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

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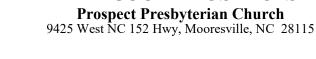


Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

From Your Church Staff: Will, Cheryl, Dixie, Kelly, Lee, & Pat

May your family be blessed throughout this holiday season!

THE GOOD PROSPECTS





2023

Sunday School: 9:30 am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

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

Email:

Pastor: willgipe@hotmail.com
Nurse: Kelly.Wilson@AtriumHealth.org
Office office@prospectpres.org

From Your Pastor's Keyboard:

December is a great time of year. When we think of December, we usually think of Christmas. That is appropriate. On Christmas we remember and celebrate God coming to be with us and to save us. That should be the primary thing followers of Jesus should think about this month. But December also has another time of year that is one of my favorite weeks of the year - the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. We all have different schedules. But for most of us, the week following Christmas usually has some days off, some time with family and it is a little more relaxed than the average week. I love that week because, after all the excitement that Christmas brings, as well as all the work that it takes to make our Christmas celebrations happen, that last week in December allows us to take a breath. As we take that breath, we can reflect on what has happened in the past year – some things we celebrate and some things we grieve. That week, we can also take a little time to think about what is important in our lives and how we want the new year to go. We can dream a little bit. We can think about what will bring us real satisfaction this coming year, how we can be obedient and make difference this year. We can consider how Christ wants us to spend our time and money and passion - for His glory and for our joy. So, after Christmas is over, let us find some time in that week that follows. Let us give thanks to God for His blessings to us. Let us be confident that He has forgiven our sins (our mistakes, our errors, our regrets) of the last year. Let's also be praying and looking forward to the days ahead that He gives us. Let us consider what He thinks is valuable and important, what He thinks makes up a good life and let us consider how we can prioritize and pursue these things.

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

During the advent season, we will display poinsettias in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 17th. Poinsettias will be available for purchase for \$8 each. We will **ONLY** order what is paid for in ad-



vance. Orders and payment must be received in the church office by Wednesday, December 13th. 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 17th.



AVAILABLE TO COLLEGE STUDENTS Applications shall be made to the Scholarship Committee by February 25, 2024

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. 2024 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."





Church Office Holiday Schedule

The Church Office will be closed for the Christmas Holidays December 25th and 26th and will be closed on Monday, January 1st for a New Year's

holiday. Please remember that your end of the year contributions should be turned in to the church office by Tuesday, January 2nd. 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 17th. 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.

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

ADVENT ACTIVITIES!

1st SUNDAY IN ADVENT, DECEMBER 3:

The First Advent candle will be lit by <u>Bart & Sarah Tulbert and children</u>, during the morning worship service.

2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT, DECEMBER 10:

The Christmas Breakfast prepared by the Men of the Church will be at 8:00 am in the FLC. The **Second Advent** candle will be lit by **Meredith**, **Tripp & Shelby Booth**, during the morning worship service. Come worship God, as we sing familiar Christmas carols and celebrate Christ's coming. Also from 4:00 to 6:00 pm the congregation will have a party with a special visitor for the children. See invitation below.

3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT, DECEMBER 17:

The **Third Advent** candle will be lit by the **Dowdy family**, and the **Stapleton Family**, during the morning worship service.

4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT / CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, Sunday, 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, Paul, Emily, Allison & William**. Bring your family and friends to this glorious night of worship and welcome Christ again into your hearts.

Golden Prospectors:

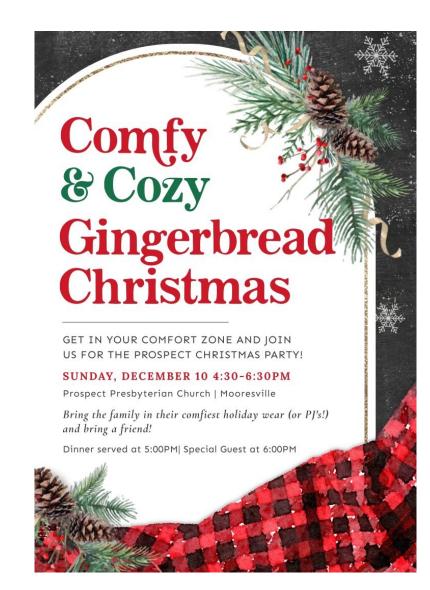
Golden Prospectors will meet at Mary Beth and Bob Edmiston's house on December 19 at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be catered so you **MJST sign up!** Sign up sheet is in the church basement. Mary Beth's and Bob's address is: 1622 Mt. Ulla Hwy, Mt. Ulla, NC 28125.

Young Disciples: Sunday, December 10

Christmas Party 4:30 -6:30 pm Wear your pjs and join us for the annual Christmas Party. Don't forget that the Christmas Party is for everyone that wants to attend.

Sunday, December 17

Let's go caroling. Young Disciples and friends will meet after church at Village Inn for lunch and leave from there to visit several members for Christmas Caroling.





12/01





Olie & Nancy Dwire	
Larry & Carol Stutts	

Dec 20 Dec 19

1	
Vance Moore	12/01
Lane Marlowe	12/04
Jerry Meredith	12/05
Richard Bennett	12/06

Christopher Hart

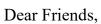
Lynda Fries 12/06 Murdoch Morrison 12/06 **Ethan Fallowes** 12/07



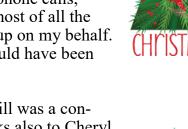
Luke Tulbert 12/18 Melody Edmiston 12/19 12/21 Clayton Fleming 12/22 Barbara Lyerly 12/23 **Sharon Bivens**

12/25 William Stephens Susan Blackwelder 12/28 12/29 Amzie Hovis Ann Jackson 12/29

12/30 **Tanner Cavin Robin Stutts** 12/30 Kiki Reid 12/31



This has been an overwhelming past three months! I never knew how kind our congregation could be. I want to thank you for the texts, phone calls, cards, food, visits, and most of all the prayers that were lifted up on my behalf. Without all of you it would have been much tougher!



Thanks to everyone! Will was a constant, encourager! Thanks also to Cheryl and Stefanie! I'm on the road to recovery and I ask that you continue to keep me in your prayers!

Sincerely, Mary Lowrance



To my dear church family:

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, phone calls, and food that you sent me during my illness. I am on the mend. There is a way to go, yet my loving Savior placed me in a church where a phone call sent help every time. To those of you that made sure I had a ride to my Doctor visits, God bless you for taking time from your day to take care of me. I love you all, and I can really never say thank you enough. Our church is held in God's hands, and it shows in all you do.

Dixie Forbes-Gorby.

Circle News: Wednesday, December 6th, ACTS/Lettie Beatty Circle will have their December meeting in the FLC with Christmas goodies at 10:00 am. Serendipity Circle will be meeting at the home of Connie Smith at 6:30 pm for their Christmas party on **Monday, December 4**th.



GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF...

Eddie Dowdy

(Husband of jenny Dowdy)

Robert & Margaret Westmoreland

Donald & Christine Hart

By:

Bill & Becky Hart

Phyllis Towell Carrigan

Virginia Edmiston John & Cheryl Yutzy David & Kelly Sopp Ann & Allen Jackson Pam Tulbert Frances Howie Roy & Janielle Watkins John & Roxanna Wiggins Donald & Sandra Carrigan Martha & Paul Graham

Dawn Lambert Stutts

Bv:

Pam Tulbert Ann & Allen Jackson Roy & Janielle Watkins

Danny Bost

By:

Frances Howie



ROWAN HELPING MINISTRIES

Suggested Donation for December:

SPICES



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)

Helen Lyerly (Cadence Living – Mooresville) Margaret Martin (Abernathy Laurels, Newton)

Judy Stacy (Northlake House, Charlotte)

Margie Swiggett (Autumn Care – Statesville) Tink Wilkinson (Cadence Living – Mooresville)

Please Remember:

Jo Powers Dick Bennett Thad Linker Ella Mae Stewart Anita & Wyatt Fesperman Lynda Fries Wade Carrigan Eddie Teeter **Roy Watkins** Jackie McKnight Carol & Larry Stutts Teresa Compton Allen Jackson Hal Stutts May Dauer Mary Lowrance Rick Yokeley **Beverly Bartlett** Wavne Chandler Margaret Bradshaw

Friends & Family of the Congregation:

Helen Broadway (Heart Issues, Mother of Cheryl B. Chandler) Delane Davis (Cancer, cousin of Chuck Miller) Phyllis Mayberry (Brian Bleed, Family of Mark Reid) Wayne Vellines (Sickness, friend of Frances Ann Neel) Jan Milos (Kidney Cancer, friend of Cristal Howie) Meredith Powers (Breast Cancer, daughter in law of Rachel Powers) Cash McCall (*Iraq*, friend of Edie Steele) Beth Segui' (Parkinson's, daughter of Betty Alexander) Amy & Mike Corriber (Amy Breast Cancer, friends of the Lyerly's) Evelyn Griffith (Cancer, friend of Mike & Robin Anderson) Janet Baker (Cancer, friend of John Edmiston) Nancy Shinn (Health Issues, cousin of Frances Ann Neel) Rachel Shinn Stone (Breast Cancer, cousin of Frances Ann Neel) Teresa Ervin (Breast Cancer, Vi LaShomb daughter)

Henry Bridges (Cancer Friend and neighbor of Connie Brown)

Myra Kelly (Lung Cancer Mother of Kiki Reid & Sister of Jenny Dowdy)



Greetings from your Health Ministry!

December is National Safe Toys and Gifts Month!



December 1 is World Aids Day: What is World AIDS Day?

World AIDS Day is a global movement to unite people in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Since 1988, communities have stood together on World AIDS Day to show strength and solidarity against HIV stigma and to remember lives lost. World AIDS Day exists to shine a light on the real experiences of people living with HIV today, while celebrating the strength, resilience and diversity of the communities most affected. It is a moment to inspire the leadership needed to create a future where HIV doesn't stand in the way of anyone's life.

December 3 is International Day of Persons with Disability

December 20th The mammogram van will be here from 8:30 am to 3:15 pm. Please call 704-403-1729 to schedule your mammogram. We must have 7 people scheduled for the van to come to our church!

Reserve the date: January 14^{th:}

Lunch and Learn with One Blood of the Carolinas

January 30th

Blood Drive with One Blood of the Carolinas - 2:30 to 7:00 pm

February 12th-May 13th 5:00pm to 6:30pm

Grief Share Support Group in the Family Life Center

Thank you to everyone who has offered to provide Christmas presents for the Mt. Ulla Elementary children who are in need. All children are spoken for as far as Christmas gifts, but we need congregational support to help provide food (non-perishable food items and paper products) for the children's families during the holidays. All gifts and food need to be dropped off in the library at the church no later than noon on Sunday, December 3. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Stephens (beth13@windstream.net or 704-664-7185).



Student Loan Funds

The Session would like to remind our college students that Prospect has monies available to loan to help with your college expenses. The monies will not accrue any interest until graduation or until you are no longer enrolled in an accredited institution. Upon graduation, a repayment schedule will be established in a meeting with the trustees. Student loan applications are available from the church office. We hope that you will take advantage of this program to help with your education expenses.



Session News

Your Session had its regular stated meeting on Thursday, November 16th at 7pm, moderated by Rev. Will Gipe.

Treasurer reported balances on 11/13: General Fund balance - \$121,664 Development Fund Balance - \$71,575

- Approved Reece Stapleton to the active membership roll of Prospect Church, by Letter of Transfer from Centenary United Methodist Church.
- Approved Galen Grant to be buried at Prospect as a former member for a non-refundable gift of \$1,200 per Burial Policy.
- Received \$4,675.54 from our insurance company for storm damage on church property.
- Received \$1,162.92 from our insurance company for storm damage on manse property.
- To date pledges of \$246,188 towards our 2024 budget.
- Approved to purchase an assisted listening system from Impact Technology, Concord NC for approximately \$4,000. This system will improve sound for the hard-of-hearing. Also, during the Sanctuary Renovation we will add wiring for future monitors when our current video system fails and becomes obsolete.

As your Session we always welcome comments.

Grace and Peace, Rick



General Fund:

Monthly Income through 10-31-23: \$52,059
Monthly Expenses through 10-31-23: \$39,665
Expenses Less than Income
for month: \$12,394

Development Fund:

Ending Balance through 10-31-23: \$71,575







"THOSE WHO SERVE"

Month Long Duties:

Church Opening & Closing: Johnny Wilkinson

Ushers: Tommy McLelland, Head Usher; Tommy Blackwelder, Vicki Freeze, Carol Linker, Tom McLelland

DECEMBER 3, 2023

Elder: Rick Lyerly (704) 663-9083 Officers on Call:

Front Door Before & After Service: Rick Lyerly

Offering: Ushers Team 4

Stephen Hart Sound System Operator:

Newcomer Visitor: Carol Linker

Children's Church: Cole & Judie Sellers

DECEMBER 10, 2023

Elder: Beth Stacy (704) 746-4642 Officers on Call:

Front Door Before & After Service: Beth Stacy

Offering: Ushers Team 4

Sound System Operator: Don Truedson

Newcomer Visitor: Carol Linker

Children's Church: Meredith Booth

DECEMBER 17, 2023

Elder: Karen Cornett (704) 657-6278 Officers on Call:

Front Door Before & After Service: Karen Cornett

Ushers Team 4 Offering:

Stephen Hart Sound System Operator: Stephen I Newcomer Visitor: Carol Linker Children's Church: Connie Brown

DECEMBER 24, 2023

Elder: Van Knox (704) 575-8766 Officers on Call:

Front Door Before & After Service: Van Knox

Offering: Ushers Team 4

Seth Burgess / Stephen Hart Sound System Operator:

Newcomer Visitor: Carol Linker Children's Church: Cole & Judie

Cole & Judie Sellers

December 31, 2023

Elder: Terri McKnight (704) 458-4905 Officers on Call:

Front Door Before & After Service: Terri McKnight Offering: Ushers Team 4

Stephen Hart Sound System Operator:

Newcomer Visitor: Carol Linker

Children's Church: Emily Moore



December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
PECEMBER					1 6:00 pm Secret Sisters Reveal - Judie Sellers' House	2 Teeter Family FLC All Day
3	4 11:00 am Exercise Class 6:30 pm Serendipity Circle at Connie Smith's 6:30 pm BSA Boy Scouts	5 6:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm REFIT Class	6 10:00 am ACTS/Letty Beaty Circle -FLC 6:30 pm Dinner & Bible Study	7 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Exercise Class	8	9
10 2nd Sunday in Advent 8:00 am Christmas Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 4:30 pm Christmas Party with Special Guest	11 11:00 am Exercise Class 6:30 pm BSA Boy Scouts	12 3:30 pm Nurture & Care 6:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm REFIT Class	13 Poinsettia Money Due! 6:30 pm Dinner & Bible Study	14 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Exercise Class 7:00 pm Session Meeting	15	16 Wilkinson Family FLC All Day
17 3rd Sunday in Advent 8:30 am Mission Committee Meeting 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service	18 Newsletter Deadline! 11:00 am Exercise Class 6:30 pm BSA Boy Scouts	19 12:00 am Golden Prospectors Mary Beth & Bob Edmiston's 6:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm REFIT Class	20 8:30—11:45 am Mammogram Bus 6:30 pm Dinner & Bible Study	21 1st Day of Winter 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Exercise Class	22	23
24 4th Sunday in Advent / Christmas Eve 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service / Joy Offering 9:00 pm Candlelight Communion Service	25 Christmas Day! Church Office closed	26 Church Office closed	27	28	29	30
31 1st Sunday after Christmas 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service w/ Justin Raymer, Special Guest Speaker Pennies for Hunger Received 11:45 am Worship Committee Meeting						MERRY TO ALL!