last week and this week are about our need to follow God's Laws. Jesus told us that he did not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it. The law of our land and God's Law seem to be at different ends of the spectrum. This issue is one that will require much prayer and discernment. I'm sure it will come down to a vote at our next election. We are facing things that require decisions that have never been faced before. How best can we love God with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves? Please commit yourselves to pray about this issue. As your Pastor and as a Christian I must commit myself to do the same.

I would like to welcome all the new members that joined recently. Since 2008 we have received into membership 87 people. We also have several friends of Prospect that have yet to join our family. They too are as much a part of

the family as anyone else. We would be glad to add them into membership when they are ready. For right now we will just come together and glorify God.

It is so easy to get excited about the direction that we are headed into. Our Sunday School program has given us many opportunities to ponder issues, scriptures, and to develop deeper friendships through God's Word and our own experiences. We are now studying The Wesleyan Way. John Wesley teaches us that Salvation is not an action or just a response to this relationship between us and God, through Jesus. It is an ongoing process in which we live and grow and think and discern our relationship with God.

We had our Young Adult Ministries first meeting and explored the book and DVD for 5 Love Languages. How appropriate for Valentine's Day! Each participant answered questions on a survey to discover their own "Love Language." We are going to meet again the 16th for another event and an opportunity to get to know one another better.

Our Bible Studies on Wednesday nights have been very successful. I encourage you to get involved in the one at church that Elaine Chipley leads, or the one at Charlie French's house that he leads. We continue to explore God's Word and would look forward to your participation and input.

I encourage you to be an evangelist for our church family. Tell them about all the things

that are going on and how Jesus continues to lead us and how the workings of The Holy Spirit inspire us.

Bind us together Lord, bind us together, that we may be a strong cord that cannot be broken!
May we live in the Grace of Almighty God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the compassion of The Holy Spirit. God Bless You.

Love,
Ken Thrasher



Prospect has been blessed to have new members since November 1, 2013.

William (Bill) and Betty Schreiber

Amanda (Mandy) Moore
(Daughter of Herb and Judy Moore)

Robert Palmiter

Kim Phillips

February, 2014 brought us three new members. They are Jan Thrasher's sisters and brother-in-law. Of course, Rev. Ken is their brother-in-law, too.

Linda May
Alice and Joel FitzGerald

We welcome you all to our church family and pray for you daily. We are all on our faith journey and we are so happy to have others join us.

Blessings to you always,
Annette Jones, Membership Secretary

CHRISTMAS AT HOLLY HAVEN



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who helped to make Christmas for the residents at Holly Haven Home for Adults a very happy one. Rebecca Jones, the Administrator, told me that the residents were excited with their gifts and enjoyed the food the church organizations supplied for the occasion. Several members of the church went to the home before Christmas for a party and also to share the story of Jesus birth. All the residents were there and enjoyed our visit. Getting to know these adults will fill your hearts with joy. They are loving people and just want to be accepted and loved.

I also thank you for the food you bring for the first Sunday. Rebecca picks it up and she really depends on this donation for the month. If you don't wish to shop, a monetary donation will be accepted and needed supplies will be purchased by the church for the home. If you would like to write a check, please make the check to Prospect UM Church and in the memo line write "Holly Haven". You may give the check to me, Don Broome or Dede Snead. Also if you like to cook and would like to furnish a meal to the home, that is also an option. There are sixteen residents there at this time. Rebecca says that Prospect is more than a Christmas church since we help every month of the year. She says that the members of Prospect let their light shine for the Lord.

Thank you again as we continue to help those in need.

Annette Jones

Adult and Family Ministries

A group of church members travelled to Blackstone on December 19 and enjoyed lunch at the Blackstone Herb Cottage. After lunch they visited Bevill's Hardware in Blackstone to view the awesome train display. The day was very much enjoyed.

Another fellowship time will be planned probably in March. Look for information in the bulletin.

Please keep safe and warm in this cold winter weather.

Annette and Charles Jones

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men met on the third Thursday in January for their time of fellowship and business meeting. Plans were made for the sweetheart dinner. The dinner was well attended by the invited guests.

The men are making plans for a Brunswick stew in late March. The stew master, Carlton Morris, has had back surgery and is unable to cook stew at this time.

The UMM members invite all men of the church to come join them. They meet at 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month for a meal and fellowship along with their business meeting. These men help the projects around the church as well as support well deserving organizations.

Until next time,
Charles Jones, President

United Methodist Women

The UMW of Prospect United Methodist Church meet the fourth Monday evening of each month (unless members are notified earlier!)...We meet at 7 p.m. and wish to invite all ladies who are interested in missions and wish to help women, children and youth all over the world experience the love of God in their lives to come and be with us.

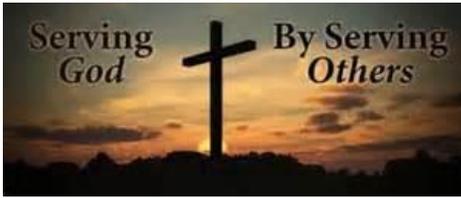
In January we operated the Brunswick County Clothes Closet. Every Saturday during January ladies from our church kept the clothes closet open and many sales were made to those in need of clothing for their families. Our monthly meeting of the UMW was cancelled because of bad weather...We're hopeful that we'll have good weather in February and look forward to our meeting on February 24th. Ruby Lee Anderson, the vice president of the Virginia Conference UMW, will be our guest speaker.

On March 3rd, the UMW women will serve soup, salad and dessert before the Faith Renewal Service. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend these services which will be very uplifting and give your spirits a boost from the cold, winter days.

On March 8th, a group of our UMW plan to attend a Farmville District Prayer Breakfast at Wilson's Barbecue in South Hill. The district events are very rewarding and we will leave from the breakfast with our minds and heart prepared for the Lenten Season which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th.

If you have any questions about UMW please contact Elaine Chipley.

Mission Committee Activities



Since our last update the mission committee helped prepare three Thanksgiving food baskets that were delivered to needy families. They included a turkey and all the fixings for a full Thanksgiving meal and were well received.

For Christmas, we assisted Annette and Charles with the angel tree and Christmas party at Holley Haven. Annette and Charles have been very faithful in this mission and the efforts of our church are greatly appreciated at Holley Haven.

Chip Hill spear headed a mission to collect and send goody boxes to our brave troops fighting over seas. Thanks to everyone who donated to this effort and brightened up the Christmas holidays for our troops.

Rev. Ken told the congregation of a local family that was having a tough time financially. Many congregation members donated to this family and the Mission Committee authorized \$500 from the mission budget to be donated as well. This family was able to have a Christmas for their kids and that's a good thing!

Mission also got together at the church one afternoon with volunteers and prepared a meal for 15 members of our congregation. Chicken, green bean casserole, mac and cheese, brownies and fruited jello were prepared and delivered and much appreciated. Thanks for those who helped. We would like to do this on a monthly basis. The next cooking day at the church is set for Tuesday, February 25th.

Our winter road cleanup of our adopted highway was delayed due to inclement weather. We will get out there and clean up the trash as soon as it warms up a bit (and stops snowing!) We have tentatively rescheduled the Road Clean-up Day for Wednesday, February 26.

Do you need some help? We are here to assist. Whether it is a ride to the doctor, some cleanup around the house, a ride to and from church...we are a phone call or email away.

In His Love,
Chris & Valerie Ruch

FINANCE

The monthly amount needed to meet our budget in 2013 is 9,294.08. Following are the amounts received for the budget through December 31, 2013.

	Received	Difference
Jan	7,101.63	- 2,192.45
Feb	8,354.72	- 939.36
Mar	11,525.00	+ 2,230.92
Apr	8,921.50	- 372.58
May	8,532.00	- 762.08
Jun	10,535.00	+ 1,240.92
July	8,835.00	- 459.08
Aug	9,432.62	+ 138.54
Sept	10,980.10	+1,686.02
Oct	8,817.56	- 476.52
Nov	9,566.5	+2,272.42
Dec	<u>11,501.00</u>	<u>+ 2,260.92</u>
2013 Total	114,102.63	+ 2,573.67

The monthly amount needed to meet our budget in 2014 is 9,801.00. Following are the amounts received for the budget through January 31, 2013.

	Received	Difference
Jan	8,284.16	- 1,216.84

EVANGELISM

*MARK YOUR CALENDARS.....TWO
IMPORTANT EVENTS COMING UP!!!!*

The Evangelism Committee has planned the Faith Renewal Services for March 2, 3, and 4. We hope everyone will come out for these three nights of preaching, singing, and fellowship. We will have three different speakers, three different groups/individuals offering their singing talents, and each night will begin with a meal. On Sunday, March 2, we will have a potluck dinner. Everyone is encouraged to attend and bring a dish or several of their favorite dishes to share. Sunday night we'll have Charles and Cheryl Green and members from Chester United Methodist Church to share their music with us. Sunday night's speaker will be announced later. Monday evening the United Methodist Women will host the dinner providing soups, salad and dessert. Monday's speaker will be Rev. Dan Gerald. Roger Wright will be sharing his musical talent with us on Monday evening. Tuesday evening's speaker will be Rev. Tim Irving. On Tuesday evening the meal will be provided by the United Methodist Men. They will serve their famous hot dog dinner which we all enjoy. Please mark your calendars and plan to come out for these three nights. We're sure you'll be spiritually uplifted by the messages delivered as well as the musical talents of our guest singers. All dinners will begin at 6 P.M. with the worship service beginning at 7 P.M.

Spring will be here before you know it!!! That means it will soon be time for the Annual Prospect United Methodist Church Song Fest. The date for this event is Saturday, May 31 from 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. Save the date for this special event!!! This will be a great day to hear many of

your favorite groups sing some of your favorite songs/hymns. Food will be available and all donations from this event will benefit Dede Simpson. Hopefully the weather will cooperate this year and we'll be able to have this outside on the front lawn. If you'd like to make monetary donations to help with food, drinks, etc. or if you'd like to make some cookies or brownies, please contact Elaine Chipley. There will be no charges for food this year but people will be asked to make donations for the food. Hopefully, we'll have lots of donations that we'll be able to pass along to Dede Simpson to help with her expenses while she fights cancer. Thanks in advance for all your help!!!

The Women's Bible Study which meets on Wednesday evening at 7 P.M. at church will soon begin a new study. If you are interested in joining our group please see Elaine Chipley. Our usual attendance is 6-8 women and we have really enjoyed our study of "Women in the Bible". We've all learned a lot about the women of the Bible as well as learning a lot about ourselves!! It's amazing how much we can relate so much with so many of these women who lived many years ago!

Let us all continue to be Christ's hands, feet and voice to everyone we meet. For by working together and letting our "lights shine" we can and will make a difference and we will continue to spread God's love to everyone.



About the Methodist Church ...

JOHN WESLEY

The American Bicentennial of the Methodist Church was 1784-1984. John Wesley said "THE WORLD IS MY PARISH". Look at us now! How many United Methodist Churches do we have in the USA and the World?

CHARLES WESLEY

Charles Wesley wrote at least 6,000 Hymns. Many of them are in our United Methodist Hymnal.

FRANCIS ASBURY

Francis Asbury was born Aug. 20, 1745 in England and died Mar. 31, 1816. John Wesley appointed him at age 22 as a traveling Preacher. He volunteered to travel to America. He traveled by horse back or wagon. Any where he could get a group together, he would preach the Gospel up and down the east coast.

When the war for Independence broke out he was the only Methodist Minister to remain in America. Francis Asbury was Bishop of the Methodist Church from Aug. 7, 1771 to Dec. 7, 1815.

Look it up on Google regarding John Wesley, Charles Wesley, Francis Asbury, Thomas Coke, and others.

Submitted by Alene Laura Carroll



Editor's Note: Here are two good websites to reference about the history of Methodism.

<http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/roots>

<http://christianity.about.com/od/methodistdenomination/a/John-Wesley.htm>

And don't forget that we are now studying "The Wesleyan Way" in Sunday School! Please join us after church. Talk to Herb Moore or Pastor Ken for more information.



As I sit at the computer, formatting the Winter Newsletter for our church, it is Valentine's Day. The sun is shining on the ice-crusted snow from the storms of the last two days, causing it to sparkle brightly and rapidly thaw. And just as the sun thaws the snow, God can warm our hearts and fill them with love and joy. I have experienced firsthand that God's love and mercy bring physical, emotional, and spiritual healing when we open our hearts to Him. And I want to thank you, the Body of Christ at Prospect, who have extended such warmth to me and my husband Ray ever since we began attending. And for your prayers through my cancer diagnosis, treatment, and recovery. My faith in God and love for Him has grown by leaps and bounds by worshipping Him with you! In fellowship with you on Sunday mornings, I am able to feel the presence of God among us and to see His love on each face. Happy Valentine's Day, with love and gratitude.

Chris Barden

Some Scriptures about Love

In The New Testament

From the New International Version (NIV)

Luke 10:27 “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.”

John 13:34 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

Galatians 5:14 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.

Ephesians 4:15-16 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Philippians 1:9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight...

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

1 Peter 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

1 John 3:18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Jude 1:2 Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 at 1pm

Help cook and deliver meals

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 at 9 am

Adopt-a-highway Clean-up Day

12 volunteers needed

Faith Renewal Services

MARCH 2, 3, AND 4

Dinner at 6 pm

Worship Services at 7 pm

(See EVANGELISM on page 5 for more info, including the special speakers and singers!)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Beginning of Lent

APRIL 13



APRIL 20



SUNDAY, MAY 11



SATURDAY, MAY 31

Prospect UMC Song Fest

Prospect United Methodist Church
PO Box 25
Ebony, VA 23845