



AUMC WITNESS

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

Annandale United Methodist Church
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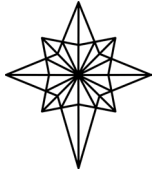


Vol. 10 No. 24



We are a Stephen Ministry Church

November 19, 2013



Advent is Coming! Hope for a Savior!



AUMC members, friends, families, and visitors are invited to come together in the preparation for Christmas by participating in the many worship, music, study and children's programs which are part of Advent 2013. Everyone should have received an Advent calendar in the mail with a complete list of Advent and Christmas worship and programs. Each Sunday's worship bulletin will also announce upcoming seasonal events and giving opportunities. For more information, visit the website www.annandale-umc.org or call 703-256-8330.

Advent begins on Sunday, Dec. 1, and worship services at 8:30 and 11 a.m. will feature the beautiful **Hanging of the Greens**. Hanging of the Greens is based on the English tradition of decorating the home with wreaths, garlands, a Christmas tree, and evergreens for Advent and Christmas. In a church setting, it readies the sanctuary (and church members) for the season. Sunday School classes will meet at 9:45 a.m.

The second Sunday in Advent, Dec. 8, will be a single worship service at 10:30 a.m. The service of **Lessons and Carols** will fill the sanctuary 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.

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.

On the third Sunday in Advent, Dec. 15, both worship services at 8:30 and 11 a.m. will feature the annual **Children's Christmas Pageant**. The children will present a Christmas Pageant retelling the story of Jesus' birth complete with Mary and Joseph, angels, shepherds, animals, and more! This 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 about the Pageant and Workshop, see page 3, visit www.annandale-umc.org or contact Becki Stewart, bstewart@annandale-umc.org or call 703-256-8330.

Wednesday Night Together fellowship dinner and Advent Worship and Communion will be held on Dec. 4, 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.

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Wake Up!

I confess... I hated it. Hated that early hour of the morning when my mother – my then personal alarm clock – would enter my dark room, pull on my left big toe, and utter those words I hated to hear... “Wake Up!” From that point, I had to begin the journey of emergence

from my warm, comfortable cocoon of somnambulence to engage the warm reality of another school day. I was awakened.

I was reminded of this while reading an illuminating reflection written by Diana Butler Bass, a church historian and scholar who writes broadly about issues of religion and culture. I find her musings particularly relevant as we seek to engage new and different people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In her newest book, “Christianity After Religion,” she chronicles what many cultural observers have tacitly acknowledged: that many – especially young adults – are “unaffiliated,” or have no religious orientation whatsoever and that surveys point to the fact that there has been a dramatic drop in the number of Americans who state a faith in God (from 97% to 71% since 1960) raising the question of whether the church as we know it is facing its demise.

Well yes... and no. Donning her scholarly robes, she rehearses American religious history, pointing to periods of “awakening.” There is general consensus in the academic community that we have experienced three “awakenings” along the American religious journey, the roots of the first finding their soil in 16th century Europe – the same soil that gave birth to the patriarch of Methodism, John Wesley. The institutional form these movements took eventually failed to meet the needs of succeeding generations.

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 lunch (provided) followed by Bible study. All young adults are invited! For details, contact Rev. Eduardo Carrillo - ecarrillo@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330.

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, and 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.

It is to the movement spawned by the soul’s need that Bass points, inviting us to consider how we respond to those needs. She challenges readers to acknowledge that there is much work to be done: “to find new paths of meaning, new ways to connect with God and neighbor, to form new communities, and to organize ways of making the world a better place.” Bass’s vision for the new spiritual awakening in Christianity revolves around relational community (belonging), intentional practice (behaving), and experiential belief (believing). There is an emphasis on spiritual practices as the catalyst for a new kind of faith community that is practical and life enhancing. She makes two points that I would lift here:

“Practices weave together a way of life, they shape character, create connections between people, order our choices, and deepen our wisdom about living in the world,” and, “Practices are more like crafts than programs. They are activities you discern, choose, and learn in which you develop skill and mastery to help you become a different sort of person and deepen your love of God and neighbor.”

In our period of continuing discernment, we are challenged to wake up; to develop new and different ways of inviting new and different people; to believe, behave and belong. I am excited by the possibilities. They are always worth pondering.

Yours for a vital witness to Christ,

Clarence
Clarence

DATEBOOK

Nov. 26 – Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

Nov. 27 – Thanksgiving Community Dinner

Dec. 1 – 1st Sunday in Advent, Hanging of the Greens service

Dec. 4 – Wednesday Night Together

Dec. 8 – 2nd Sunday in Advent, one worship service, Lessons and Carols

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.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Heritage Drive (Immanuel campus) worship services will cease on Sunday, Nov. 24. Welcome to those who have been attending services at the Heritage Drive campus and will now attend at the Annandale campus! A traditional "Love Feast" will be held at the Heritage Drive campus on Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

Spanish language/culture lessons - Are you interested in learning some or brushing up on your Spanish? Want to find out more about the Hispanic/Latino cultures? If yes, come to an "interest" meeting on Sunday, Nov. 17, at 12:30 p.m. in Wright Hall. We are developing a class for the congregation/community to help prepare for the new and ongoing ministries/missions at the Heritage Road campus. This meeting will help determine the level of interest and gather preliminary information. Classes will begin in January. If you are unable to join us, but are interested, please contact Erin McKenney at hoopsfan1@verizon.net or 703-403-1742.

AUMC's Child Development Center has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals. "We're proud to have earned the mark of quality from NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards," said Maribeth Day, Executive Director of AUMC Weekday Children's Programs. "NAEYC Accreditation lets families know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible." To earn NAEYC Accreditation, AUMC CDC went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the ten NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria.

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.

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

Help the Homeless: AUMC is hosting a FACETS Hypothermia Response Week Dec. 1-8. There are many ways you can help:

- Provide breakfast or dinner each day. Contact Pat Sherfey for details: psherfey@yahoo.com or 703-864-0356
- Provide hard-boiled eggs for breakfast or lunch each day. Contact Pat Sherfey
- Help with setup or staff shifts post-dinner, overnight and morning. Contact Erin McKenney: hoopsfan1@verizon.net, 703-403-1742 or Cyndi Jones cyndij123@verizon.net, 571-212-8824
- Donate \$5 gift cards for McDonalds or Burger King
- Donate men's and women's long underwear and other adult winter clothes
- Donate mittens, hats, scarves, gloves, coats or heavy socks
- Donate toiletries: toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, lotion, soap, etc.

Give gift cards to Erin or Cyndi or the church office; do not place in church mail boxes. Place clothing and other items in designated boxes by coat racks or in atrium. Signup for volunteer shifts on the church website or the big board in the atrium or by contacting Erin or Cyndi.

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.

The Human Trafficking Task Force, with its 12-foot-long "Annandale Against Human Trafficking" banner, was warmly received in the Annandale Parade and staffed a booth at the parade which promoted the Human Trafficking Hotline. God's blessings were in abundance with beautiful weather and plentiful crowds. In addition to distributing literature, other accomplishments were:

- A 20-something human trafficking survivor from Falls Church congratulated the Task Force for its work. She said although she was totally mind-controlled and threatened by a pimp, he allowed her to attend church where she established a trust relationship with a woman. When she saw a movie about human trafficking, she realized the danger she faced, and sought help from the church friend who helped her escape from "the life."
- Members of the Annandale High School "Social Issues Club" asked the Task Force to participate in its "Social Issues" Festival in 2014.
- A fellow parade vendor volunteered to provide free makeovers to sex trafficking victims who receive services from Restoration Ministries, a faith-based nonprofit supported by the Task Force.

The Task Force appreciates the Church's support, especially those who purchased "Stop Human Trafficking" T-shirts and sent a clear message that we're here to ensure people know this crime exists, and that together we can ensure that our community is more watchful, our children are more wary, and victims have someplace to go. - Marie Cavanagh

MINISTRY MEETINGS

Thurs., Nov. 21	SPRC	7:30 p.m.	Room 210
Mon., Dec. 2	Communications	7 p.m.	Room 210
Tues., Dec. 3	Trustees	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Wed., Dec. 4	Stephen Ministry	7:30 p.m.	Room 303

LECTIONARY TEXTS

Nov. 24, Last Sunday After Pentecost: Jeremiah 23:1-6, Luke 1:68-79 (UMH 208), Colossians 1:11-20, Luke 23:33-43

Dec. 1, First Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122 (UMH 845), Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

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Annandale United Methodist Church

6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003-3458

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WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, Nov. 24

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. A. Lohr

Fellowship hour: Mary and Martha Circles

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. J. Clarke, S. Groves, R. Gordon, S. Nkesi (c)

11 a.m. G. Rothman, J. Thomas, R. Witkowski, P. Adams (c)

Sunday, Dec. 1

Door greeters:

8:30 a.m. R. Hampton, W. Lord

9:30 a.m. B. Brown

10:30 a.m. W. Ward

Fellowship hour: Phoebe and Lydia Circles

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. A. Cogswell, D. Pemberton, R. Roberts, K. Sabo (c)

11 a.m. E. Carrillo, C. Perdue, P. Straub, R. Gordon (c)

NEXT DEADLINE

Monday, Nov. 18 was the deadline for the Dec. 3 Witness which covers Dec. 8 and 15



Giving Thanks, Sharing Blessings



The Annandale Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship service will be held at AUMC on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 7:30 p.m. The offering will be donated to ACCA, the Annandale Christian Community for Action. In addition to AUMC, six other churches in the Annandale area will participate.

Share a Thanksgiving meal with our brothers and sisters in the Annandale/Heritage Drive campus area on Wednesday, Nov. 27, from 5 – 7 p.m. While many folks will be busy with family and their own Thanksgiving preparations, others may be alone or welcome the opportunity to break bread with neighbors. Everyone is invited to attend the Thanksgiving Community Dinner! If you can bring a turkey, a side dish or dessert to share, please RSVP to Rev. Eduardo Carrillo, ecarrillo@annandale-umc.org.

Thanksgiving Baskets and bags of

goodies will be distributed to homebound members of AUMC, and help is needed with this project. If you would like to help the Seasonal Gifts Committee assemble the baskets, call Jane Underhill at 703-573-2056 for details. Baskets will be assembled on Saturday, Nov. 23, 10 a.m., in room 210. A sign-up sheet with the names of those to receive the baskets are in the atrium. The baskets will be available for pick-up on Nov. 24 for delivery by Thanksgiving (Nov. 28).



AUMM thanks all who donated books or supported the Book Sale during the Christmas Craft Bazaar. The Book Sale was a huge success and allows the Methodist men to fund events like the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, the Human Trafficking Breakfast and the Academy of Discipleship kickoff luncheon.