



The Prospector

Prospect United Methodist Church

Ebony, Virginia

November 2014

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

Reflections from our Pastor:

During this time of Harvest we must look back over the "Fruit" that we have created during the year. As disciples and scatterers of the seeds of our faith, we can look back at our previous year and consider the things that have been successful. Throughout 2014, there are several things in which we can take pride.

Our Faith Renewal Services: although we were concerned about bad weather, the Lord took our misfortune and turned it into a blessing. We saw 330 people within the 3 nights as we scheduled 3 events instead of 1.

Our Holy Thursday Production was very well attended and propelled us to work on an Advent Production. We have many volunteers working on making this one very successful. Please bring friends and family on December 7th.

Our Mission Team put together some great meals for our Shut-ins. They also worked hard to keep the roads leading to our church clean by doing a couple of road clean up days.

Our Sunday School is getting under way again. We are studying the book of Luke. We invite you to come and study the Word and get involved in some very interesting conversation.

Our study on Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven overwhelmed me with the excitement and enthusiasm. I prayed for at least 10 people

and we have seen over 40 in attendance. The study is going great. Please come and join us. We just finished lesson 5 of 13. We meet at 3PM on Sunday afternoon.

I am overwhelmed by the way our church reaches out and pulls together to care for families as loved ones receive God's promise of Eternal Life. The greatest thing we have to offer is love and support.

This harvest has been very productive indeed. Please pray with me about the direction God intends us to head next year. Soon enough it will be time to sharpen the plows again for a bountiful planting. God Bless you all.

Love,

Ken Thrasher

*Grow
in Christ*



God sent us another beautiful day for our 23rd Annual Fall Festival. The day was filled with having good food available as well as bargains of all kinds.

The amount of sales by each booth follows:

Advertising \$1625.00
Auction \$3738.00
Books and More \$383.50
Breakfast \$443.25
Country Store \$589.50
Crafts \$915.65
Mystery Box \$342.00
Quilt \$754.00
Ruby's Treasures \$1610.59
Snack Shack \$627.45
Stew \$630.25
The total: \$11,659.19!!

Crafts are displayed in the fellowship hall and sales continue. Also there have been some sales from other areas as well. A grand total will be published after December 31, 2014.

The festival committee votes each year to give ten percent of the total to missions. This year the ten percent will be directed to the church mission budget. There are some expenses to be deducted before our grand total is published. The balance will be set aside for the building fund after the ten percent is given to missions. The co-chairmen wish to thank everyone for their hard work to make the festival a big success.

Charles Jones and Bev Hill, co-chairs

EVANGELISM

Have you heard about the "Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven" study we are having on Sunday afternoons at Prospect UMC? Rev. Thrasher is leading us in this study and we are learning so much about our heavenly home that awaits us! Dr. David Jeremiah visits us weekly on a CD and discusses various heavenly topics with us. We have learned about the three heavens, the preciousness of heaven, the intermediate hell and the intermediate heaven, and why heaven won't be boring.....Soon we'll be learning about the nature of the believer's resurrection body.....we'll get new bodies in heaven, you know!!!! This has been so interesting and many questions people have about heaven have been answered. If you haven't attended a study class yet we invite you to come and join us. Everyone is welcome! Study classes begin a 3:00 p.m.

We're busily practicing for the Advent production "Born to Take My Place". We appreciate all those who have volunteered to help by being in the cast or helping with music, props, lighting, costumes, sound.....Everyone has been so willing to help out and we ask all church members to mark their calendars for December 7 at 7 p.m. Christmas carols will be sung by the congregation beginning at 6:30 p.m. Please come and I believe you will receive a blessing that will warm your heart and prepare you for the advent season. This production offers various types of Christmas music.....there's something for everyone! You'll certainly leave with love in your hearts that Jesus was born to take your place.... Hope to see all of you on December 7th at 6:30 p.m. ready to sing some carols together! *Elaine Chipley*



There will be lots of opportunities to lend a helping hand on projects at Prospect during the next several months. During November the Holly Haven Angel Tree will be up in the Narthex. The tree will be decorated with angels with names on them. The angels are \$25 each and this money will purchase items for the residents, caregivers and Holly Haven for Christmas. Please write your name by an angel's name on the list provided and write your check to Prospect UM Church and on the memo line write angel tree. You may hand your check to Annette Jones or place it in the offering plate but please make sure it is marked angel tree. An announcement will be made later about a date and time to wrap the gifts for Holly Haven.

On November 29, the Nativity Scene for the front lawn will be put in place. Bill Hoofnagle and Charles Jones would appreciate any one who could come to lend a helping hand. The Christmas tree will also be placed in the sanctuary on the same day. Rev. Ken could use help in setting up the tree and Dorinda, Hal and Jean would appreciate help with the ornaments. We need volunteers to help set up the tree and decorate in the fellowship hall. We have the tree and the decorations. After all the tasks are finished we can enjoy a cup of coffee or hot chocolate. November 30 will be the covered dish luncheon.

December 14 will be the fellowship luncheon for December and the special visitor from the North Pole will be present. This will be covered dish after worship which will include special music by the choir. Come and join in the Christmas spirit.

December 24 at 8:00 p.m. will be the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion.

December 25, Jesus' Birthday!! On December 28 we will celebrate all the December birthdays with birthday Cake.

Wow, what a busy two months! We look forward to you joining us to prepare for the Birth of Jesus.

United Methodist Men

The UMM meet on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. A meal and great fellowship is enjoyed followed by a business meeting.

The men plan to offer a pancake breakfast on November 16 after worship service. There will be a donation basket available. A donation is not necessary to eat. All gifts are very much appreciated so that the men can support lots of missions such as Holly Haven, Hunters for the Hungry, Society of St. Andrews and the Veteran's Home. They have also made donations to the Drumgoole House in Valentines, Va. and the local rescue squad and fire departments and Hospice.

The men have discussed presenting a Bluegrass Concert early in 2015. Watch for more information concerning this evening of entertainment.

Come and join in our fellowship and be in mission to help others. Charles Jones, President

United Methodist Women

In September the United Methodist Women enjoyed a visit by our own Rev. Pam Pickard! She talked with us about "Knowing God and Being in Mission with God". It was such an inspiration to hear her share her story with us. She encouraged all of us to share our story and to listen to God's plan for our lives. We all can make a difference. We had great attendance. We had several visitors and we invite all women who are not members of our United Methodist Women's unit to come and visit us in November.

October's meeting was on World Thank Offering and our program was a study on Mary and Martha, good friends of Jesus. It was interesting to hear the women respond to the question, "Are you more like Mary or Martha?" While being sisters, Mary and Martha were quite different but certainly complemented each other. So it is with us as UMW. We are all different and we all have different gifts and skills. However, by working together to be Jesus' hands, feet and voices in our unit we can and we do make a difference in the world to women, children and youth around the world.

Our next meeting will be on November 24th at 7 p.m. Sharon McAllister, the executive director of John 3:16 will be our guest speaker. All ladies are invited to learn more about the John 3:16 Center and how we may help them in their service to the community.

The United Methodist Women would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of Prospect UMC for supporting us this year with our various fund raisers. With your support we

will be able to help many different organizations locally, state-wide, nation-wide, and world-wide. This is what it means to be in "Mission Together". Thanks so much!!!
Elaine Chipley, President



CLOSING THE GAP

We are getting there, and it's all THANKS TO YOU!

As Fundraising Chair for the Capital Campaign, which is coming to the end of its 4th year, I'm really excited to see our numbers change in the bulletin monthly. The mortgage balance is shrinking, while the Capital Campaign Balance is growing!! As of the end of October we have collected \$548,319.05, a difference of \$2903.80 from September and the mortgage loan is down to \$24,344.96! What good news, and again, it's THANKS TO YOU!

However, our fund raising efforts do need to continue. I want to thank the seven people that made donations to the "Cash for Gold" Campaign. This is a great example of what we CAN DO..... I don't have the exact figure at the time of this writing, but the weight dollar value of the items donated, when added together, was approximately \$461.00! Great things DO happen when we come together. If you've missed this opportunity and would like to participate, or would like more information, please contact me.

Do take time and visit the “Wall of Crosses” as it continues to grow, representing our love for Christ and for each other. If you would like more information about the wall, please see me.

As the year comes to a close we celebrate with Thanksgiving and the joyous GIFT of Christmas. I would like to thank all of our Church family for the many “gifts” that you have bestowed upon God’s house here in Ebony, and for its Mission and its Future. May you continue to be blessed in the coming year.

Peggy Donochod, Fundraising Chair

FINANCE

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

Following are the amounts received for the budget through October 31, 2014.

	Received	Difference
Jan	8,584.16	- 1,216.84
Feb	8,974.00	- 827.00
Mar	11,875.76	+ 2,074.76
Apr	10,295.50	+ 494.50
May	9,607.35	- 193.65
Jun	10,197.13	+ 396.13
Jul	10,131.25	+ 330.25
Aug	9,738.27	- 62.73
Sep	9,433.48	- 367.52
Oct	<u>8,724.75</u>	<u>- 1,076.25</u>
TOTAL	97,561.65	- 448.35

A NOTE FROM OUR LAY LEADER



I am so excited to see our Church continue to grow. This growth takes many forms such as new members, new friends of the Church, new ways to do things, new activities and new missions and new programs. Most importantly what I see is that our Church family is alive and growing as we serve God in our ministry to others.

We’re good stewards of our neighborhood as we clean up the roads, we collect food every month for an adult home, we sponsor an “angel tree”, we make and deliver meals each month for some members of our Church family, we study and celebrate the Word of God, and we have wonderful pageants that celebrate our lives in Christ and much more. I’m very proud of our Church and we are truly blessed to have the “Church family” we have and the Pastor we have. *Peggy Donochod – Lay Leader*

READERS & GREETERS

The Readers and Greeters schedule is being put together for 2015. If you were on the list last year we are 'recycling' you to this year, unless otherwise advised. Readers are sent a copy of the scripture at the beginning of the week, usually by email. Greeters need to be at church by 8:45am. Volunteers are needed to greet when a choir member is the reader, so if you don’t want to read but would like to greet, let us know. Please let Judy Moore and/or Peggy Donochod aware if you are available to volunteer. Thank you, Judy & Peggy

Mission Committee Activities

Since the last news letter, the Mission Committee continues to help support our congregation, local community and international mission.



Caring Meal Ministry

Once a month, we gather at church to prepare meals for delivery. We call these "happy meals" and you don't have to be in need, maybe you need a pick me up. Whether you or a family member has been ill or in the hospital, we are here to deliver a delicious meal. If you live alone, please do accept our invitation to deliver a meal to you. Visiting our members and friends goes well with a hot dinner. We want to thank those who have helped with this mission.

With Thanksgiving and Christmas coming up soon, the mission group will stay busy. We will be putting together Thanksgiving baskets for some needy families in our neighborhood. Baskets with a turkey and all the fixin's will be delivered the Sunday before Thanksgiving. If you wish to donate for this effort, please see or call Valerie or Chris Ruch at 636-4284.



At Christmas time we continue to support Holly Haven with the Angel Tree and gifts for the residents. Last year, we helped a local family with financial assistance. If you know of someone who is struggling and could use some help, please see Pastor Ken. Mission has funds in the budget for such emergencies.



Our next road cleanup will be January or February. We will try to pick a date this time with no snow, sleet or freezing temperatures! There will probably be a lot of trash this time since they finally got around to cutting the grass on the roads!

We have begun to help support the Society of St. Andrew one nickel at a time. This effort brings food to the tables of those who are hungry here in our community as well as statewide and nationwide. Our nickel jar is in the sanctuary and you can drop off your nickels (and other coins or paper money) anytime.

How can we help?

And lastly, we have not done any house or yard work in awhile, but we are ready to do so. If you are a little overwhelmed with home maintenance, let us know. And if you ever need a ride for an appointment, grocery shopping, or any other reason we are here to help.

Chris and Valerie Ruch and crew!



SUNDAYS AT 3PM



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th
6:30 pm – Singing Christmas Carols
7:00 pm – Advent Production
“Born to Take My Place”

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH @ 7PM



Guest Speaker from the John 3:16 Center

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 (After Worship)



*Bring a Covered Dish
Christmas Music
Visit from Santa*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 at 8 pm



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29th



Decorate the church and set up the Nativity Scene on the church lawn

DECEMBER 25 & JANUARY 1



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH

Covered Dish Luncheon

Prospect United Methodist Church
PO Box 25
Ebony, VA 23845