



The Prospector

Prospect United Methodist Church

Ebony, Virginia

June 2018

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

www.facebook.com/ProspectUMCinEbonyVA

A Message from our Pastor:

Brothers and Sisters,

Love with your whole heart. Care for people without ever wanting anything in return. Show the love of Jesus Christ wherever you go, in whatever you say, and whatever you do.

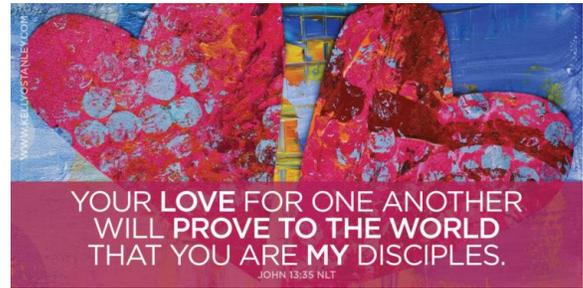
Christ's message was simple: love God and your neighbor with your whole heart. Wouldn't it be rewarding if those you met on a daily basis felt better after meeting you?

This week I have travelled several hundred miles between Richmond and Durham. The only thing I had to offer people was love, hope, and prayers. As a pastor and a disciple, I believe that is all that was required of me, but it is more than that. When we prayed together we fulfilled the scripture, where two or more are gathered, there I will be.

Do not put off doing what is right. Do those things you least want to do first. Tackle those things that have weighed down your heart and caused you sleepless nights. Unburden your spirit so you are more free to share God's love.

Love,

Ken



OUR PATH FORWARD

Any time we embark on a journey that encompasses the idea of change and new thinking, it takes time to percolate, pray about it and get hearts and minds aligned to move forward together.

In the Spring edition of this newsletter, we introduced the proposed Path Forward vision framework and strategies to the Congregation. During the 2018 Lenten season we asked the congregation for reflection and feedback. Ideally we wanted to feel ready to consecrate our commitment to Prospect's future on Easter Sunday.



We did it!

Based on conversations and feedback during Lent, and personal reflection and prayerful consideration, Rev. Ken consecrated our commitment to God on

Easter Sunday. (A video of the consecration can be found on Prospect's website.)

OUR PATH FORWARD(continued)



Since Easter, we are taking steps to better understand what the impacts and implications are for Our Path Forward and how

best to adapt as we move forward together. While our underlying approach builds on all of the positives we have today, it also encourages new thinking, expanded training for leadership and administration, leadership and laity development, best practice guidelines and other UMC-aligned resources — fine-tuned, as appropriate, for Prospect's journey forward.



A key ministry strategy of Our Path Forward is more robust Small Group Ministries and that is where Rev. Ken has asked us to focus initially — to expand

upon what we have — in new directions and for all age groups. (See the Spring edition of the newsletter for a great article with more context. There is also a link to the article on the website.)



Prospect's Future vision box — a visible channel of communication — is a symbol that the voice and participation of an inspired, equipped and

unified Congregation ultimately set the stage for our future.



This is an exciting time for this special church! We invite you to join us on our journey forward dedicated to making (and being) disciples of Jesus Christ to transform ourselves and the world.

If you, individually, a committee, or other small group setting (within the church or outside community) would like to learn more about the initiative work or to figure out how best to engage and collaborate, please reach out to Anne Hartley at 919-602-5012 or ahartley@nc.rr.com to schedule a time to get together.

COINCIDENCE OR GOD'S PLAN?



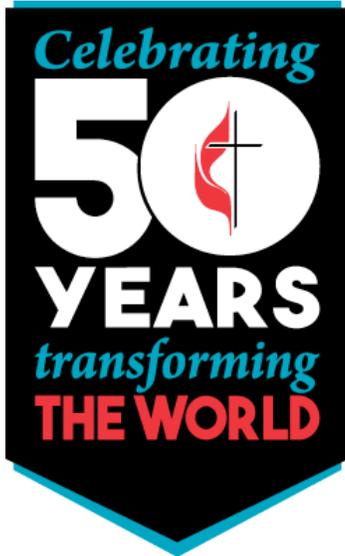
Our Path Forward positions Prospect to be aligned with Bishop Lewis' 2020 intentional discipleship directive: "Our ministry vision of the Virginia Conference is to be Disciples of Jesus Christ

who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve. All United Methodist churches in Virginia will have a process of intentionally forming disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by their influence and their acts of servanthood by 2020."

Bishop Lewis shared her vision and 2020 directive in her August 2017 Annual Conference Reflections. Prospect's initiative that developed Our Path Forward was proposed in August 2017.

2018 is the 50th anniversary of the United Methodist Church!

Excerpts from <http://www.umc.org/topics/the-50th-anniversary-of-the-united-methodist-church>



The early Methodist church was a band of believers lead by John and Charles Wesley. They invited people to experience God's grace and to grow in their knowledge and love of God. The emphasis was to put faith and love into action. These methods, values, and traditions of "practical divinity" laid the groundwork for what would

become The United Methodist Church some 240 years later. (www.umc.org/what-we-believe/our-wesleyan-heritage)

The United Methodist Church was officially formed on April 23, 1968 with the unification of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, along with the dissolution of the Central Jurisdiction, a segregated group of African American congregations. As a result, there was a coming together of black Methodists and white Methodists in the same conference, with the same preachers and the same bishops.

Twelve million people around the world call themselves United Methodist. The church is truly a world church with membership and conferences in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the United States. Church members know that when they see a cross and flame, it represents a connection with fellow United Methodists across the miles--and the years.

John Wesley recognized the need for an organized system of communication and accountability. He developed what he called the "connexion": a network of classes, societies and conferences to accomplish the mission of spreading scriptural holiness. Today, our denomination continues to be organized in a "connectional" system, which "enables us to carry out our mission in unity and strength" (Book of Discipline, ¶ 701). Every local church is linked to an interconnected network of organizations that join together in mission and ministry, allowing us to accomplish far more than any one local church or person could alone.

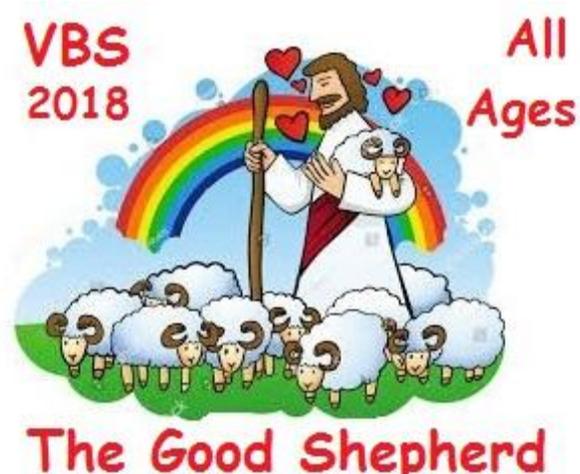
www.umc.org/who-we-are/organization-church-as-connection

When we become members of the United Methodist Church, we commit to giving of ourselves through prayer, presence, gifts, service and witness. During 2018, the 50th Anniversary of the United Methodist Church, we are asked to reflect on the importance of our history while also developing our vision for the future.



On Saturday, **June 9th** we will be having a Yard Sale at Church from **8 a.m. until Noon**. If you are interested in purchasing a space, please contact Peggy Donochod at 434-636-2494 or pdono@buggs.net. Spaces are \$25 and additional spaces are \$20 each.

This is a great time to finish up your "spring cleaning" by moving some of your unused items along to others who might need them.



We had a great VBS organizational session on June 3 that resulted in a very exciting VBS plan for 2018!

Prospect's VBS will be held July 28-29 for "kids" of ALL ages! We will have age range breakout groups with age-appropriate activities under The Good Shepherd theme. (Parents must stay with children under age 3.)

On Saturday, July 28, check in will begin at 9:45 AM with Opening at 10:00 AM. This day of learning about the Lost Sheep story and the 23rd Psalm with fun activities will end no later than 2:00 PM. Snacks and lunch are included.

On Sunday, July 29 as part of Sunday Service, we will celebrate VBS with all participants, helpers and our congregation. Certificates of Participation will be presented followed by an opportunity to see our VBS exhibits, a hot dog lunch and special VBS cake.

Please put this on your calendar and help us recruit! The VBS leadership team is asking everyone in our active Congregation and extended church family to be responsible for at least 1 participant registration.

Pre-registration (early confirmation) is helpful and requested for planning purposes (number of participates and ages). **Please confirm by July 21, 2018.**

Visit PUMC website to stay connected as VBS evolves, to confirm participation (names and ages) and to add your name to the helper list.

To reach Anne Hartley, VBS Lead Coordinator, please email ahartley@nc.rr.com or text/call 919-602-5012.

Missions Team



Love. Grow. Serve.

Your Mission team continues to assist our congregation members and friends. Once a month, we cook and deliver a dozen or so "happy meals". This is just one of the many small groups that make our church so vibrant. Val and I love to deliver these meals, chat with the recipients, and share our blessings. Remember, if you get a call and ask if you would like a fresh cooked dinner...just say yes!

Our nickel jar feeds hundreds of families and our donations to Holly Haven are much appreciated. We also are available to help anyone who is overwhelmed with yard or household chores that need to be done.

We have scheduled our next adopted highway trash pickup on Thursday, June 14 at 9:00 AM. Meet at the church, pick up trash until 11:00AM, and feel good that that we make hwy 903 pretty again!

Thanks for all of you who volunteer your time and talents in providing these services. We are blessed to have such an active church and congregation.

If you would like to get involved, let us know!

Chris & Valerie Ruch
Mission Team Coordinators



The UMW would like to thank everyone for their participation in the 6th Annual Mother's Day Fundraiser. It was a great success and brought in over \$375. We are looking forward to another successful event with the 6th Annual Father's Day Fundraiser.

The **KITS FOR CONFERENCE** will be boxed next week and ready for Rev. Ken to deliver to the Annual Conference. The support of this project has been great from the looks of what has been brought to church and put on the pew in the room adjacent to the sanctuary. Thanks and know that this is a worthwhile project for folks around the world.

June 17 - FATHER'S DAY – 6th annual song service in honor of and in memory of the special men in our lives. The cutoff for turning in your forms is Sunday, June 10th.

June 25 - The program for this meeting will be **Candle Burning** given by Elaine Chipley. Elaine grew up in Methodist churches and her father was a Methodist minister. She is well versed on the United Methodist Church and its doctrines and procedures. She has always been involved with local UMW groups as well as involvement at the district and conference levels. We are so pleased to have her in our church and UMW unit.

July 18 - Chef Salad Wednesday. You will be able to pre-order chef salads and to let us know if you wish to eat in or take out. Tickets are \$8.00 and include a salad consisting with meat, cheese, egg, lettuce, tomato and dressing. Crackers and water will also be furnished. See any UMW member after June 25 for tickets.

July 23 - Ice Cream Social with a different twist.

Tickets are available for \$5.00 for the Memorial Ice Cream Social from any UMW member. Ice cream will be furnished with delicious toppings of your choice and water will be donated by members of the UMW. With each ticket bought there will be a \$1.00 value ticket. Each value ticket represents one name. Additional value tickets may be purchased for \$1.00 each. During the Ice Cream Social, live music will be played and value tickets will be drawn. The last value ticket drawn will have a \$50 donation given in the winner's name to any organization or charity of the ticket holder's choice. Please join us for this fun night and also have a chance to give to others. The Ice Cream Social will take the place of our regular UMW meeting in July.

August 27 – The UMW will assemble "**Welcome Kits**" to be given to new members. This is a new activity for us and we hope it will be well received. If anyone has items that they would like to donate to this project, it would be appreciated.

September 24 - Our program for this meeting will be presented by the Family Violence Sexual Assault Unit that has been serving the citizens of the City of Emporia, Greensville, Sussex and Brunswick Counties for 29 years. The unit is available to assist victims 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is manned by a small group of staff and volunteers. This should be another very interesting program and we invite any women or men who would be interested in learning more about this subject. From the statistics I have been given, this is an out of control problem in most areas and could involve our family or neighbors.

Our meetings are at 7:00 P.M. on the fourth Monday, unless otherwise noted, and we would welcome any and all ladies to attend and get involved. You do not have to be a member of the church to be a member of the UMW.

Pat Conner, UMW President



The United Methodist Men continue to meet on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. for a meal and meeting.

The men offered a pancake breakfast after worship on April 15, and it was well attended. There was no charge for the meal, but donations were accepted. We wish to thank everyone for their donations to this and our other fundraisers. These donations are given to the charities we support each year. So far in 2018, we have made donations of \$1200 to our charities.

The men are planning a small golf tournament in the future. If you are interested please contact Rev. Ken or Dick Bintliff. We are also planning our annual Potato Bar meal and silent auction. If you have an item for the auction, please contact Chris Ruch.

Come join us! We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, June 21st.

Charles Jones, UMM President



Since our last Prospecter two of our members have moved to heaven,

Roy Taylor and Rodessa King.

We miss them but know they are rejoicing with Jesus.

If you are a friend of Prospect and wish to join us, please contact Rev. Ken.

Annette Jones, Membership Secretary

Trustee's Ministry

A trustee is part of the team that has oversight and care of all property, buildings, and equipment belonging to the church. The board of trustees works closely with the church council to respond to God's call and further the ministries of the church.

Trustees at Prospect serve for a 3 year term and may be reappointed after a 1-year break. The trustees convene at least quarterly (more frequently if needed) at the request of the chair. Robert Wilson is the chair and Bev Hill is the Vice-Chair. Following are the other members of our board of trustees and the year when their terms end.

2018: William Hoofnagle William Knox

2019: Ray Barden, Bob Wilson, Dan Donochod

2020: Bev Hill, Patricia Conner, Charles Jones

The Trustees are creating a **Handicap Parking Area**. The signs are up and the ramp and parking area are ready except for the lines being painted.

We request that the handicap parking spaces be reserved for those who require a wheelchair, walker, or cane to get about. The space next to the railings labeled **LOAD AND UNLOAD ONLY AND CHURCH BUS** should be left open so that any one arriving after all handicap spaces are full can drop off the handicapped person and then park the vehicle somewhere else.

I know that many of us have a handicap sticker. If you feel we need more spaces designated, contact a trustee to let them know. Your cooperation is appreciated. **Robert Wilson**

Summer
is here!

This is the day the
LORD has made;
let us rejoice
and be glad in it.

PSALM 118:24



It's the summertime and I am always excited to have the opportunity to welcome "first time visitors" to our worship service. Often they are family members and/or friends that are here visiting and we love to meet them! Many times they are people who live in the area or come to the area on the weekends who want to see what we are all about.

Here are a few reminders about things we can do to make our visitors feel welcome!

- Greet them warmly as they enter
- Move over and make room for them on our pew
- Introduce ourselves and offer to answer any questions they may have
- Thank them for coming and let them know that we hope they will join us again

We are ALL ambassadors for Christ and the face of our Church. I believe that as guests attend our worship service it becomes clear that we are a very caring church with an extraordinary Minister. Rev Ken is truly a shepherd over his flock, and for that we are grateful and know that **we are blessed!**

We're taught that we should always share our blessings, so invite someone to join you at church this Sunday, I'm sure they will be glad you did!

Peggy Donochod, Lay Leader



Join us July 21 for fun and fellowship at Twin Oak Shores pavilion for our annual church picnic. We will gather around 9:00 AM to get set up. Help is appreciated!

Lunch will be served around noon. There will be hamburgers, hotdogs and drinks all provided by the church. Please bring a side to share.

Members and guests welcomed! Please put it on your calendar!

Harvest Craft & Vendor Festival September 29, 2018



Mark your calendars for our upcoming Harvest Craft & Vendor Festival! It is a rain or shine event and will be on Saturday, September 29th, 2018 from 9 am to 2:00 pm. Breakfast will be available for purchase beginning at 8:00 am and there will be live music throughout the day. Crafters and vendors will be inside and outside along with our country store items. Grill cooked hamburgers and hotdogs can be purchased for lunch. Profits will be split between local Mission projects and starting a Stephen Ministry program at our church. Volunteers are needed in a lot of different areas. Please contact Valerie Ruch (434-636-4284) if you would like to help. Come on out and support this fun filled day.



Prospect United Methodist Church

PO Box 25

Ebony, VA 23845