



# The Prospector

Prospect United Methodist Church

Ebony, Virginia

May 2014

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

## Reflections from our Pastor:

*Friends*, I am very excited about the future at Prospect. As many of you know, I will begin my eighth year as pastor on July 1st. I look forward to our developing new ideas for ministry this year. While in business I referred to this as thinking outside the box. We have done several things in this manner and have seen incredible results. Who would have thought that getting snowed out of our Faith Renewal Services would have been such a good thing. Because of the snow and the postponement of nights two and three, we shifted gears and had separate events. We had 290 people attend our three nights. The best attendance our Renewal Services have ever had! I am so very proud of the Evangelism Committee and the many volunteers that made this all possible.

During this year we also started the Young Adult Ministries. We have had three events. The first was a program entitled *The Five Love Languages*, the second was a getting to know you event, and the third was a Financial Consultant that came in to help us with short and long term financial planning.

Our Missions Committee has done some

fabulous cooking for our shut-ins this year. I believe this to be one of our greatest outreach opportunities. We have also had opportunities to beautify Ebony with our road clean ups.

The Methodist Women and Men continue to be a vital part of our outreach and mission of the church. We invite more of you to become a part of one of these great organizations.

Our Bible Study groups and Sunday School programs continue to bear fruit for the kingdom. The closer we draw to Jesus, the more he draws close to us.

Jesus has given us a roadmap to follow, as he taught us how to love and care for people. We as Christians have a responsibility to seek out the least and the lost and show them the love of Christ. Aquinas said "Preach often, use words only when absolutely necessary". We must continue to let our light shine for the transformation of the world.

Our goal for this year is to increase attendance in worship to 100. You keep loving them and God will increase the harvest! I have heard several times recently how friendly this church is. I know that

makes Jesus very happy. The big events are great but it's the way we love people that will have a lasting effect on their lives. I believe our goal is less about numbers and more about relationship. The more we love people into our faith family the more The Holy Spirit will be present in our church and lives.

God Bless you for the way you love your neighbors as yourselves.

Love,

*Ken Thrasher*



We're trying to get everything organized for Songfest next Saturday. Sometimes it's difficult knowing how much to buy of

different items. Please let us know if you can bring canned drinks or bottled water by contacting Elaine Chipley at [elainechipley@embarqmail.com](mailto:elainechipley@embarqmail.com) or phone number 1-252-537-5112.

Also, we are asking members to make cookies or brownies to be served with lunch. Pack 2 per baggie, please. Thank you so much for your willingness to help the Evangelism Committee with this most enjoyable project.



*Saturday, May 31, 10 – 2*  
*Song Fest*

*Sunday, June 15*  
*Father's Day*

*Saturday, Sept. 27*  
*Fall Festival*

### **Our Membership Is Growing!**



During February we welcomed *Charles and Barbara Nelson* and *Naomi Piccolo* as new members.

In March we welcomed *Nevin Edward (Ed) Clark* as a new member. *Gary Ayers and Barbara McCaughey* joined us in March as affiliate members.

We are so happy to have all of you in our faith community and we pray for you daily. We are all on our faith journey together and spreading the good news to others.

Blessings to you always,  
Annette Jones, Membership Secretary

## EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

By Elaine Chipley

The Evangelism Committee would like to extend a **HUGE** thank-you to everyone who participated in our Faith Renewal Services. All three nights were quite successful! The choir from Chester United Methodist Church was excellent and we had some delicious food at our potluck dinner...Ronnie and Rodger Wright sang their hearts out for our second night of services and again we had delicious food at our dinner afterwards. It was a joy to have Rev. Pam Pickard back at Prospect and she delivered an inspirational message on "Prayer". Our final night of our Faith Renewal Services was the production of Leonardo de Vinci's *The Last Supper*. So many people participated in this production and without ALL of you it would not have been possible. Rev. Tim Irving gave a very inspiring interpretation of the Lord's Prayer.



We celebrated that night with a Love Feast.



Linda Shelton was the director of this production and she did an outstanding job of organizing and making sure every detail of the production was planned...On June 8, 2014, the Evangelism Committee will present a picture of Leonardo de Vinci's painting "The Last Supper" to the church. We hope everyone will enjoy this picture.

Evangelism's next event will be Saturday, May 31st, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on the grounds of Prospect UMC. We'll sponsor our yearly Song Fest. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. This will be an exciting day....You can just relax and enjoy some good gospel music. Some of the individuals/groups to perform will be Rodger Wright, Ronnie Wright, Alene Carroll and some of her gifted family members, the Bowman Sisters, Tony Stallings and more....We'll have food available for your lunch. Steven Austin will be our chef with assistance from other UMM members. Donations will be accepted and these donations will benefit 3 different individuals who are experiencing medical issues and really need some assistance with climbing medical bills. There will be no charge for food, but please come planning to make a donation to help these

three individuals. In case of bad weather, this event will take place in our fellowship hall. We're hoping for a nice pleasant day so we can be outside. Come and enjoy some good music, food and fellowship. We thank you in advance for your support and we'll see you on Saturday, May 31st!!

## United Methodist Women

The UMW has been very busy lately. Three of our members attended the Farmville District UMW Mission Day on April 12th at Grace United Methodist Church in Wilsons, Virginia. What a wonderful day we had! An excellent program on "The Roma of Europe" was presented by Linda and Ken Carty who go every summer to work with the Roma people in Hungary and the Czech Republic. Supplies were collected for them to take to the Roma children this summer. What a wonderful outpouring of love from all the women of the district! These supplies will be used this summer for the children when the Cartys' have V.B.S. with them.....hundreds of children attend!! The women from Grace prepared a wonderful lunch for all of us and we were fed in their new fellowship hall. A great time was had by all!

Thank you to all of you who have supported our fundraising events. The sale of the crocheted crosses has been quite successful. We continue to offer these beautiful crosses and hopefully we can offer crocheted angels for your Christmas tree later in the fall. These are a wonderful little gift for anyone! Very nice to put inside a get well or thinking-of-you card!

Our UMW unit made over \$300 on our bake sale held on Palm Sunday and this was possible because of your generosity. The women from the Ebony Fire Department donated the

leftovers from their bake sale on Saturday and these items helped us SO much. We hope all of you who purchased goodies from us enjoyed your treats! Thanks to everyone!

On Mother's Day our UMW sponsored the Mother's Day Song Dedication in which many of you participated. Wasn't it nice to be able to remember your moms and other loved ones by dedicating a hymn in honor or in memory of them? Yes, this was a new event, but we hope you enjoyed hearing some of your favorite hymns sung by choir members. We really appreciate the help of the choir with this fundraiser and we hope we can offer another one for Father's Day. More information on this later.

We enjoyed having two guests at our UMW meeting in April. Judy Turner and Betty Jackson spoke to us about "Poverty in Brunswick County". They gave a very informative talk and shared information about the Brunswick Clothes Closet in Lawrenceville. Please consider taking your used clothing, shoes, toys and knick-knacks to their facility to be sold. This benefits many families in Brunswick County who cannot afford to buy items for their families at retail prices. If you need more information just ask any UMW member.

We just increased our membership by two!!! Betsy Ford (center) and Norma Jean Matthews (right) are our two newest members (pictured here with Dorinda Paxton (left) before *The Last Supper* production.



We welcome them and we would be so delighted to have two more or twenty more new members. We are a busy organization and do lots to raise money so that we can help women, children and youth in our country and abroad. All the money we make is spent on mission projects - local, state, national and worldwide. We invite all women who aren't members to come and join us at our monthly UMW meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 7pm. You are most welcome!

Elaine Chipley, President of UMW

### **United Methodist Men**

The UMM meet on the third Thursday of each month except July and December. Their fellowship meal starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by the business meeting.

The men will be serving hot dogs for the Song Fest on May 31. We hope you will all come out and enjoy the Song Fest and one of our hot dogs.

We welcome all men of the church to come join us. We do have a good fellowship and work hard when we need to do so.

Charles Jones, President

### ***Fall Festival Is Just Around the Corner***

The Fall Festival committee held their first planning meeting on May 20 at 8:00 p.m. The Festival will be held on September 27 beginning at 8:00 a. m. Booth chairpersons will be asking for help from everyone. If no one asks you to help, just see Bev Hill or Charles Jones. If there is a booth you would really like to work with, see Bev or Charles they will put you in touch with that chairperson. Remember

that many hands make for easy work. We are again looking forward to a successful day.

If you have auction items that need to be picked up for storage, call Bev Hill 434-636-5101 or Charles Jones 434-636-2297. Arrangements will be made to pick up your items for storage. The only items we do not take for sale are clothing or shoes.

Look for more information in the coming weeks.

Charles Jones and Bev Hill, Co-chairpersons



The Mission Committee has been preparing and delivering meals once a month for our members and friends. Many thanks to those who have helped with this effort. The meals have been well received and appreciated.

By the time you read this, we (hopefully) have done another road clean-up for our adopted highway. We wanted to pick up the trash before Memorial Day weekend so the weekenders could see our beautiful surroundings! It always amazes me how much trash is littered on our roadways. I wish people would have more respect!

While we have not done any yard maintenance or home repair/cleanups lately, we stand by ready to help if you need assistance. Just ask!

In His Love,  
Chris & Valerie Ruch

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS

**WE ARE CLOSING THE GAP!** It is so exciting to see our Capital Campaign donations continue to come in and we appreciate your continued prayerful support for Prospect UMC and its future. Thanks to YOU, as of the end of April, the total collected was **\$540,012.14**. We are truly a Church family. Let's continue to work together as we "close the gap".... we CAN make our \$700,000 goal!



- **“WALL OF CROSSES”:** Rev. Ken brought this wonderful suggestion to us after seeing it in a church in Texas while on a mission project. It is now our opportunity to become an example to others. We hope you will stop and take time to reflect on the **“Wall of Crosses”** that now “lives” in our narthex. It makes a beautiful statement about how caring our Church family is and how responsive they have been to our fundraising efforts. **To date, we have hung 109 crosses and received around \$15,000 in donations to help close the gap!** It is an incredible site when you enter the Narthex. We thank Chip Hill in advance for offering to make a special album of these crosses and their plaques so that they may be viewed up close. If

you would like to add a cross, please get in touch with Peggy. The minimum charge is \$5 per cross for the name plate and donations to the campaign in any amount are greatly appreciated.

- **LENTEN OFFERING:** Again we say **“thank you”** for your generous gift giving over the Lenten Season. It was very touching to have several of the Historic Lenten Banks placed on the Alter with their donations. Why not save in your bank throughout the year? (If you save coins, please roll them first, thanks). All these donations are helping to “close the gap” and secure the future for Prospect.
- **THE WILLIAMSBURG WEEKEND IS BACK!** – Perhaps you will be the lucky winner this year! The **‘Grand Illumination Weekend’** in Williamsburg is a highlight of the Christmas season. Thanks to the generosity of Pastor Ken and Jan we have the opportunity to sell tickets for a 2 night stay in Colonial Williamsburg December 6th & 7<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy the weekend from this lovely one bedroom villa (plus study that sleeps 6) AND is within walking distance to Colonial Williamsburg. **It’s a wonderful fundraiser, however to be a success we all need to help sell tickets!** Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The winner will be announced at the Fall Festival on Sept 27th! Please see Peggy to get tickets to sell. If you know of an event that might be an opportunity for us to sell the tickets, let me know. We truly appreciate your support.

- **HISTORIC GLASS CROSSES** – The beautiful hand-crafted crosses made from the original glass windows of the Church building are still available for only \$20. This special project has raised around \$3,000 thanks to the hard work of Bill & Ann Hoofnagle and Hal Keeney! If you would like a cross there is a sign up form on the Fundraising Table in the Fellowship Hall.

**THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO CONTINUE TO HELP....EVERY PENNY COUNTS:**

- Need to lose weight? Empty your pockets and pocketbooks of your change each Sunday and place it in the coin jar on the “fundraising table” in the Fellowship Hall.
- Make something yummy! Happy Home flavorings are still available for only \$3.
- Don’t forget the importance and benefit of recycling, to both our world and our Church. We thank Bob Wilson for continuing to oversee this project.
- Need a gift? How about the lovely matted, numbered and signed watercolor print created by Bill Moseley of our Church shown decked out in autumn foliage? These prints are only \$20.

**Along with our ongoing Wall of Crosses, we are working on several new and exciting ideas for our fundraising in the future and we hope that you will support them as we continue to work towards “closing the gap”.**

**WE THANK GOD FOR YOU, OUR CHURCH FAMILY, AND YOUR DEDICATION TO PROSPECT UMC.**

Peggy Donochod & Anne Hartley

**FINANCE**

The monthly amount needed to meet our budget in 2014 is \$9,801.00.

Following are the amounts received for the budget through April 30, 2014.

	<i>Received</i>	<i>Difference</i>
<b>Jan</b>	<b>8,584.16</b>	<b>- 1,216.84</b>
<b>Feb</b>	<b>8,974.00</b>	<b>- 827.00</b>
<b>Mar</b>	<b>11,875.76</b>	<b>+ 2,074.76</b>
<b>Apr</b>	<b><u>10,320.50</u></b>	<b><u>+ 519.50</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,754.42</b>	<b>+ 550.42</b>



*May 18<sup>th</sup> was transition day for reassigned ministers. PUMC is blessed that Rev. Ken Thrasher is returning to our pulpit and will continue for the next year. For everything he does, in every season of our lives, we are grateful!*

**Prospect United Methodist Church**

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