



The Prospector

Prospect United Methodist Church

Ebony, Virginia

February 2015

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

Reflections from our Pastor:

Happy New Year! I am excited about the new opportunities that lay before us for mission, evangelism, and ministry. The list that I included with the bulletin (and is reprinted here) was well received. Many sent back responses as to what ministries they want to be involved in. If you have any other ideas as to how we can represent Jesus to the world, I would love to hear them. We can work together to make Jesus more real and close to those we meet.

I had prayed about a bus. My thoughts were that a bus would open up many new ministries for us. As of last Sunday a member of our church decided that he and his loving wife would be willing to purchase a bus. I have envisioned us going to shows, movies, productions, as well as bringing children to church, starting an adult daycare and whatever else God has for us to do.

I look forward to a great year in ministry as we shoulder the plow together. The Lord has called us to make disciples. Our best years of ministry are before us. We need to listen for the Holy Spirit to breathe life into us and to instruct us as to what we are to do next.

God Bless you all. 2015 is going to be GREAT!

Love,
Ken Thrasher



Wednesday Night Meal
Paying off Building Debt
Blessing of the Animals
Blessing of the home
New Building project; sanctuary
Adult Day Care
IT Team
Youth Program
Young Adults
Bus Driver
Prayer Ministries
Mentoring/Reading Program
Outreach/Evangelism
Choir Director
Visitation Team
Food Bank
Leadership Development
Worship out of Sanctuary
Holly Haven
Gleaning Projects
Mission Trip
Continuing Education
Emmaus/Chrysalis
Work Teams-Missions
Field Trips
Productions, Movies

A New Year Brings Many Opportunities

The New Year brings many opportunities for each person. Some of the opportunities at Prospect are Fellowship Lunch on the last Sunday of each month. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy the fellowship. This follows worship service. Birthday cake is served for the dessert.



The choir has practice on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Come join us to make a joyful noise.



Ash Wednesday

February 18 at 7:00 p.m. there will be an Ash Wednesday service. This is the beginning of Lent, a period of penitence in preparation for Easter.

The Evangelism committee will be meeting on February 25 at 8:00 p.m. If you are interested in being part of this committee, please contact Rev. Ken.

The Food Bank at the Lawrenceville United Methodist Church is on the second Friday of each month. If you wish to help with this mission, contact Rev. Ken.



March brings Spring and Holy Week. Palm/Passion Sunday is March 29. On Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. there will be a service commemorating the Last Supper. Good Friday service will be at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 3.

Easter Sunday begins with Sunrise Service at the home of Chip and Bev Hill, 115 Poplar Drive in Lakeview Estates on the Lake. Worship service will be at 9:15 a.m. at church and there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

May brings us warmer weather and the flowers are in full bloom. This is just another reason that we know God is at work in our world today. During this month we celebrate Memorial Day to remember those who gave so much and those too who gave and returned home to us. We cannot say Thank You enough to our fallen heroes and veterans who are with us today!!!



The first Sunday of each month is food collection for Holly Haven. Rev. Ken requests that each member bring three cans or a gallon can. Other items are needed also and there is a list of suggestions on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Holly Haven is a home in LaCrosse for mentally challenged adults. There are usually sixteen residents there. If you would rather make a monetary donation, make your check to Prospect United Methodist Church and mark Holly Haven on the memo line and someone will shop for you. During the year plans will be made to have parties for the residents, cook outs, spiritual times, and of course our usual Christmas Angel Tree. Rebecca told us in her note that the residents had a great Christmas. When Charles and I made a food delivery there in January, the residents we saw were very appreciative and thanked us for the gifts and expressed to us that Christmas was good. These people may be mentally challenged but they recognize the church that ministers to them, so let's continue to let our light shine.

Enjoy the winter and look for new growth always!

Annette Jones

Mission Committee Activities

Mission continues to support our congregation and we thank all of those who help in these efforts. We were able to put together and deliver 11 Thanksgiving meals to some needy families in our neighborhood. Thanks to donations from our members we provided food to 5 families from Social Services of Brunswick County and 6 families that Pastor Ken knew of.

We want to thank Annette and Charles for their tireless support of Holly Haven. The Christmas angel tree supplied many gifts to the residents. Our monthly food donations from the congregation as well as Pastor Ken's deliveries from the food bank are greatly appreciated at Holly Haven.

We did take a break from preparing and delivering meals in November and December, but we are back in the kitchen again. If you would like to help prepare and deliver meals, just let us know.

Our nickel jar continues to help provide meals through our support of St. Andrews Society. By gleaning fields, this money pays for the delivery of food where needed. We may have an opportunity for a mission outing to go out and glean farmers' fields in the near future, stay tuned.

It's that time again to go out and clean up our adopted road by the church. We will look for a "mild" day in February and announce the time in church. And you get to wear a stylish orange vest!

Thanks for all you do,
Chris and Valerie Ruch



The Crafters invite everyone to join them at 9:30 am on Monday, February 16th, at the church. This group makes beautiful and useful items for the Fall Festival. The meeting on the 16th will be a time to share ideas for 2015 Fall Festival and to evaluate last year's projects.

At 11:30 they will have a luncheon to thank those who put forth hard work last year and those who plan to participate in the coming year.

No need to bring anything but your ideas to share!

Please RSVP to Marilyn Reed, at 252-586-5757 or Dot Johnson at 434-636-5690 so they can plan accordingly for the luncheon.

United Methodist Men

The third Thursday night of each month is filled with good fellowship and food along with programs and planning projects for the United Methodist Men. We invite all men of the church to come join us so that we may be ready to help those in need locally and otherwise. We will be holding several fundraisers this year. We support Hunters for the Hungry, the Society of St. Andrews, the Veterans Home, Hospice from VCU/CMH, the local fire departments and rescue squad. Whenever there is a mission project, the men always pitch in to help.

We look forward to seeing you on the **third Thursday** of the month at **6:30 pm**. Our next meeting will be February 19th, 2015.

Charles Jones

United Methodist Women

The Prospect United Methodist Women held their first meeting of 2015 on Monday, January 26. We enjoyed a soup and salad meal before our regular meeting. There were 17 women in attendance. Linda Shelton presented fund raising activities to the group. These fund raisers will begin soon.

Because of the generous support of the congregation at Prospect, the United Methodist Women were able to help these various groups this past year:

Red Bird Mission
Henry Fork Center
Ebony Fire Department
Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center
John 3:16 Center, Jackson Feild Home
Central Rescue
Wesley Community Center
American Cancer Society
Alzheimer's Fund, Prison Ministry
Save the Children.

We hope to be able to help these same organizations this year and also add more organizations that help women, children and youth.

We had our pledge service where we were encouraged to pledge from our heart....Our pledges go to the district, state and national United Methodist Women.



Welcome

Here are some important upcoming events for the United Methodist Women.

- ❖ On Saturday, January 31st, we have a training event at Keysville United Methodist Church.
- ❖ The Farmville District United Methodist Women Prayer Breakfast will be held March 14, 2015, at Brian's Steakhouse in South Hill. The theme for the day will be "Angels Among Us".
- ❖ On April 11, 2015, we will have our Farmville District Mission Day in Cumberland at Payne Memorial United Methodist Church. Our speaker will be Darlene Runalduie and her topic will be "How is it with your Soul?"

We invite all ladies to our monthly meetings and also invite you to attend any and all special events. Our emphasis this year is

Welcomed By God-Welcoming All

.....all are welcome and we'd love to have you visit with us or join our United Methodist Women's unit!

Elaine Chipley
President



2015 Capital Campaign Fundraising

The New Year is off to a great start as you can tell from Pastor Ken's article, it promises to be an exciting one here at Prospect UMC! As your "fundraising chair" for our Capital Campaign, now beginning its 5th year, we're looking at some new and different ways to help "Close the Gap". It is so exciting each month when the new \$ figures are posted in the bulletin and I see the reality that we ARE..... CLOSING THE GAP! God clearly has big plans for our Church and knows that he can count on the support of our Church family.

Here are some of the opportunities that you can look forward to in 2015:

☞ **Prospect UMC Cookbook.** Our motto for our Capital Campaign is "Preserving Our Past While Building Our Future" and in that same light, we are planning to publish a new Church cookbook this year. Something that will make our cookbook special is that we hope to include some of the old family recipes which were donated and published many years ago in our last cookbook by dear family and friends that are no longer with us. Add to that many delicious recipes from our new members that have come here from a variety of backgrounds, states and countries. I believe this "MIX" of recipes promises to become a cookbook everyone will want to have for themselves and

purchase to give away to their friends and family. **Cookbooks always make a perfect gift!**

- ☞ **Seaplane Ride.** Here is a "give away" that I'm sure everyone will be excited about. I don't have many details at this time, but we will sell tickets for an exciting sightseeing "seaplane ride" around the lake area for two! Watch for more information coming on this fun-fundraising opportunity!!
- ☞ **Wall of Crosses.** The beautiful "Wall of Crosses" in the Narthex still has room for you! If you would like to have a cross hung in "memory" or in "honor" of a friend or loved one, please see me. The cost of the plaque is only \$5, and we appreciate any level of donation to the Capital Campaign. Please note "wall of crosses" in the memo area of your check.
- ☞ **Lent Offering.** Lent is a time for deep reflection and renewal. Over the past five years it has also been a time when we have renewed our Commitment to Prospect United Methodist Church. If you have one of our Historic Lenten Banks please use it during the Lenten season and bring it, with your donation to Church on Easter Sunday (before or after is also fine). We will be distributing Easter envelopes also. We ask that you make a prayerful commitment as we come closer to "Closing the Gap".

THANK GOD FOR YOU, AND FOR EVERYONE that has supported our Capital Campaign over the past years. Because of YOU our "thermometer" is going UP while our mortgage is coming DOWN! I can't wait to see what GOD has in store for us this year.

Peggy Donochod (434) 636-2494

FINANCE

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

Following are the amounts received for the budget **through December 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	8,724.75	- 1,076.25
Nov	11,812.21	+2,011.21
<u>Dec</u>	<u>9,366.29</u>	<u>- 434.71</u>
TOTAL	118,745.95	+1,133.95

As of December 31, we had a total of pledges and gifts to the Capital Campaign of \$557,741.54. In June we made a payment toward the principal of \$65,000. *The remaining mortgage balance is \$22,990.02.* Well Done!!!

The monthly amount needed to meet our budget in 2015 is \$10, 283.00.

Following is the amount received in January 2015.

	Received	Difference
Jan	9,886.28	- 396.72

READERS & GREETERS

A schedule is posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Readers for the upcoming month are published in the Sunday Bulletin. If you are unable to read on your assigned day, ask someone to switch with you.

Readers are sent a copy of the scripture at the beginning of the week, usually by email. If you are the Scripture reader for a particular Sunday, then you are also a greeter. Greeters need to be at church by 8:45am to greet people as they enter the church near the Wall of Crosses.

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 or if someone will be substituting for you. Thank you!



On February 28 there will be a Memorial Service for *Don Ross*. Don went to see Jesus in December and this time will be a celebration of his life.

Following are others who have recently gone on to their Heavenly reward.

*Barbara Grant
Alvin "Al" O'Berry
Eunice Clary Taylor
Gene Austin*

The Dorchester Chaplains A Story of Love and Heroism



This is a story of four United States Army chaplains who gave their lives to save other soldiers during World War II. The chaplains, who all held the rank of lieutenant in the United States Army, were the Methodist Reverend [George L. Fox](#), the Jewish Rabbi [Alexander D. Goode](#), the Roman Catholic Priest [John P. Washington](#) and the Reformed Church in America Reverend [Clark V. Poling](#). They were sailing on the USAT *Dorchester* troop transport on February 3, 1943, when the vessel was torpedoed by the German submarine *U-223* in the North Atlantic. As the vessel sank, the four chaplains calmed the frightened soldiers and sailors, aided in the evacuation of the ship, and helped guide wounded men to safety. The chaplains also gave up their own life jackets.

As I swam away from the ship, I looked back. The flares had lighted everything. The bow came up high and she slid under. The last thing I saw, the Four Chaplains were up there praying for the safety of the men. They had done everything they could. I did not see them again. They themselves did not have a chance without their life jackets.—Grady Clark, survivor

On December 19, 1944, all four chaplains were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross.



The **Four Chaplains' Medal** was established by act of Congress on July 14, 1960, and was presented posthumously to their next of kin at Fort Meyer, Virginia on January 18, 1961. The chaplains were also honored with a stamp, issued in 1948 and by an act of Congress designating February 3 as "Four Chaplains Day."



Chaplains Fox, Goode, Poling, and Washington responded to a high calling from God to represent His love among men of war. On the day they died, they personified the words of Jesus found in John 15:13 "***Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.***"

Submitted by Alene Laura Carroll
(From Holy Women, Holy Men)

holywomenholymen.wordpress.com/2015/02/03/the-dorchester-chaplains



Please report any errors or omissions to Chris Barden at christinebarden@bitbroadband.com or 434-636-5470.

The PUMC Newsletter is published quarterly. If you have information or announcements you would like to include, contact Chris.

Information for the next edition of the newsletter should be submitted no later than May 1, 2015.

Prospect United Methodist Church
PO Box 25
Ebony, VA 23845