



AUMC WITNESS

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

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We are a Stephen Ministry Church

October 8, 2013

National Children's Sabbath: Beating Swords into Plowshares

Violence. Poverty. Abuse. Sickness. Depression. Fear. These are themes saturating our news and suffocating our nation. One does not have to venture far to see the impact of living in a broken world – finding hurting souls longing for connection and struggling to make ends meet. Some of the greatest sufferers of these devastations are our nation's children and youth – voiceless victims that feel trapped in cycles bound to repeat themselves generation after generation.

The statistics are staggering: we could discuss our high infant mortality rates (every 20 minutes a baby dies before his or her first birthday), or our crippling high school drop-out records (one student every eight seconds during the school year), or how eight young people are killed each day by a firearm, or how four students under the age of 18 will successfully take their own lives before the day is over. In the time that it has taken you to read this far into the article – another child has been born into poverty's harsh conditions.

But instead of considering figures, God has called us to consider the individual – that hundredth lamb that has wandered from the fold. Jesus stated "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." If children and youth matter to God, we must strive to have our children and youth matter to us.

On Sunday, Oct. 20, Annandale UMC will participate in our yearly Children's Sabbath, which is a service dedicated to the promotion and wellbeing of our children and youth, both inside and outside of our congregation. We will have times for prayer and reflection, along with discussing ways that we can actively get involved in protecting, educating, and uplifting this next generation. We hope that you will join us as we work together to answer God's commission to consider the "least of these."

Annandale United Methodist Church invites everyone

to be part of this united voice for children and youth by participating in these events and activities:

- **Special worship** for Children's Sabbath, Oct. 20, 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship services.
- **24-Hour Prayer Vigil** for Children from 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20 though 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21, sponsored by the Children's Council.
- **Fall Fun Fest**, Sunday, Oct. 27, 3 – 6 p.m., an intergenerational fun event for all ages with activities including collecting food for the hungry, "Trunk or Treat", games, a chili cook-off, refreshments and more.

Do you have a winning chili recipe? Are you the best baker? Do your children enjoy dressing up in costume? Would you like to decorate your car for "Trunk or Treat"? You won't want to miss the **AUMC Fall Fun Fest, Oct. 27**, 3 – 6 p.m. Games, a chili cook-off and cobbler contest and much more is planned for all ages! To sign up for the chili cook-off or cobbler bakeoff (sponsored by the Young Adults) send an email to Rev. Eduardo Carrillo, ecarrillo@annandale-umc.org. If you would like to decorate your car trunk, your van or pickup truck for "Trunk or Treat", send an email to bstewart@annandale-umc.org.

Is a pumpkin a vegetable? A fruit? A squash? A gourd? Whatever it is – you're invited to decorate it! Sign up now to participate in our Pumpkin Decorating Contest during our Fall Fun Festival. Entries may be carved, painted, or decorated in any other creative way – divisions available for children, youth, and adults. See registration on church website for full details or email Trish Bradley, tbradley@annandale-umc.org Good luck!

The Annandale Parade is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m. – 12 noon. AUMC will have a presence including the United Methodists Against Human Trafficking, children and youth ministries and DIRT (the disaster response team). The parade begins in the AUMC parking lot. The 1st Kings Bible Study group will provide coffee at the staging area and the DIRT team will provide doughnuts.

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Discerning God's Will

Grace and peace in the name of our Savior!

I write today in the midst of our preparations for the annual business meeting of the church known in Methodism as "Charge Conference." We are counting heads, we are dotting "i's" and

crossing "t's." But the heart and the soul of who we are and what we do are not contained by forms. It is in the faithful pursuit of God's intention for us as individuals and as a church.

More of who we are and what we do at AUMC has been captured by the discernment process which we have pursued over the course of the past year. We have spoken and listened. We have gathered reams of demographic data. We have researched and we have prayed. The result of all of the above has been compiled, and was the grist for our time of retreat held on Aug. 23-24 at the 4-H retreat center in Chevy Chase, MD.

The discernment results gladdened our hearts in several ways. We heard that there is general consensus that we are doing well on the items that were lifted by our 2010 Discernment Process: we were creating programming with and focusing on Young Adults; we continue to have passion around and engagement with significant local, national, and international mission work.

There were things of concern reported among us as well: the loss of our ESL program; the need for better use of updated technology; a reworking of our outreach hospitality. Fortunately, we found that we were already at work in many of these areas. We have a new, more robust website that is easier to negotiate and upon which videos of our most recent sermons are posted; we are making better use of the social media – Facebook, Twitter, Blogging and so forth. Persons new to our community of faith are joining with seasoned members to present the face of hospitality, with new methods of following up with visitors.

We also followed the questions that our discernment raised: How can we do better at reaching the greater Annandale community, particularly Hispanic Latino persons, and, given our experience as one community of faith in two locations, what was the best use of our Heritage Drive location? All that said and done, it was during that time that we wrestled with the question: "In light of this, what is God calling us to be and do?" There was a clear call to a more faithful witness to connecting to our Hispanic Latino brothers and sisters, first through mission, then through a Spanish language service. This would mean the phasing out of our Sunday morning

service on Heritage Drive, and opening that site up for other purposes.

A transition team is now at work on the process. We anticipate that our English language services there will cease by the end of this year, and that something new will begin early in 2014. We will need everyone's prayers as we begin this new part of our journey with God. There will be difficulties, but there will be joy as well; joy born of the knowledge that new persons will be brought into relationship with Jesus Christ in Annandale. Lives will be changed and transformed. Hospitality will be offered and received. All because we took the time to listen for the voice of God in the midst of all we do. For that I am thankful to God and to you.

Clarence
Clarence

DATEBOOK

Oct. 19 – UMW Fall Event, Dedication of Memorial Trees in Cemetery, Sewing Workshop, CROP Walk

Oct. 20 – Children's Sabbath

Oct. 26 – Annandale Parade

Oct. 27 – Fall Fun Fest

We Love Our Pastors! October is Pastor Appreciation month and AUMC is blessed to have four wonderful pastors! Please take a moment and let them know how much they mean to you. Possible ways to show your appreciation include 1) write the pastors a letter, a poem or a prayer; 2) Ask them for their prayer needs and then pray for them regularly; 3) be openly responsive to their preaching and teaching; 4) say "thank you" to each of them personally for all they do for our church community. By showing your appreciation our pastors will be empowered and our church will be better for it, too.

Young Adults have decided to meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 12:30 p.m., room 210. The meetings will begin with a lunch (provided) and Bible study. On Oct. 13, the group will go deeper into the morning's scripture reading. All young adults are invited! Tell your friends and family. For more information, contact Rev. Eduardo Carrillo - ecarrillo@annandale-umc.org or call 703-256-8330.

Volunteers are needed for ACCA's furniture ministry, which delivers donated furniture to needy families. AUMC's next date to assist is Saturday, Oct. 19, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. For details, and to volunteer, contact Peter Taylor, 703-477-3903.

Volunteer opportunity: food distribution at Heritage Drive location, every Thursday, 5 – 7 p.m. For details call Betsy Clevenger, 703-425-6424.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Date Correction: The Annandale CROP Hunger Walk is Saturday, Oct. 19 (not Oct. 13), 8:30-10:30 a.m. (registration opens at 8 a.m.) The CROP Walk raises funds for Church World Service hunger/refugee relief, development programs, and the ACCA food pantry. The walk follows the trail around Lake Accotink Park, and can be completed within two hours. You can also sponsor a walker or simply make a donation. Visit the CROP Walk table in the Atrium or contact Peter Taylor at 703-477-3903 or ptaylor78@cox.net or Jay Morris jmorris55@verizon.net 703-924-1919 to sign up as a walker or sponsor. Details about CROP are at <http://accacares.org/cropwalk.html>.

Time Change: Pillowcase Dress Mission Project. Seamstresses are invited to a workshop Saturday, Oct. 19, from 1:30 - 3 p.m. in room 306. (The time was changed to avoid conflict with the UMW event). The sewing workshop, presented by Gail Pemberton, will teach how to make pillowcase dresses for mission projects. Recently, pillowcase dresses were given to girls in Appalachia. Instruction will also be provided at the workshop on how to make baptism baby bonnets out of cloth handkerchiefs. Please let Gail know if you plan to attend via email gpemberton2@verizon.net or 703-354-6896.

UMW Fall Gathering – All are welcome! The United Methodist Women's Fall Gathering will be Saturday, Oct. 19, 10 a.m. – noon, in Wright Hall. The program will include a time of fellowship, moments of remembrance for departed members, and mission recognition. Guest speaker will be Gordon Greathouse, General Board of Global Ministries Missionary from Brazil, who has led the Shade and Fresh Water program and hosted our volunteer in missions teams for the last eight years. Please join us at for a light brunch, fellowship, fun and learning.

Donate candy! The children and youth ministries welcome donations of Halloween candy to be distributed at the Annandale Parade. They plan to hand out AUMC-labeled bags at the parade which will include candy plus an invitation to the community to attend the Fall Fun Fest as well as other information about AUMC programs and activities. If you would like to donate bags of candy, please bring them to the church office by Oct. 18.

Join AUMC's Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force to march in the Annandale Parade on Oct. 26. Help raise awareness of human trafficking as a local issue and demonstrate that the church stands against it. We will march under a banner that reads "Annandale Against Human Trafficking" and bears the Methodist Cross and Flame logo. Everyone, regardless of church affiliation, is welcome, so invite your friends! You may sign up to march and buy a "Stop Human Trafficking" T-shirt (optional) for \$10 at Sunday fellowship or by emailing aumchttf@gmail.com before Oct. 23; however, T-shirt orders, including size, are needed by Oct. 15. We will gather at 8:45 a.m. in our church parking lot, where the parade begins at 10 a.m. It ends at noon at the Safeway.

Thank you to Sally and Kenneth Duvall for donating the beautiful communion chalices.

Prayers and cookies: The Kairos Prison Ministry Team welcomes prayers and cookies for their upcoming visit with men at the Greensville Correctional Center. Visit the table under the video screen in the Atrium to include your name on the Prayer Chain, to sign up to bake cookies, or to find prison-approved recipes and instructions. To make a donation for baking supplies, make your check payable to AUMC, designated for Kairos Cookies, by Sunday, Oct. 13. Place your cookies, one dozen per quart freezer bag, in the AUMC kitchen freezer by Sunday, Oct. 20 and label them "Kairos Cookies." Contact Bill Iwig at 301-365-7532 if you have questions.

Stamp Out Loneliness: Caring Ministries is collecting 2014 picture calendars, note/greeting cards, Christmas cards, writing paper and "Forever" postage stamps for women incarcerated in the Fluvanna (Va.) Correctional Center for Women. To a woman in prison, a stamp can be a "lifeline" to her children, family and friends far away. Bring calendars, unused cards, paper and stamps to the collection box outside of the church office. Please give postage stamps to the office or to a "stamp collector" at church events.

Somewhere, over the rainbow... young and not-so-young actors and actresses are invited to audition for AUMC's *The Wizard of Oz* on Thursday, Oct. 17, from 7 to 9 p.m. or Saturday, Oct. 19, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. For an audition packet, send your name and contact details 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. *The Wizard of Oz* will be performed at AUMC Feb. 27, 28 and March 1, 2014. For details, contact Pat Vaughn, pvaughn@annandale-umc.org.

AARP Safe Driving Course for Seniors: Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 28 and 29, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (an hour off for lunch), Media Center. This course, taken once every three years, often results in a reduction of the auto insurance premium. The cost is \$12 for AARP members (bring your card) and \$14 for non-members, cash or a check made out to AARP on the first day of the course. Space is limited so register by calling Jane Underhill (703-573-2056) or Bob Herbst (703-941-5930). Please leave your name and telephone number.

Winter clothing needed 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 and labeled with gender and size. Place clothes in the boxes under the coat racks before Oct. 17. Contact Dan Evans at 571-334-6223, danevans@frontiernet.net.

AUMC's Earth and Spirit Committee is raising funds to purchase drinking water filters for the people of northern Ghana. The goal is to purchase 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.

Festival Choir Resumes: If you are college age or above and want to sing in our Dec. 8 Christmas service, come join the Adult Choir for a short time commitment. The rehearsals are on each Wednesday from 7:15 - 8 p.m., **Oct. 16** through **Dec. 4**. To join, contact Pat Vaughn at pvaughn@annandale-umc.org.

MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tues., Oct. 15	Church Council	7:15 p.m.	Room 302
Mon., Oct. 21	SPRC	7 p.m.	Room 210

LECTIONARY TEXTS

Oct. 13, Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12 (UMH 790); 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

Oct. 20, Children's Sabbath: Jeremiah 31:27-34, Psalm 119:97-104 or Psalm 19 (UMH 750); 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5, Luke 18:1-8

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Annandale United Methodist Church

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WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, Oct. 13

Door greeters: 8:30 a.m. R. Hampton, W. Lord
9:30 a.m. B. Brown
10:30 a.m. D. Johnson, W. Ward

Welcome Center: 8:30 a.m. S. Kenski, 11 a.m. C. Jones

Fellowship hour: Bible Fellowship Class

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. R. Roberts, G. Sherfey, P. Sherfey (c)
11 a.m. E. Carrillo, R. Gallagher, G. Rothman, R. Gordon (c)

Sunday, Oct. 20

Door greeters: 8:30 a.m. S. Fleming, J. Beyer
9:30 a.m. D. Ruhter
10:30 a.m. W. Ward

Welcome Center: 8:30 a.m. J. Brooks; 11 a.m. G. Rothman

Fellowship hour: Deborah/Miriam Circles

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. S. Chase, D. Pemberton, E. Sackey, S. Nkesi (c)
11 a.m. S. Fleming, G. Sherwood, R. Witkowski, P. Adams (c)

NEXT DEADLINE

Friday, Oct. 11 is the deadline for the Oct. 22 Witness which covers Oct. 27 and Nov. 3



Rev. Dr. Clarence Brown, Jr. will lead the Memorial Tree Dedication Ceremony in AUMC Cemetery commencing at 1:45 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19. The ceremony will gratefully acknowledge the generous donation of 11 beautifying trees planted in the cemetery in June of 2012. The ceremony will also recognize the tree donors and remember the people in whose memory the trees have been donated.

Donors, variety of tree donated, and the people memorialized are:

The Brown Family, Tuskegee Crape Myrtle, in memory of Dominic James Naples, III

Sandra Chase, M.D., Robin Holly, in memory of John E. and Julia D. Chase

Marilyn Cody, October Glory Maple, in memory of Major General Richard N. Cody, USAF

Paul and Jacquelyn Hartley, Tuskegee Crape Myrtle, in memory of George and Lucile Hartley

Dennis and Dean Kirk, Yoshino Flowering Cherry, in memory of Maida and Homer Kirk

Andi Lohr, Dynamite Crape Myrtle, in memory of Marti Moyer

Beverly Pierce, Tuscarora Crape Myrtle, in memory of Dr. Jack W. Pierce

Gertrude Roat, Dynamite Crape Myrtle, in memory of Lola Row Monch and Ethel Monch Dove

Patricia Wright, Tuscarora Crape Myrtle, in memory of Wasena F. Wright, Jr.

AUMC Board of Trustees, two Willow Oaks, in honor of the AUMC Cemetery Committee

Donors, their families and friends, and members of the congregation are invited to the ceremony. Meet at the cemetery flagpole at 1:45 p.m. on Oct. 19.

For more information about the ceremony and the AUMC Cemetery, contact Mike Moser, Cemetery Manager, mmoser@annandale-umc.org.