



The Prospector

Prospect United Methodist Church

Ebony, Virginia

February 2019

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

www.facebook.com/ProspectUMCinEbonyVA

A Message from our Pastor:

Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to a new year and a new look at church. We have begun to RETHINK CHURCH and are developing a new vision for our church. No longer will the place in which you were born, or moved from, be the way we are identified. The new thought process is that we are all neighbors. We have all found a wonderful life here around Lake Gaston and as neighbors. Our goal is to live happily here and to be spiritually, emotionally and civically involved.

During our Charge Conference we were introduced to another new concept called #SeeAllthePeople. **There are links on the VAUMC website (see next page).** Both RETHINK CHURCH and #SeeAllthePeople encourage us to build relationships with our neighbors: some we have already met and want to get to know better, and some we look forward to meeting.

I am asking you to be aware of those who are moving into our communities and to be proactive in meeting them. This will

make stronger community ties as well as allowing us to develop new friendships.

Jesus calls us to commit ourselves as disciples to follow him. The best way to do that is to express love for your neighbors just as Jesus loves us. When asked, Jesus told the Pharisees the greatest commands were to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. The transformation of this world will come when the love of God is expressed throughout all the people. Your part is vital to His success.

I'm looking forward to working with you to develop training opportunities, new ministries, outreach, evangelism, and love for all God's children as we lift the name of Jesus. Bring your gifts to the table. Together we will weave this beautiful tapestry for the sake of the Kingdom.

Come take my hand and let's do this together.

Ken

RETHINK CHURCH is the welcoming campaign of The United Methodist Church and encourages a global spiritual dialogue both within and outside the church. The campaign seeks to redefine the church experience as one that extends beyond our doors and seeks to transform the world.

Rethink Church provides United Methodist Churches with ideas, resources, and support in finding new ways to show kindness, acceptance, and hospitality to guests and members alike. Find out how your church can show the local community "Open hearts, Open minds, and Open doors." Visit www.umcom.org/rethink-church and <http://www.prospectumc-ebonyva.org/> **RETHINKCHURCH** button

What is #SeeAllthePeople?

For too long, The United Methodist Church has searched for answers to guide our discipleship efforts. We have been busy trying to "fix" the church, producing PowerPoint presentations and studying community demographics. While these efforts may be important, they alone do not lead to disciple-making. The most essential step for making disciples of Jesus Christ is to immerse ourselves in the lives of the people who are right outside our doors, acknowledging that God calls us to have meaningful relationships in authentic, organic and consistent ways. For more information, please visit <https://www.seeallthepeople.org/>



Since our last newsletter, we have welcomed five new members.

Philicia Griffin

Rick and Vicky Goforth

Tony and Cindy Lamm

We welcome you to Prospect and look forward to worshipping and sharing with you in the future.

Also since our last edition of *The Prospector*, four of our members have earned their angel wings.

Wanda Beville

Ethel Jones

Hal Keeney

Larry Miller

We miss their presence with us. The church extends sympathy to their families.



If you would like to receive e-mails concerning events at the church, weather bulletins, and notes about those who are sick, please get in touch with Annette Jones, cajones@buggs.net or 434-636-2297, and she will add you to the online distribution list. Also if you are interested in Prospect being your church home, please contact Rev. Ken at 434-955-0253 to talk about membership.

Blessings to each of you,

Annette Jones, Membership Secretary



A Note from the Editor – Chris Barden
(Portions of this article were excerpted from
the Daniel Plan 21 Day Challenge.)

Love is the only thing that can change the unchangeable. It's the most powerful force in the world. Love invigorates, revitalizes, and renews. God's love heals what cannot otherwise be healed. God's love uplifts. It strengthens.

And that love is available and accessible to every human being. We don't need to earn it, only embrace it.

God designed us to grow spiritually within a supportive community. Through deep relationships with others, you get to live in the love that God wants to give you. When you are surrounded by others who are just as committed to loving their neighbor as you are, you are the recipient of God's love as well as a giver of it. May God's love continue to shine through the supportive community that is Prospect United Methodist Church! Embrace this community.

Let it bring you great joy. Together we can accomplish what God is calling us to do

As 1 John 4:12 says, "...if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us."

United Methodist Women

The Prospect United Methodist Women closed the 2018 year with a Thanksgiving Program given by Jan Bintliff at the November meeting. The program started with a delicious pot luck Thanksgiving meal followed by a meaningful program that ended with each member giving a donation to global missions with a Thank Bank offering.

It was announced that our group was recognized at the annual UMW Farmville district meeting as being a Gold Level-- Living into the Purpose unit, the highest level of recognition given by the district, and individuals participating in the annual reading program were provided Level I and Level II certificates of participation based on the number of books read during the past year.

Officers for 2019 were elected and include: Debbie Dowling, President; Jan Bintliff, Vice President; Elaine Chipley, Treasurer and Dorinda Paxton, Secretary. Jan Bintliff was surprised with a Special Mission Recognition gold pin and donation to missions for her outstanding service during the past year.

The group voted on the eleven different groups that would receive end of year donations totaling \$1,200 in outreach to our community and beyond. It was decided that the following groups would receive donations: Henry Fork Service Center, Red Bird Mission, Grace Inside (prison ministry), Ebony Volunteer Fire Department, Central Lifesaving Rescue Squad, John 3:16 Center, United Methodist Family Services, Brunswick County Food bank, Brunswick County Department of Social Services, UMCOR Clean Water Initiative, Jillian Nash Missionary Support Columbia, Mexico.

The 2019 year started with the January meeting. Patricia Conner was thanked for her years of service as President of the group. Debbie Dowling provided a meaningful program that highlighted the 150 years of United Methodist Women with an ongoing focus of helping women, children and youth in the local community and throughout the world. Following the program each woman present made a pledge for mission giving throughout the coming year. The group continues to send Sunshine Cards and participates in visitation of home bound members and the reading enrichment program. Several members committed to attend the annual Farmville District Prayer Breakfast on March 9th in South Hill.

A planning meeting was held at the end of January with goals set and programs suggested for the remaining months of the year. All women in the church are invited to participate in this active group whose vision is turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world. Calling all women to come try us out! The UMW meets at 7 p.m. on the 4th Monday of each month except July & December.

Submitted by: Debbie Dowling, UMW President

United Methodist Men

Charles Jones, President

The United Methodist Men meet on the third Thursday of each month except June and December at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We enjoy a meal cooked by one of our men, have a program or speaker and a short meeting. We welcome all the men of the church to come join us.

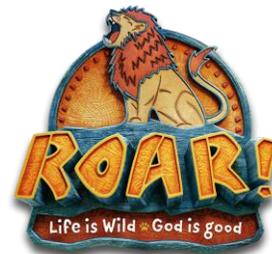
In October our potato bar and silent auction was a great success. The profit from this project helped us to make donations to our local fire departments, rescue squads, Hunters for the Hungry, Society of St. Andrew, Veterans Home, Hospice and other local needs. Also, we purchased a new grill and cover for our church. We thank you very much for your continued support.

On Sunday, February 10 the men prepared brunch after worship for a love offering. We enjoyed sausage and pancakes, juice and coffee. Good food and great fellowship!

If you have a need let us know. We work closely with the Mission Team to help in a time of need and we enjoy being able to be of service to our community.

Our next meeting is February 21 at 6:30 p.m. We would welcome you to our fellowship.

VBS 2019 – SAVE THE DATE



Plans for this year's Vacation Bible School are underway. It will be a 5-day evening event, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM. As of this publication our tentative schedule is June 9 – 13 with our closing program during Sunday Service, June 16. Get ready for an African adventure that engages the whole herd! The theme reinforced at each class is that *Life is sometimes wild, but God is always good!*

Remember we do VBS for kids of all ages!
Mark your calendar and tell your friends.



The Mission group at Prospect is a consistent group. Each month we provide approximately 12 meals for shut-ins and others who may just need a smile or hug. These meals are lovingly called our “Happy Meals” and delivered with a recent bulletin. We ask those who are called to please just say “yes” to the meal and accept it with the love it is delivered.

Volunteers appeared at the church, put on orange vests and grabbed garbage bags and off they went to pick up garbage along Rt. 903. This is a 3 mile stretch of the road adopted by Prospect United Methodist Church that we try to keep clean with periodic garbage pickup days. The warmer weather in February worked to our advantage and five diligent workers filled a lot of trash bags.

Mission is always looking for more volunteers to help with upcoming projects. As the warmer weather approaches we may be doing outside work for members who need a little extra help. Please let us know if you can help. Helping in God’s name The Mission Volunteers



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday is on April 14.

Maundy Thursday is April 18.

Good Friday service will be 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday is April 21

Make Lent 40 DAYS OF AWESOME

Author Max O. Vincent, author of *Because of This I Rejoice*, discusses being joyful during spiritual practices in Lent. The following is from page 42 of the January-February 2019 edition of *The Upper Room*.

Vincent: The way many Christians describe Lent, it starts to sound like chores or spiritual burden. I want us to remember that at the heart of Lenten disciplines is strengthening our relationship with God. The focus is not what we give up or even how many spiritual disciplines we observe. The focus of Lent is joyfully growing our connection with God. For me, spiritual practices are like exercise. I exercise not just for the physical benefit to my body during the exercise but because I know that the exercise is shaping my body throughout the day. If I pay specific attention to some spiritual practice during Lent, such as contemplative prayer, I become more contemplative in all my living, not just in focused times of prayer or only in the season of Lent. When I look at the way Paul describes the spiritual practices that sustain him in Philippians, I think he would say we often get the order wrong. It is not about committing to some spiritual practice to increase our joy, but joyfully engaging the practices.



Philippians 4:4

Prospect United Methodist Church
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