



AUMC WITNESS

Our Mission: Love God, Love Neighbor, Serve the World

Annandale United Methodist Church
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We are a Stephen Ministry Church

September 10, 2013



Academy of Discipleship
Annandale United Methodist Church

Fall Adult Classes Begin

As the Academy of Discipleship enters its seventh year, we give thanks to God and to you for your continued commitment to spiritual growth and discipleship. Through our small groups, classes, book studies, and bible studies, we emulate those early Christians who “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” As a result, “the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:42, 47)

This fall, we will focus on opportunities to connect. We encourage you to find a place to connect with Christ, connect in community, connect with opportunities to serve. Our goal is for everyone to find a place to connect, grow, and serve. Here is a sample of some of our new classes:

Spiritual Heroes: Terri Ruhter; Adult Sunday School. Join us to listen together and discuss a series of interviews with a wide range of spiritual leaders, including Karen Armstrong, Jimmy Carter, Joan Chittister, and Thich Nhat Hanh. ~ 10 weeks

Christianity and World Religions: Gloria Rothman; Tuesdays, 2:15 p.m. This study provides an introduction to world religions to enable us to build bridges with those of other faiths, grow in our own faith, and find positive ways to share the gospel. ~ 6 weeks

Holy Spirit 101: Pam Adams; Wednesdays, 7 p.m. This class will study *When God's Spirit Moves* by Jim Cymbala. We will learn how to make room for the Holy Spirit in your life, how to listen for the Spirit in prayer, and how to apply God's Word. ~ 6 weeks

For a complete listing of over 25 classes and small groups, visit the church website. Register online.

Convocation Sunday, Sept. 15



The Academy of Discipleship will hold its seventh annual Convocation on Sunday, Sept. 15. The Convocation Preacher is Rev. Dr. Youtha Hardman-Cromwell, Professor, Wesley Theological Seminary.

From the Latin words meaning “to call together,” Convocation serves as opening worship for our Academy year and an opportunity to bring together all adult classes for a time of joint learning during the Sunday school hour.

Dr. Youtha Hardman-Cromwell is an elder in the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. She is a professor at Wesley Theological Seminary and previously served as Assistant Dean for Wesley Seminary at Mount Vernon Square and as Director of the Practice in Ministry and Mission Program.

Dr. Hardman-Cromwell received her Master of Divinity degree from Howard University School of Divinity and her Doctor of Philosophy degree from American University.

She has served the Virginia Conference as trainer on Churches in Transition Commission, chair of the Commission on Religion and Race, and ministry candidacy mentor. She is in ninth year of service on the Virginia Conference Board of Ministry. She has been a delegate to Southeast Jurisdictional conferences and General Conference. She is a writer, preacher, Bible Study leader, and resource person. She and Oliver have four adult children and one granddaughter.

Convocation Sunday
Sunday, September 15,

Worship: 8:30/11 a.m.
Combined Adult Classes
with Convocation Preacher
9:45 a.m.; Sanctuary

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A Great Omission

"...teaching them to obey everything I commanded..." - Matthew 28:20a

Dear Friends,

We are excited to begin the seventh year of the Academy of Discipleship. Our theme continues to be "Connect, Grow, Serve."

This past Sunday, the pastors reflected on this theme as it relates to the Great Commission and our overall mission as a church. In this text, Jesus charged his disciples to go into the world to make disciples, to baptize them, and to teach them. (Matthew 28:16-20)

The Academy of Discipleship exists to fulfill this last command. Through classes, bible studies, small groups and guest speakers, we seek to teach all that Jesus taught, exemplified, and commanded during his earthly ministry.

Herein lies the challenge: To participate in a class or small group requires commitment. To teach a class or lead a small group requires even greater commitment. Both require moving beyond the Sunday morning worship experience into a smaller group for deeper study, fellowship, and accountability. Both require prioritizing discipleship over competing activities. Both require stepping outside of the comfort zone of anonymity in a large church to know and be known among fellow believers. No wonder a disproportionate number of our congregation, as with many churches, do not attend a class or small group.

Thus, the failure to attend Sunday school or small groups constitutes a great omission in the life of the believer. Sunday morning alone does not allow for the deeper learning and fellowship that enables believers to, not only hear the word, but apply it to their lives. Small group study and reflection, along with personal prayer and spiritual practice, are necessary to move beyond membership to discipleship.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in his famous work, *The Cost of Discipleship* articulates this notion even more strongly. "Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."

By contrast, "Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ."

If the cost of discipleship is high, the cost of nondiscipleship is even higher. According to Dallas Willard, "Nondiscipleship costs abiding peace, a life penetrated throughout by love...hopefulness that stands firm in the most discouraging circumstances, power to do what is right and withstand the forces of evil. In short, it costs exactly the abundant life Jesus said he came to bring."

Friends, as your schedules begin to fill, I encourage you to commit to discipleship this year. Don't commit this great omission; rather let us recommit to the great commission to make disciples, baptize them, and teach them all that Jesus commanded.

Blessings,

Cynthia

DATEBOOK

Sept. 15 – Convocation Sunday; first day of children and youth Sunday School; children and youth choir rehearsals resume

Sept. 18 – Wednesday Night Together

Sept. 22 – Adult Sunday School classes resume

Sept. 23-27 - W. VA. Mission Trip

Sept. 27-28 - Adult Choir Retreat

Sept. 29 – KIMYR: Kids in Mission Year 'Round

NEWS IN BRIEF

Winter clothes drive for the homeless: A collection is underway for mostly men's coats, sweatshirts, stocking caps, jeans, socks, underwear, and waterproof gloves. Women's winter clothing will be taken, but most of the homeless are men. Items should be clean without holes. Label each item with gender (men or women) and size. Place donated clothes in the boxes under the coat racks before Oct. 17. The clothing will be distributed to homeless people in Washington, D.C. For more information or to volunteer, contact Dan Evans at 571-334-6223 or danevans@frontiernet.net.

AUMC Drivers Needed for ACCA Transportation. AUMC provides drivers to ACCA four weeks a year to take people in our area to medical appointments. In the last couple of years, many of our long-term drivers have been forced to "retire from ACCA driving." We need four or five new drivers to continue to meet AUMC's commitment to ACCA. Our drivers have found this ministry to be very rewarding. Time commitment is normally 2 to 2 ½ hours, four times a year. Call or email John Clarke 703-642-3836 (home) 703-606-6464 (cell) clarkejhl@gmail.com.

Volunteers are Needed for ACCA Furniture pickup and delivery: Saturday, Sept. 14 is AUMC's scheduled date for the ACCA furniture pickup and delivery. Men, women, and students are all welcome to participate. For those who can't find time to exercise, this is a great way to work out and at the same time help the less privileged in our community. This is also a wonderful opportunity for students looking for volunteer projects or community service that counts to their academic (school) credit. For details, contact Saro Nkesi at 571-332-6000 or email snkesi@gmail.com.

Teams Forming to Prepare Meals: 4 teams of 6-8 people are needed to provide dinner for 150 students at Poe Middle School one Wednesday a month, beginning in September. Serving time is between 4 - 4:45p.m. Volunteers are needed to create a menu, shop for ingredients, prepare food, serve the meal, and clean up. Funds are available to cover costs. For more information, contact Sheila Kyer 703-981-6080 or email Kyer027@aol.com or Betsy Clevenger, 703-425-6424.

Sept. 16 is the last day to donate Back-to-School Supplies to help local children get a strong start on the new school year! Bring the following items (new) to the collection box in the atrium: crayons, markers, glue sticks, scissors, notebook paper, and folders. These items will be distributed to families in need at the Immanuel campus of AUMC on food distribution nights.

Make your reservation now for Wednesday Night Together Fellowship Dinner, Sept. 18, 5:45 p.m. Register by noon on Monday, Sept. 16, online at www.annandale-umc.org by emailing Joyce Kitzmiller - jkitzmiller@annandale-umc.org or calling 703-256-8330. The program will be stories and photos from the Mozambique Mission trip. Meal price (pay at the door): \$8 per person, \$3 for children under 12, and \$25 per family maximum. (Please note: if you make a reservation and are unable to attend, please call the church office by noon on Monday, Sept. 16 to cancel.)

Financial Peace University Class will meet Thursdays Sept. 19 – Nov. 14, 7 – 8:30 p.m. in room 210. FPU is a biblically-based video curriculum that incorporates small-group discussions and encourages personal financial accountability and discipleship and is taught by best-selling author Dave Ramsey. Register at DaveRamsey.com by clicking on "Find a Class" and then choose Annandale UMC. Cost is \$93 for nine, 90-minute classes. The program at AUMC is being coordinated by AUMC members Bill and Robin Evans.

AUMC's Earth and Spirit Committee is raising funds to purchase drinking water filters for the people of northern Ghana. This fund-raising activity, approved by the church Finance Committee, has a goal of purchasing 25 filters, at a cost of \$250 each, for a total of \$6,250. To make a donation, make your check payable to AUMC with "E&S water filter" in the note line. The water filtration devices can provide clean, safe water for a family of 4-6 every day for more than 10 years.

Sandwich Making Helpers Needed: Volunteers are needed Thursdays at 4 p.m. to make sandwiches for the food distribution program at the Immanuel campus. Help is needed with food distribution, Immanuel campus, every Thursday, 5 – 7 p.m. For more information call Betsy Clevenger, 703-425-6424.

Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged for the Women's Retreat May 2-4, 2014, at the Eden Resort, Lancaster, PA. <http://www.edenresort.com/>. Registration forms are available on the web site and in the church office. To have a registration form mailed or emailed to you, or for more information, contact Cyra Doty, 703-354-5330 or email radu94@aol.com.

Fellowship, Film and Food: on Tuesday, Sept. 17, a film screening is planned at AUMC of "A Place at the Table", followed by a discussion about hunger in our community and what we can do, especially about hungry children! Fellowship and food at 6:30 p.m.; film screening at 7 p.m. All are welcome. No charge; bring non-perishable food for ACCA food pantry. Sponsored by N.VA Chapter, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy; support from Half in Ten and Strong Kids, Strong Virginia. For more information contact anne.murphy2244@gmail.com.

MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tues., Sept. 17	Church Council	7:15 p.m.	Room 302
Tues., Sept. 24	SPRC	7 p.m.	Room 210

LECTIONARY TEXTS

Sept. 15, Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14 (UMH 746); I Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

Sept. 22, Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9 or Psalm 4 (UMH 741); I Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

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WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, Sept. 15

- Door greeters:** 8:30 a.m. J. Vance, B. Brown, S. Naugle
9:30 a.m. A. Witkowski, B. Otto
10:30 a.m. D. Johnson, B. Miga
- Welcome Center:** 8:30 a.m. J. Lord, 11 a.m. M. McCarthy
- Fellowship hour:** Trustees; Exploring Faith in Life
- Ushers:** 8:30 a.m. S. Fleming, R. Roberts, E. Sackey, E. McKenney (c)
11 a.m. G. Rothman, P. Straub, R. Witkowski, P. Adams (c)
- Acolytes:** 8:30 a.m. M.A. Soulen, 11 a.m. B. Molnar, M. Molnar
- Crucifers:** 8:30 a.m. R. Soulen

Sunday, Sept. 22

- Door greeters:** 8:30 a.m. E. Wilson, C. Cox, S. Naugle
9:30 a.m. M. Pearson
10:30 a.m. W. Ward,
- Welcome Center:** 8:30 a.m. K. Soulen
- Fellowship hour:** Phoebe/Lydia Circles
- Ushers:** 8:30 a.m. S. Chase, A. Cogswell, S. Groves, S. Nkesi (c)
11 a.m. E. Carrillo, R. Gallagher, G. Sherwood, P. Snitzer (c)
- Acolytes:** 11 a.m. Jones
- Crucifer:** 8:30 a.m. K. Carney, 11 a.m. Jones

NEXT DEADLINE

Friday, Sept. 13 is the deadline for the Sept. 24 Witness which covers Sept. 29 and Oct. 6



The AUMC Music Ministry announces auditions for..

The Wizard of Oz

Performances Feb. 27, 28 and March 1, 2014
More details about the performances will be published in upcoming issues of the bulletin and Witness newsletter. **Auditions are scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 17, from 7 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 19, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.** To request an audition information package, send your name and contact information to Barbara Gordon at bgordon@annandale-umc.org. Children must be in 3rd grade or above and must have a contract (in the audition packet) signed by a parent before they may audition.

Is your dog as smart as Toto? We are searching for a dog to perform as the beloved Toto in AUMC's upcoming production of The Wizard of Oz. He/she needs to be small, calm, very good with people and children...and the ability to "stay", "come" and "speak" would be a real bonus! If you think your baby is ready for the big time, send a photo and other information to Barbara Gordon at bgordon@annandale-umc.org or AUMC, 6935

