



The Prospector

Prospect United Methodist Church

Ebony, Virginia

August 2015

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

Reflections from our Pastor:

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

My dear friends, there is so much to report that I'm not sure where to begin. I guess I will begin with the first Sunday in August and the baptism of Tyler and Lizzy's (Renee Nash's daughter and son-in-law's) three beautiful girls: Rylee Elizabeth, Kenzie Renee, and Lainee Dianne. There were 95 people in worship to celebrate with the happy parents and family. We capped it off with The Lord's Supper and then a very nice reception.

I also got to baptize a friend and neighbor in the lake recently. Patrick Smith received his baptism in Poplar Creek. His son Jordan and wife Jane were present.

Our mission group continues to prepare meals and deliver to our sick and shut-ins. This is such a great ministry for the givers and those who receive.

Our UMW has put on two great programs for Mother's Day and Father's Day. The music has been wonderful and your support has helped the ladies to

achieve their goals for mission work. They also had a very successful Ice Cream Social, inviting ladies from our congregation to a time of fellowship.

The UMM had a very successful Blue Grass Concert in our fellowship hall. They cooked hot dogs and had snacks. 75 people came out to hear some great Blue a Grass and to support the effort.

Our church picnic was also a great time of fellowship. There were championship games of corn toss going on. We shared a great meal and a beautiful day along the shore of Lake Gaston. Thanks for all the help to make this such a success.

Our group of Gleaners had a wonderful morning in Crewe as we helped the Gleaners pick green beans. We arrived very early and helped a crew from the Farmville District. These beans were going to be distributed locally for those in need.

A team of willing workers went to volunteer at the Food Bank in Lawrenceville in July. We bagged food stuff to be distributed to those in

Brunswick County that had a need. It is good to be able to help people in and around our own communities.

Our VBS program just concluded and was very successful. The team put together a wonderful program around a camping theme. Our kids learned 26 Bible verses, from A to Z, took guitar lessons, went on a Treasure Hunt, did crafts, heard and watched Bible stories, learned new songs, and watched a big blue song book, Psalty, as our DVD lead the way. We capped it off with s'mores around a make believe camp fire.

The nickel jar contributed 840 meals through the Society of Saint Andrew in June and 1240 meals in July. This is such a vital mission opportunity that has begun with a nickel! When you and I pool our resources we can do great things for the kingdom of God!

We just completed our second Sunday afternoon Bible Study with Dr. David Jeremiah. We studied the book of Revelation. We will begin another study in a few weeks. I highly recommend these studies. We have all learned a lot and have grown very close as a group. We are also looking into going to hear Dr. Jeremiah in person in a Raleigh, on October 15.

Our new bus made its maiden voyage with our volunteers to Lawrenceville

Food Bank. We will start using this for more events very soon. I have several in mind. Keep looking for ways in which we can do ministry together.

Our cookbook will soon be ready. Thanks to all who gave recipes and to the team that worked to put it together. There are over 400 recipes included from many who have blessed us over the years.

I was talking with our visitors and they mentioned to me the Spirit that they felt in our worship. They commented that they felt very welcome and saw the enthusiasm that the church had for the worship of God. This really excited me. Our Conference theme went from *Open Hearts, Open minds, Open Doors, to From Members to Disciples*. As disciples for Jesus Christ our commitment to Jesus is shown in our relationship with him and each other. Our church family is such a vital part of the lives of those involved and is something we are called to take out into the world. Jesus calls you and me to be a light to the world. Let's take our enthusiasm for worship and serving Jesus and be purposeful as we meet people. May they see the Christ in you. A famous theologian said, "Preach often, use words only when necessary."

Let your light shine. God Bless.

Ken Thrasher

United Methodist Women

Even though the United Methodist Women's unit does not meet in July, we have been quite busy. On July 18th a group of us attended a Social Justice program at Shiloh United Methodist Church in South Hill. Jen Jordan, a campus missionary with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, working with students at Longwood University and Hampden-Sydney College, was the guest speaker. Jen has traveled the world and gave us a very moving and enlightening program on "Human Trafficking". It's amazing that modern day slavery is very present in our own state.

On July 20th we hosted an "Ice Cream Social" where the ladies of Prospect were invited to be our guests. We had a great time of fellowship, delicious peach and strawberry homemade ice creams, and an attendance of 25 ladies. It was a great event! (Look at the pictures that one of our members took.....they are located on the UMW bulletin board in the fellowship hall.)

One of our members attended the Mission Encounter in Blackstone on July 24-26. What a wonderful experience for all United Methodists who are "Mission Minded". Information on the class entitled "Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God" will be shared with the women during an upcoming meeting.

The month of August our ladies will be operating the Brunswick County Clothes Closet. If you have any clothes that you would like to get rid of they will be gladly received at the Clothes Closet. The operating hours are 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays. What a wonderful opportunity for us to show faith, hope and love to women, children and youth in our own county.

On August 24th, Rev. Paul Beighley will present our program on *Prison Ministry and How We Can Help*. Rev. Beighley is the minister at Bethany United Methodist Church and was chaplain at the Brunswick County Prison. If you are interested in Prison Ministry please come and visit us for this program.

On October 26th a representative from United Methodist Family Services in South Hill will be our guest speaker. This is a very important service provided by our United Methodist Church. It is a service that is close by and I know they are looking for volunteers. Maybe after attending the program some of you will be interested in donating some of your time to this very worthwhile cause. Everyone is invited!

In November we will sponsor our final fundraiser with a song dedication service for Veterans Day. We appreciate your support of our fundraisers on Mother's Day and Father's Day. We know that you will want to remember your family members and friends who have served in the various branches of the military. Remember them by dedicating songs in honor or in memory of them on Veterans Day. We thank you in advance.

We are hopeful that we can plan one more special event for our members before the end of the year. Our objective of "Welcomed By God - Welcoming All" this year has afforded us many opportunities to invite others to participate in our United Methodist Women sponsored programs and activities.

Elaine Chipley, President



Missions Committee Activities



The Mission group has been cooking meals on a fairly regular schedule. Just about every month we have prepared 12 meals and distributed them to church members and friends. Some of the "Happy Meals" have gone to shut-ins, some to individuals recently home from hospital or rehab stays, and some have gone to individuals who maybe just need a little more happiness in their daily lives. We try to help wherever we can. If you need help around the house with yard work or can't seem to catch up with a particular chore - let us know maybe we can help. Keep us informed if there is someone recouping from an illness. Maybe we can put a smile on their face and make their day.

Thank you for supporting our ongoing "Nickel Jar". This money goes to the Society of St. Andrews. With every nickel we can provide a meal to someone less fortunate.

And please continue to support Holly Haven. You can help by donating canned goods throughout the entire year.

A road clean-up is scheduled for Thursday, September 3rd. Meet at the church at 9 am if you can help.

Thanks for all you do!
Chris & Valerie Ruch

Fun Night with UMM

The Prospect UMM sponsored Homegrown Blue Grass Band on May 30. It was a fun evening for all that attended—good music and good hot dogs.

The men met in June and August and enjoyed a great meal. They made plans for the fall. Watch for more information on a Baked Potato luncheon in October. There are also other projects but no final plans yet. Watch your bulletin.

The next meeting will be September 17 at 6:30 p.m. We invite all men of the church to come join us.
Charles Jones, President



A Note from our Lay Leader

I love Sunday mornings! I can't tell you how very special it feels to stand at the pulpit and welcome everyone to worship. I love looking over the congregation and seeing all the familiar faces, and especially those who have not been with us for awhile because of illness or injuries. It's exciting to see new faces of friends that are visiting our Church, be they visiting family members, or visitors coming in for the first time.

What a wonderful gift it is that people can walk into a Church that they've never been in before, feel welcomed and at home and become part of our Church family as we worship God together.

May we always remain a congregation with
Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors!
Peggy Donochod

Fall Festival

Our annual Fall Festival will take place on Saturday, September 26, 2015 on the front lawn of the church. We have received many wonderful donations to auction and sell. The morning will start off with a great country breakfast coordinated by Chip Hill.



The *Piece Makers* have outdone themselves this year producing a gorgeous Queen Size quilt in shades of green, gold, and burgundy.

There will be a drawing for a new gas grill with 5 burners and a side burner. Dot Ford. Marilyn Reed and the other Crafters are producing lovely items for our craft table.

Our advertising booklet is a big income producer. If you know of a business that would like to advertise to the community, please contact Joyce Rector. Donations of \$10.00, or \$25.00, or \$50.00 determine the size of the advertisement.

NEW THIS YEAR! There will be a kiddy train for the children to ride and goody bags will be handed out. So be sure to invite your grandkids.

The proceeds of this festival will benefit the special mission projects of the church and the building fund. It is also an event that the community looks forward to attending. It takes all of us to have a successful day. If you have not been asked and would like to help, please get in touch with Charles Jones, 434-636-2297 or Bev Hill, 434-636-5101, Co-chairpersons.

Capital Campaign

As you know, “Preserving the Past While Building our Future” is the motto for our Capital Campaign, and we are doing just that once again! A very special cookbook is coming that celebrates our journey as a Church; our very interesting past to our exciting present. It is an historic book, telling our unique story in words and in pictures. It includes 432 delicious recipes. Some will be nostalgic and sure to touch your heart as they have been taken from the old **1960’s** Prospect United Methodist Church cookbook. We thank all the contributors that have helped us to make this cookbook so very special! We have recipes from our congregation, friends and family members. It’s certain to be a cookbook that you will treasure. What a wonderful Christmas gift they will make! Place your orders now... don’t miss out on this opportunity. The cookbooks sell for only \$15 and will be available in September. We have a sign-up sheet on the Capital Campaign table in the Fellowship Hall. This is a big fundraiser and we need your help to make it a success! If you have any suggestions to help us sell these books, or if you are willing to help, please contact anyone on the Cookbook Committee: Peggy Donochod, Anne Hartley, Judy Moore, Joyce Rector, Susan Cunningham or Barbara McCaughey.

The “Wall of Crosses” makes a beautiful statement about our Church family, and also continues to be an important part of our fundraising effort. We appreciate that crosses and donations are still coming in. If you have someone you would like to remember, or honor, please contact Peggy Donochod. We are working hard at “closing the gap” and we thank you again for your continued support! Peggy Donochod & Anne Hartley

DID YOU KNOW THAT...



Gleaning is the act of collecting leftover crops from farmers' fields after they have been harvested. Gleaning was one of the early agricultural laws of the Hebrews and is referenced in Lev. 19:9; 23:23; and Deut. 24:19-21.

The Book of Ruth strikingly illustrates gleaning by the widow Ruth trying to provide for herself and her mother-in-law, Naomi. (Ruth 2:2-23)

Jesus and his disciples practiced a form of gleaning as they walked through grain fields breaking off heads of wheat to eat. (Mark 2:23)

The practice continues today in many areas of the world. *The Society of St. Andrews* (which we support through our nickel jar on the altar) is able to provide meals to the needy because they assemble thousands of gleaners every year.

Rev. Ken has offered our congregation several opportunities to be gleaners. Last week, 50 lbs. of blueberries were gleaned at the farm across from the Rosemont Winery. On Saturday, Gary Ayers and Barbara McCaughey gleaned green beans in Crewe. The above picture shows Dale and Denise Painter gleaning green beans earlier this summer.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS was held from 6 to 8 pm the last week in July. The theme was *Camp Prospect* and even the sanctuary was transformed into a campground with a make believe camp fire.

The VBS team used a DVD featuring *Psalty*, a big blue singing songbook, to teach the kids new praise songs. And Mary Gugler taught the children how to play guitar! Each night they went on a treasure hunt to find their scriptures for that day. Ken told the children a story around the campfire each evening while they enjoyed their snacks. The kids all went home with a journal filled with a scripture for every letter of the alphabet and a backpack personalized by Mary. Everyone had a fun time.



Mary Gugler teaching guitar to the kids.



Peggy Donochod coaching everyone on the scriptures that went with each letter in our alphabet song.

Many thanks to our volunteers for making this such a rewarding experience for the children.

Worship Opportunities at Prospect

The choir meets for practice on each Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Our Christmas music will start early in September. If you would like to join us please contact Sherry Jones, choir director.

The food bank in Lawrenceville is each second Friday. Contact Rev. Ken if you would like to participate.

The United Methodist Men meet each third Thursday at 6:30 p.m. for a meal, business meeting and program. Please come and join us.

The week of September 21 to 26 is Fall Festival week. Please do not plan any daytime activities as the men and ladies will be moving items into the church fellowship hall and pricing them on Thursday and Friday. The Festival is Saturday, September 26. Please plan to be at church at 5:00 a.m. to help move items onto the front lawn.

Fellowship Lunch with birthday cake will be September 27 after Worship.

Charge conference will be on September 29 at Bethel United Methodist Church in Alberta, Virginia.

Administrative Council meetings are the third Monday evening at 7:30 p.m.

On **October 25 at 5:00 p.m.** the **Family Fun Night** will begin. Children and adults have a great time. Bring a dish to share and the meal will begin around 5:30 p.m. There will be cake walks and other games. In addition to a dish to share, bring a cake, cupcakes or cookies to give to those who win on the cake walk.

Sunday, November 1 is All Saints Day. The church family will remember those Saints who have gone to heaven since last All Saints Day.

November 25 there will be a Thanksgiving Eve worship service.

November 29 the last Sunday of the month, there will be birthday cake but no lunch.

Sunday, December 13 will be the church Christmas music, fellowship (bring a dish to pass) and a visit from Santa.

There will be no United Methodist Men meeting in December.

Thursday, December 24 a Christmas Eve Service with Communion will be held at 12:00 noon and also 8:00 p.m.

No fellowship lunch this month but there will be birthday cake on December 27.

Come and participate in as many activities as you can. We are always happy to see you.

Charles and Annette Jones

PUMC Summer Picnic 2015



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