

AUMC WITNESS

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

Annandale United Methodist Church
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Rev. Dr. Clarence R. Brown, Jr.
Rev. Eduardo Carrillo
Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver
Rev. Luz Zuleta

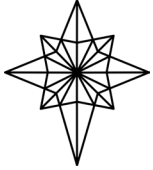


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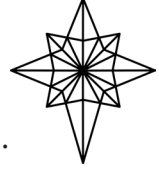
We are a Stephen Ministry Church

December 3, 2013



Advent 2013! Hope for a Savior!

Come experience a place where you can find peace, hope, joy and love!
Bring your family, your friends and neighbors to celebrate the season at AUMC.



Wednesday Night Together fellowship dinner and Advent Worship and Communion will be held on Dec. 11 and 18. Dinner begins at 5:45 p.m. The menu will feature soup and salad and dessert. Make your dinner reservations by Monday noon prior to each Wednesday at www.annandale-umc.org or by contacting Joyce Kitzmiller, jkitzmiller@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330.

*The beautiful service of **Lessons and Carols** will fill the sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 8, 10:30 a.m., with voices of children, youth and adults as the Music Ministry offers this traditional service of Lessons and Carols in music and scripture. Sunday School will meet at 9:30 a.m.

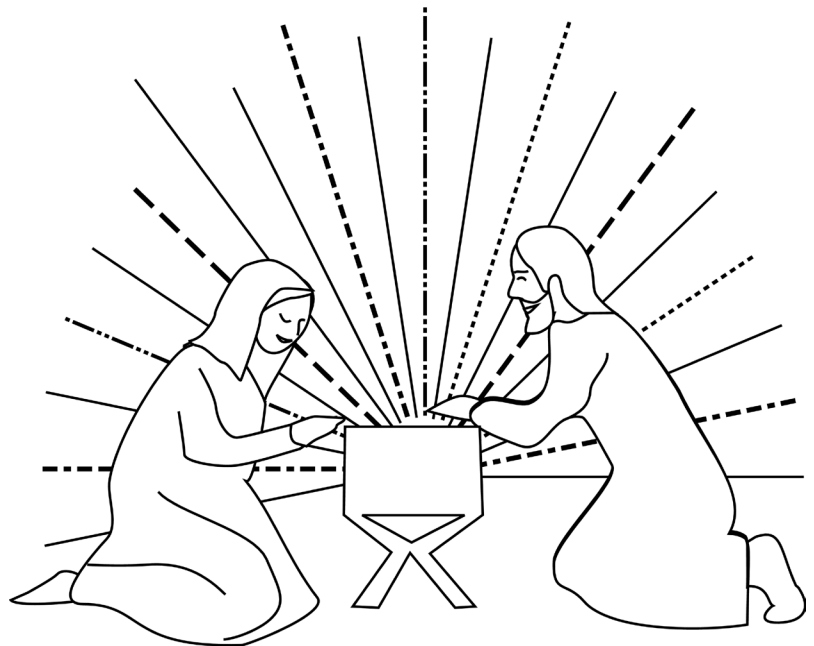
* On Dec. 15, the annual **Children's Christmas Pageant** will be presented at both worship services at 8:30 and 11 a.m. The children will retell the story of Jesus' birth complete with Mary and Joseph, angels, shepherds, animals, and more! The service includes carols, dramatic sets, and special costumes that make the wonder and joy of the season come alive. Rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant and St. Nick's Workshop will be on Saturday morning, Dec. 14. For more information, visit www.annandale-umc.org or contact Becki Stewart, bstewart@annandale-umc.org or call 703-256-8330.

* **An Evening in December Christmas Recital** will be presented on Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m. Members of the congregation will bring their gifts of instrumental and vocal music and fill the sanctuary with songs of the season.

* **A Brethren Christmas concert** will be held Sunday, Dec. 22 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door.

* **A Christmas Love Feast** will be held at the Heritage Drive campus on Sunday, Dec. 22, 7 p.m. A Love Feast seeks to strengthen the bonds and the spirit of harmony, goodwill, and congeniality, as well as to forgive past disputes and instead love one another.

* **Christmas Eve:** Dec. 24, 4 p.m., a Family Christmas Eve service; 7 and 11 p.m., Candlelight worship service. Childcare will be available at the 7 p.m. service.



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The Advent Promises of God

“For in Christ every one of God’s promises is a “Yes.” For this reason it is through him that we say the “Amen,” to the glory of God.”

– 1 Corinthians 1:20

Dear Friends,

We have been journeying through the prophets during this season of Advent to better understand the messianic hopes of the Israelite people. Through the prophets, we have journeyed from military invasion and destruction to exile to hope for restoration. We have seen their prophetic hope that God would provide a Savior “from the root of Jesse” to lead and restore God’s people.

The earliest Christians saw Jesus as the fulfillment of these prophecies. The gospel writers frequently draw from the Hebrew prophets, particularly in the birth narratives, to demonstrate that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, who will save God’s people. Jesus was not necessarily the kind of Messiah that they envisioned; he was not a political leader who would lead with military might. Jesus would, however, offer salvation to the whole world as King of Kings, Savior, Christ, Immanuel.

When I consider Advent through the prophets, I cannot help but conclude that the true meaning of Advent is that God keeps promises. God’s promise of a Savior is fulfilled in the Christ child. God often fulfills promises in unexpected ways. Indeed, a manger-born Savior was not what many had in mind. Nevertheless, God gave us what the world needed even if not what the world wanted.

Often we need to be reminded; indeed, the world needs to be reminded that we serve a God who keeps promises. God’s promises of salvation, peace on earth, joy

to the world, good news to the poor, and God’s favor are available to us all. Moreover, God’s promise of Immanuel, that God is with us, is a promise of God’s presence in our lives through all circumstances.

As we continue through this Advent season, as we anticipate the birth of the Savior, know that God’s promises are true and they are available to us all. As Paul reminds us, the promises of God are “Yes!” and “Amen!”

Advent Blessings,

Cynthia Johnson
Cynthia

DATEBOOK

- Dec. 8** – Lessons and Carols, one service at 10:30 a.m.
- Dec. 11** – Wednesday Night Together
- Dec. 15** – Christmas Pageant, St. Nick’s Workshop, *An Evening in December Concert*
- Dec. 18** – Wednesday Night Together
- Dec. 22** – Brethren Christmas Concert, Love Feast at Heritage Drive campus
- Dec. 24** – Christmas Eve worship at 4, 7 and 11 p.m.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

To place a poinsettia in the Sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one on Dec. 24, please complete the form below and return it to the church office with your check for \$10.50 per plant **by Sunday, Dec. 8.**

Please use a separate form for each plant ordered.

No telephone orders will be accepted. Make checks payable to AUMC.

Poinsettia given by: _____

Phone: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

In memory/honor of: _____

(Check one) I will take the poinsettia Give poinsettia to shut-ins

Young Adults meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 12:30 p.m., room 210. The next meeting is Dec. 8 and will begin with a lunch (provided) followed by Bible study. All young adults are invited! For more information, contact Rev. Eduardo Carrillo - ecarrillo@annandale-umc.org or call 703-256-8330.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy Scout Troop 150 is selling Christmas wreaths before and after Sunday worship services, until they are sold out. This is the troop's only fundraiser each year, and your support is greatly appreciated. All funds go toward camping trips, Scout events, and troop equipment.

Last chance to donate gift items for St. Nick's Workshop is Dec. 8. Items needed are gift bags, tissue paper, gift tags and tape, games, soaps, jewelry, and gifts for dad. At the Children shop, youth "elves" will help children shop for family members and wrap their secret selections to take home and place under the tree. Collection boxes will be in the atrium and on the third floor in the Parent Resource Area (by the elevator near room 311).

The Haiti Mission Team needs donations of children's play equipment. The team will depart for Haiti on Jan. 6 and is scheduled for construction work and providing two days of Vacation Bible School for the 300 to 350 Haitian children to attend VBS. Please bring the following items and place in marked boxes in the Atrium by Friday, Dec. 27:

1 megaphone, 3 tarps (20' x 30') for the children to sit on, 6 regulation-size soccer balls, 6 Chinese jump ropes, 4 jump ropes 12' to 14' long, 8 plastic beach balls (to use with parachutes), 350 Quaker Variety Bars (48 count pack available at BJs), stickers -- anything child oriented, clothes pins, 350 felt tip markers any size box. For more information, contact Pam Jones at 703-820-0058 or foueverfree@verizon.net.

Year-End Reminders: All gifts to be credited for 2013 tax purposes must be received in the church office by 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31 or postmarked by Dec. 31. If you are responsible for expense vouchers for your work area, vouchers must be submitted on or before Wednesday, Dec. 18.

Practice your English by attending the ESL Book Club, which meets Sundays from 7 to 9 p.m. in room 302. For more information, contact David Barker, 571-216-1636.

Join the Bread Team: The Bread Team makes sure that loaves of bread (not peanut butter and jelly, just bread) are available on Sundays for the ushers to distribute to first-time visitors. The team needs more volunteers to pick up loaves of bread at an Annandale bakery on Saturdays, wrap them up bring them to church by the 8:30 a.m. worship service the following day. The number and rotation of volunteers needed depends on how many volunteer. To volunteer, or for more information, contact Sheila Kyer, 703-981-6080.

Pecan Sale: UMW is selling a new crop of pecans after each Sunday worship service. To reserve a case of 24 or to make a special request, contact Joni Laurence at 703-941-7481, or Sally Bizer at 703-256-3373. Thank you for supporting UMW mission projects.

AUMC note cards (\$10) and AUMC magnets (\$5) can be purchased in the church office. Please pay exact amount in cash or write a check to AUMC.

Sandwich making: beginning Dec. 5 and continuing every Thursday through March, volunteers are needed to make 50 bag lunches for the homeless at Bailey's Shelter. Meet at noon in the Fellowship Hall at the Heritage Drive campus. Help is needed with **food distribution** at the Heritage Drive campus every Thursday (except Thanksgiving), from 5 – 7 p.m. For more information call Betsy Clevenger, 703-425-6424.

December Upper Room Readers: the December edition of the Upper Room devotional booklet can be picked up in the brochure racks by the front door. To help off-set the costs, those who take the Readers are requested to contribute \$5. Checks should be made payable to AUMC with "Upper Room Reader" in the note line. Checks can be brought in or mailed to the church office.

CIRCLE NEWS

DEBORAH: Tues., Dec. 10, 11 a.m. in AUMC Wright Hall. Prog.: Hosting, setting up, and serving Christmas luncheon for AUMC staff.

LYDIA: Thurs., Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m. at Clyde's Restaurant - Alexandria. Prog.: Christmas luncheon.

MARTHA: Mon., Dec. 16, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall- Heritage Dr. Campus. Prog.: Time of fellowship and discernment and Christmas sharing and caring.

M&M's: Sat., Dec. 21, 6 p.m. at the home of Debbi Iwig. Prog.: Potluck Christmas Dinner; spouses, special friends, and family invited.

MIRIAM: Dec. 12, 10:30 a.m. at the home of Evie Gibson. Prog.: Potluck Christmas Brunch.

PHOEBE: Tues., Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m. at Four Sister's Restaurant—Merrifield.

AS ALWAYS, NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS
ARE WELCOME TO ALL MEETINGS!!

MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tues., Dec. 10	Finance Committee	7 p.m.	Room 210
Tues., Dec. 10	Missions Committee	7 p.m.	Room 302
Tues., Dec. 17	Church Council	7:15 p.m.	Room 302

LECTIONARY TEXTS

Dec. 8, Second Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (UMH 795); Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Dec. 15, Third Sunday of Advent: 35:1-10, Luke 1:47-55 (UMH 199), James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

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Annandale United Methodist Church

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WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

Single Service Sunday, Dec. 8

Door greeters: S. Fleming, J. Beyer, D. Ruhter,
L. McConville, E. Moss

Welcome Center: K. Soulen

Fellowship hour: Staff Parish Relations Committee

Ushers: 10:30 a.m. S. Chase, J. Clarke, R. Witkowski, P. Adams (c)

Sunday, Dec. 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./W. Lord; 11 a.m. G. Rothman

Fellowship hour: Trustee Committee

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. A. Cogswell, D. Pemberton, E. Sackey, S. Nkesi (c)
11 a.m. S. Fleming, G. Rothman, J. Thomas, P. Shockley (c)

NEXT DEADLINE Friday, Dec. 6 is the deadline for the Dec. 17 Witness which covers Dec. 22 and 29

We can help the homeless: AUMC is hosting a FACETS Hypothermia Response this week. Thanks to the families and groups who are providing meals. There is still time to donate items for the homeless. Please bring \$5 gift cards for McDonalds or Burger King to the church office or give to Erin McKenney or Cyndi Jones. Place these donations in boxes by the coat rack: men's and women's long underwear and other adult winter clothes, mittens, hats, scarves, gloves, coats and heavy socks, toiletries: toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, lotion, soap, etc.

AUMC's Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Dec. 17 and 31 at 1 p.m. in room 303. The shawls and lap robes created by the group are given to homebound members and those recovering from surgery. For more information, call Rosemary Perdue 703-354-6645.

The Shepherd's Center Lunch N' Life program will be held at AUMC on Thursday, Dec. 12, beginning at 11:30 a.m. The program will be the Kings Park Concert Band will play some lively tunes. For more information, and reservations, call the Shepherd's Center Office at 703-941-1419 or e-mail us at shepherdscas@vacoxmail.com

Day Trip to Mount Vernon on Wednesday, Dec. 17, leaving at 10 a.m. from the AUMC and returning about 3 p.m. The cost for this Shepherd's Center program is \$25 and includes bus transportation and museum admission. Space is limited so call early to sign up at 703-941-1419 or e-mail shepherdscas@vacoxmail.com.

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. Bring items to the collection box outside of the church office. Please give postage stamps to the office.

Thank you to all who baked cookies, prepared placemats, and prayed for the AUMC Kairos team and the residents at the Greenville Correctional Center during our program, Oct. 24 – 27. This ministry is powered by your support. Love was shared. Forgiveness was given and received. Lives were transformed. Men are starting a new journey with Christ.