

Prospect Presbyterian Church
9425 West NC 152 Hwy
Mooreville, NC 28115

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2020

Worship Service:
9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

THE GOOD PROSPECTS
Prospect Presbyterian Church
9425 West NC 152 Hwy, Mooreville, NC 28115

Church Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday: 7:00am - 5:00pm
Closed for lunch: 1:30pm - 2:30pm
Closed on Fridays

Telephone: (704) 664-1514
Fax: (704) 664-9612
Website: www.prospectpres.org

Email:
Pastor: willgipe@hotmail.com
Nurse: virginia.stewart@atriumhealth.org
Office: office@prospectpres.org

FROM YOUR PASTOR’S KEYBOARD:

One of the reasons we like Christmas so much is that it is something we can count on. We know its place on the calendar. We make plans for it and think about it throughout the year. We have traditions, things we do every year, that we look forward to it. Christmas is something solid. We count on the dependability of Christmas, the consistency of Christmas. 2020 has been unpredictable, strange, hard. Our schedules have been rearranged, our plans have been cancelled, our freedom has been limited. There have been things we do not understand and do not like. That is true this year. It is actually true every year.

In a certain way, that makes Christmas even more important this year. Christmas keeps drawing us back to God. Christmas reminds us of the consistency and reliability of God. The story of God’s love for us does not change. The commitment of Jesus Christ to come and be with us, to come and get us and save us, does not change. The hope and confidence we have for today and for eternity, because of His love and sacrifice on the Cross, do not change. God has been in it, and with us, through all of this year. I would suspect that this Christmas this year will be different in some ways from years past. That is OK. We will do as much of the traditional stuff that we can. We will enjoy that. We will adapt and make it work if we have to change things. In all situations, we have our security and stability because God will be there, in our hearts, in our families, in our church, in our lives, in our world. Keep looking for Him. Keep trusting Him. He is dependable. He has a plan for all of us. He has it all under control.

Everyone have a happy Christmas. Know that you are loved.

To all of you at Prospect, Stacey, Laura, Will, Amber and I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!



Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year!

From Your Church Staff:
Will, Cheryl,
Dixie, Pat & Virginia

May your family be blessed throughout
this holiday season!



During the advent season, we will display poinsettias in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 20th. Poinsettias will be available for purchase for \$7 each. We will **ONLY** order what is paid for in advance.

Orders and payment must be received in the church office by Thursday, December 17th. You may reserve your poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone special in your life by signing the chart in the commons area. Please make your check to Prospect Presbyterian Church and indicate it is for the poinsettias. A list of those remembered will be in the bulletin on Sunday, December 20th.



Poinsettias



AVAILABLE TO COLLEGE STUDENTS
Applications shall be made to the Scholarship Committee by February 27, 2021

Fannie Turner Hart and Henry Howard Hart were great advocates of education. Their children established this scholarship in their memory, to be referred to hereafter as the Hart Scholarship Fund. This fund has been established at Prospect Presbyterian Church which they loved and where they served God faithfully for many years.

The Scholarship Committee of Prospect Presbyterian Church is elected by the Session to receive and review all applications for the Hart Scholarship. 2021 Committee members are: TBA Please contact the church office at 704-664-1514 with any questions.

Applications can be picked up at the church office. Completed applications need to be completed and placed in the mailbox in the commons area marked "Hart Scholarship."



Holiday Church Office Schedule

Church Office Holiday Schedule

The Church Office will be closed for the Christmas Holidays December 24th and 28th and will be closed on December 31st for a New Year's holiday.

Please remember that your end of the year contributions should be turned in to the church office by Wednesday, December 30th. Thank you!

Joy Gift Offering

In December, you will have the opportunity to participate in the Christmas Joy Offering. This offering dates back to the 1930's when the Southern Presbyterian Church began to supplement the inadequate retirement income of former missionaries, ministers and church workers. 50% of this year's offering goes to aid needy retirees with the Board of Pensions and 50% goes to help Presbyterian racial and ethnic schools and colleges to continue their operations in these tough economic times. **The Joy Gift offering will be received on Sunday, December 20th. Envelopes will be provided.**



REMINDER:

Please, if you know you are going in the hospital or you know someone is in the hospital or sick, PLEASE notify the church office. We would love to keep in touch. Thank you.



ADVENT ACTIVITIES!

1st SUNDAY IN ADVENT, NOVEMBER 29:

The **First Advent** candle was lit by Connie & Erskine Smith during the morning worship service.

2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT, DECEMBER 6:

The **Second Advent** candle will be lit by the Haggerty Family, Candace, Matt & Remi during the morning worship service.

3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT, DECEMBER 13:

The **Third Advent** candle will be lit by the McLelland family, Tommy, Renee, Ally and Tom during the morning worship service. Come worship God, as we sing familiar Christmas carols and celebrate Christ's coming. Also from 6:00 to 8:00 pm the children will have a special visitor and receive treat bags. More information will be provided.

4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT, DECEMBER 20:

The **Fourth Advent** candle will be lit by Kaitlyn and Brandon Mundy during the morning worship service.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24:

At 9:00 pm, we will hold our traditional Candlelight and Communion Service. The **Advent** candles will be lit by the Moore family, Emily, Paul, Allison and William. Bring your family and friends to this glorious night of worship and welcome Christ again into your hearts.



This is a question submitted to Billy Graham about grief and holidays. Many of us are grieving now for our love ones that have died this year. I trust this will bring some comfort to all of us this season.

"I've had several invitations to be with some of my family for Christmas, but I've turned them all down. I lost my wife to cancer a few months ago, and it just would be too painful to be with them. And anyway, I don't have much to celebrate this year.

A:

I can understand your feelings; losing a loved one can be almost unbearably painful. Grief is real, and even when we know our loved one is in Heaven, we still feel like something has been ripped out of our minds and hearts. And to be honest, not everyone understands this—particularly if they've never experienced it themselves. Perhaps your letter will encourage many of our readers to be more sensitive and compassionate toward those who are grieving the loss of a loved one—particularly during the holiday season, when memories tend to overwhelm us. Perhaps because it's the shortest verse in the Bible, people sometimes overlook the profound grief that Jesus expressed when He approached the tomb of His friend Lazarus. The Bible simply says, "Jesus wept" (John 11:35).

At the same time, one of the best ways to deal with our grief is to be with others—even if it's hard. Your family **loves you** and knows what you're going through, and they care about you and want to help you. The Bible tells us to "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

Whether or not you spend time with some of your family this Christmas, take time—in spite of your grief—to thank God for His blessings to you and your wife over the years. Grief melts in the sunlight of gratitude. Thank Him most of all for Christ, and the hope we have because of Him. "Find peace in Christ."





Christopher Hart	12/01
Vance Moore	12/01
Lane Marlowe	12/04
Jerry Meredith	12/05
Richard Bennett	12/06
Lynda Fries	12/06
Murdoch Morrison	12/06
Ethan Fallowes	12/07
Larry Stutts	12/10
Emily Moore	12/14
Margaret Bradshaw	12/16
Scott Brumley	12/17
Luke Tulbert	12/18
Clayton Fleming	12/21
Barbara Lyerly	12/22
Sharon Bivens	12/23
Anne Cloaninger	12/25
William Stephens	12/25
Susan Blackwelder	12/28
Amzie Hovis	12/29
Ann Jackson	12/29
Tanner Cavin	12/30
Robin Stutts	12/30



Larry & Carol Stutts Dec 19



Family Life Center Wish List

Your generosity is so appreciated. Your gifts have made it possible to purchase many items from our wish list. We are grateful and thank you so much for your support toward furnishing the Family Life Center. The following is an update to the wish list that was published in the last newsletter.

Direct connect coffee maker (purchased)	
New dishes	Dinner plates (purchased)
	Soup Bowls (purchased)
	Coffee Mugs (purchased)
12 round tables (purchased)	
120 chairs (purchased 61 chairs)	
Storage racks for tables and chairs	
Main entry	
Entryway table	
Mirror	
Trash cans for kitchen	
Trash cans for restrooms (purchased)	
Wall décor for various areas	
Furniture for Multi-Purpose Room	Sofa (purchased)
	2 Chairs (purchased)
	2 additional accent chairs
	End tables, coffee table, & Lamps
	Buffet (purchased)
Sturdy 3 step stool/ladder for kitchen (purchased)	
2 nice beverage dispensers (3-gallon size)	
Cutting boards (purchased)	
Knives	
Trivets	
Potholders	
Doormats or Doormat service	



Out of concern and safety, the Serendipity Circle Christmas party set for December 7th has been postponed. We will reschedule on a date in the Spring. Merry Christmas to all!



GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF ...

JEFFREY STEWART

(Son of Virginia Stewart)
By:

Frances Ann Neel
Barbara Ussery
Mary Helen Smith
Pam Tulbert
Virginia Edmiston
Reba Connolly
Lynn Britz

JANE JACKSON

By:

Sarah Jackson
Elaine & Tommy Boyles

DON LASHOMB

By:

Virginia Edmiston
Lynn Britz
Frances Ann Neel
June Goodman

MARGIE LEE MEADOWS
(Sister of Jackie McKnight)

By:

Serendipity Circle

LOUISE BEEKER

By:

June Goodman

MR. & MRS. V.A. JACKSON

By:

Allen & Ann Jackson

ROWAN HELPING MINISTRIES

Suggested Donation for December:



SPICES

Thanks you for all the prayers, cards, calls, visits, and inquires as I have navigated my cancer diagnosis. A special thank you to Will who has been with me every step of the journey. The stem transplant that I had in May was successful and I am now in remission. I will be doing a maintenance treatment every month for the next 2-3 years to help me remain in remission. The support I received from my church family has made the journey easier. I want to thank Virginia Stewart for her support, calls and visits.
Martha Brown

For Prayer

Missionary:

Justin & Kristen Raymer (African Island Mission in Washington DC)
Brian & Christy Ward (Spokane, Washington)
Rob & Sandy Shaffer (Czech Republic)

Nursing Homes, Rehab & Retirement Facilities:

Mac Atwell (Trinity Oaks-Salisbury)
Helen Barber (Trinity Oaks-Salisbury)
Tom George (Elderwood Assisted Living, Hamburg, NY)
Edith Lewis (Citadel – Mooresville)
Harriet Lipe (Citadel-Mooresville)

Please Remember:

Vi LaShomb	Perry Teeter
Anita & Wyatt Fesperman	Pam Beaver
Carl & Mary Agnes Wiggins	Helen Lyerly
Jackie McKnight	Pearl Bell
Dick & Ginny Bennett	Rachel Powers
Debbie Craven	Carol & Larry Stutts
Jo Powers	Kay Edmiston
Barbara Ussery	Martha Brown
Allen Lowrance	Beeker Family

Friends & Family of the Congregation:

Judy Palmquist *(friend of the Howie family)*
Patricia Harbison *(MS, daughter of Wayne Connolly)*
Lee Ann Clay *(Breast Cancer, sister to Wayne Chandler)*
Joyce Ervin Caldwell *(Melanoma of the eye, niece of Phyllis Carrigan)*
Kim Lambeth *(Cancer, Rachel Marlowe's mother)*
Judy Overcash *(Cancer, home bound in our community)*
Jeff Reid *(Leukemia, cousin of Pam Seamon)*
Brandon Mundy *(Stage II Hodgkin's Lymphoma, husband of Kaitlyn H. Mundy)*
Larry Abel *(family of Mary Beth Edmiston)*
Scott Brady *(Male Breast Cancer, friends of the Chandlers)*
Linda Abel *(Health Issues family of Mary Beth Edmiston)*
Emory McLaurin *(Cancer, friend of Jean Gibson)*
Beth Segui *(Parkinson, Daughter of Betty Alexander)*
Elaine Holt Brown *(Breast Cancer, 1st Cousin of Mary & Allen Lowrance)*
Pressley Cashion *(Bladder Cancer, brother of Becky Hart)*
Whitaker Raymer *(Cancer, Missionary Child)*
Ellen Goldstein *(Cousin of Becky Hart)*
Tina Davis *(Cancer, friend of Edie Steele)*
Rita Purvis *(Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, friend Brown Family)*

October Financial Report

General Fund:

Monthly Income through 10-31-20:	\$14,808
Monthly Expenses through 10-31-20:	\$21,562
Expenses Greater than Income for month:	\$6,814

Development Fund:

Ending Balance through 10-31-20:	\$47,561
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Dear Prospect Church Family,

I, Ronnie and all my family would like to thank you for your generous love and concern you gave to us during the recent, unexpected death of our son, Jeff. Your prayers, cards, food, your calls, your texts helped us during this most difficult time. Your kindness is overwhelming us! Thank you again and please keep us in your prayers.

Sincerely, Virginia & Ronnie Stewart & Family

NURTURE & CARE

Our beloved nurse, Virginia Stewart, will be returning to office Monday after Thanksgiving (exercise to be determined depending on Covid). A big Thank You to Virginia for some work from home during her Family Leave. Prayers are continuing for Virginia from her Prospect Family.

Many of us have been more "homebound" than ever this year so we all might have a better understanding of how it feels to be unable to come and go as we please. With this in mind, please plan to bring some items to place in Christmas Gift Bags for our homebound members. It means so much to them to receive these gifts, but more importantly, to feel the love and the support of their friends at Prospect. We plan to fill 25-30 bags. Think of small items, snacks or candy you would enjoy if you were unable to leave your home. Bring your items to the Session Room by Sunday, December 6. After filling bags by N&C members wearing masks & gloves, bags will be "quarantined required number of hours/days" before being socially-distanced delivered in mid December.

Exercise is cancelled the week of December 21st.

Your "Nurture & Care Committee" has been asked by HOME of Mooresville, the local Homeless Women's Shelter, to help with Christmas for 1 of the women & children. We are waiting on the list. If you would like to help, please mark your donation "Shelter Christmas". More information will be forthcoming.

Thank you, Your Nurture and Care Committee

Rev Stephanie Hankins
PO Box 542
Boone, NC 28607

November 13, 2020

Prospect Presbyterian Church
9425 NC Highway 152
Mooresville, NC 28115

To Clerk of Session & Rev. Will Gipe,

I am writing to thank you for the generous gift to Presbyterian Episcopal Campus Ministry (PECM) in memory of your church member, Bill Tulbert. It is such a wonderful and lasting way to honor his memory.

We plan to use these funds to help fund our Fall Break mission trips. Over the past few years, we have been to Atlanta, Charleston and Washington DC. The students have learned so much on these trips and talk about the impact they have on them for years to come. We did not travel this October, due to Covid, but hope that by next fall we will be able to do so again.

As I shared with Mrs. Tulbert, this semester has been challenging for the students. They have been learning, mostly remotely, and are feeling isolated. Thankfully, we have been able to have campus ministry in person, outdoors, with masks on to keep each other safe. It has meant so much to me and the students to be able to gather in person!

This fall we have had worship in the garden, learned about spiritual practices, had trivia nights, scavenger hunts, and just before Halloween we had a costume contest and carved pumpkins. We also have a weekly Bible study via Zoom. We are studying the gospel of Luke, chapter by chapter, which will take most of the year.

PECM students are engaged in the world, they offer a community of support to each other and they are all committed to their faith. They are also committed to coming together weekly, on Tuesday nights, to pray for one another, to worship together and to form lifelong friendships. We are so grateful that your donation will help us continue this important ministry on Appalachian's campus.

In gratitude for this generous gift,


Rev. Stephanie Hankins

Holiday Gifts & Traditions

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights..." James 1:17 NIV

A harried woman and her children were ending their day of holiday shopping. To express her frustration and stress, she stated that whoever created Christmas should be strung up and shot. A bystander brought to her attention that someone had already crucified him! Before you get caught up with your tasks, lists, and expectations, put them into perspective. Ask yourself what you should be celebrating: the hectic, stress-laden, financially burdened holiday season, or the gift of peace and hope.

Even though God gives us all we need for a healthy, happy life, we tend to disturb it by "spending" and "observing" the holiday on human terms. Look at the holiday traps that take up your time. Categorize your holiday tasks as "need to do," "should do," "want to do," and "expected to do." Which ones really address the Christmas spirit? Just because you are invited to attend an event or have habitually participated in an activity doesn't mean you have to continue that activity. Prioritize all of your activities. By weeding out those that distract you from the true meaning of Christmas, you will find less stress and more enjoyment from your choices.

Advent is a time for hope, peace, joy, and love, not mounds of gifts, chaotic rounds of parties, or copious amounts of food. Consider what has real meaning for you. Is it the Christmas story you heard as a child or its impact on you as an adult? Think about the music of the holiday and how a stirring rendition of "Joy to the World" or a quiet performance of "Silent Night" displays love and peace in a harried world. Don't let commercialism or stress overshadow the gifts of love and sharing that you offer your loved ones. Remember the spirit of Christmas, share your presence with others, reduce your stress, and create meaningful traditions that demonstrate God's love.

(Source: www.webMD.com)

Everyone likes to give gifts at Christmas because it feels good to make dreams come true but remember to give responsibly and within your means. Avoid using your credit cards by trimming your gift-giving list, sticking to a budget, buying on sale, or even making your gifts. Explain to children why you can't buy the latest electronic gadget. Joyful giving does not mean you ruin your credit rating, jeopardize your ability to pay utilities, or cause marital strife from poor finances. Give freely but give within your means. Not all gifts are material. Sharing your time with others is a gift that can be given all year round. Look for community agencies or projects that need manpower. Homeless / abuse shelters, food pantries, meal sites, tutoring projects, hospice programs, Big Brothers – Big Sisters, and many other programs need manpower to provide their services. Research shows that volunteering is also good for your physical and mental health - so choose a project, commit your time, and make it a family event. It will improve the lives of others while it reaps unexpected spiritual and family benefits.

The holidays are times of joy but also times of change. Children grow into adults with lives of their own. Families lose loved ones to death through illness, old age, or accidents. Young adults marry and move away from home, changing the comfortable family traditions of their youth. Your gift to your family is providing loving presence during the changes in your family's life, and helping them develop new traditions and relationships that incorporate the changes that have occurred. This season, remember the best gift you can give is yourself – be loving, be supportive, be present.

