

# Prospect United Methodist Church

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## EDUCATION 2010

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In the last year, the Education Work Area has continued to be committed to the Christian education for all members of our congregation. Our successful work area is comprised of committee members, dedicated teachers, Bible study leaders and helpers who make Christian education a reality in our Church.

Since our last report in December of 2009, our Sunday School celebrated many wonderful events. We were blessed to have had Carol Rivard organize pretzel Sunday once again. In May, four young women were confirmed and one very committed high school student attended all the confirmation classes and was reconfirmed. We thank our confirmation leaders, Diane Ashworth and Jackie Palance for their dedication and service. At the end of our Sunday School year, we presented appreciation pins to thank our acolytes, bell and choir participants. In the beginning of 2010, our Associate Organist and Director, Emily Flower, began singing and practicing the Children's Bells regularly with our children. The congregation has enjoyed many bell performances from our children in our 10 am Service. In the summer of 2010, Eleanor Flower-Riker began a new and vital project when she organized and directed many wonderful volunteers for our Vacation Bible School. The children had a great time and it was a great start to future VBS endeavors.

Our 2010-2011 Sunday School has strong attendance from many families that are very dedicated to bringing their children on a regular basis to learn about Jesus.

One of the happiest places on a Sunday morning is our PreK through 1st Grade class. Our teachers, Jeff Paulette and Lang Ashworth, incorporate their great fathering skills with a relaxed atmosphere that creates a place where learning about the Bible easily emerges. Every week, they have a lesson from the "Rock Solid" curriculum and a related craft. They take all the bathroom trips, runny noses and sticky hands in stride and are teaching the children more than meets the eye. The children see, first-hand, dedicated gentle men that live the lessons that Jesus has taught us all.

Now we have an upstairs classroom that has two of the best foundation laying teachers we have, Susie Parker and Carla Heister. If you need to learn about the Bible, this is the place to be. In a fun and interesting manner, our 2nd through 5th Graders are prepared for their future lives.

We also have a nice group of middle to high school age children that are attending on a regular basis. The regular attendance has to do with having a great bunch of kids and we have Diane Ashworth. Diane is an experienced minister, mother and friend. The children learn from and can count on her to be here for them.

For our infants to Preschoolers, we have Prospect Playgroup that meets on Saturday mornings. Our leader, Eleanor Flower-Riker, has her group come together on a regular schedule to interact with friends within and outside of our Church family. Together, they experience the common need of fellowship for both the children and the parents. Eleanor established this group to build and nurture the relationships with our newest families.

We have Jr. and Sr. M.Y.F that meet every 1st and 3rd Sundays. We have now offered the meetings to include 2nd Grade and they are very excited to be attending. The children are encouraged to bring their friends and they do! Recently, we had a family join our church because their child first became interested in our Church. After their child accompanied a friend to M.Y.F meetings, this young girl grew in Jesus by then attending the Service with the same friend and then went on to be confirmed. She is now one of the most active members who is also part of our choir and bell choir. We have seen first-hand where M.Y.F can lead someone.

Recently, our students presented our Christmas pageant "Christmas Presence". Our students and adults presented their presents of love, joy, peace, light, life, praise, wisdom, worship and weakness reminding us all of the presence of Jesus during Christmas and throughout the year. During our holiday season, our older children wanted to show they love our Church and ran a Christmas Eve Luminary Bag Fundraiser that lit our sidewalks around their beautiful Church for the entire Congregation to enjoy.

Our Adult Education Bible study classes have a strong attendance of our adult members who want to continue their spiritual journeys with Jesus. The classes are organized by two devoted individuals, Jeanette Baker and Janice Moore.

Looking to the future, an end of the year zoo field trip is again being considered.

From infancy to adulthood, Christian Education is priority here at PUMC. On behalf of the Education Work Area, we will continue to do our best for Prospect United Methodist Church and continue our service to God.