

AUMC WITNESS

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

Annandale United Methodist Church
6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003
P: 703-256-8330 F: 703-914-8896
office@annandale-umc.org

Ministers:
Rev. Dr. Clarence R. Brown, Jr.
Rev. Eduardo Carrillo
Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver
Rev. Luz Zuleta



We are a Stephen Ministry Church

Vol. 11 No. 2

January 28, 2014



AUMC is hosting a Stop Hunger Now meal packaging event on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 8:45 a.m. until noon in Wright Hall. Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate! Stop Hunger Now aims to end hunger by packaging and

distributing meals all over the world and has been fulfilling its commitment to end hunger across the globe for more than 14 years.

Established in 1998, Stop Hunger Now coordinates the distribution of food and other life-saving aid to crisis-burdened areas around the world. What distinguishes Stop Hunger Now from other aid/relief organizations that also supply food and in-kind aid is the focus on engaging volunteers in a hands-on activity to produce meals that are used strategically to support development programs, while at the same time fostering the growth of a movement to end hunger by educating volunteers about the need and giving them an opportunity to take action. Stop Hunger Now distributes its meals through feeding programs operated by partner organizations in developing countries which promote education, encourage children to attend school, improve the health and nutrition of students, address gender inequalities, spur economic growth, combat child labor, and create a platform for tackling global issues. In addition to supporting school feeding programs, Stop Hunger Now also provides meals in response to crisis relief.

The organization has perfected a low cost, (25 cents per meal) highly nutritious meal of dehydrated rice and soy meal that can be easily shipped and stored. This is a church-wide event and we need many hands to help make this a success! Youth can earn community service hours, too.



2013 Annandale UMC Foundation Report

The Annandale United Methodist Church Foundation continued to provide significant financial support in 2013 to Annandale UMC ministry programs and

other programs serving our community. The Foundation is a separate nonprofit organization from the church which receives and administers gifts to fund future ministry and other charitable programs. As of Dec. 31, 2013, the Foundation portfolio included approximately \$1.7 million. Most of these funds were received through bequests stipulating the purpose of the gift and that only earnings be available for use each year, preserving the principal for the future. Other special gifts and memorial gifts are also managed by the Foundation.

In previous years, earnings and disbursements from the Foundation helped cover costs for tree removal, air conditioning and heating repairs, parsonage upgrades and renovations, the new electronic church sign, and many other ministry needs that were not covered by the annual church budget. In 2013 the Foundation Board disbursed approximately \$65,000 based on requests from program ministry areas and other entities in accordance with donor stipulations. This amount included funds for website upgrades, microphone upgrades, the August Church Council Retreat, new choir robes, the Culmore Clinic, Boy Scout Troop #150, a loan to cover up-front costs for the production of The Wizard of Oz by our Music Ministry, and other ministry support. In addition, the Foundation is providing \$50,000 for the renovation of the air-conditioning system near the Media Center (room 111) in early 2014.

Continued on page 4

This Issue of the Witness:

Page 2: Cynthia's Clergy Corner
Datebook

Page 3: News in Brief
Circle News

Page 4: Ministry Meetings
Lectionary Texts
Weekly Volunteers
News in Brief



The Blessing of Failure

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

- Romans 8:28

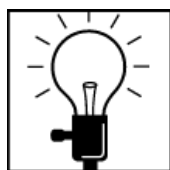
Dear Friends,

We will soon conclude our four-part sermon series on Living with Passion and Purpose. Last month, I gave a sermon on remembering our baptism and living "on fire" through the power of the Holy Spirit. My colleague, Pastor Eduardo, invited us to "Come and See" how God is calling us to be in ministry in our community. Pastor Clarence encouraged us to find our BHAG (Big Hairy Audacious God-purpose). We have also discussed the importance of writing a personal mission statement to serve as a reminder of our purpose. We are now ready to live with passion and purpose, right?



Perhaps. This Sunday, we will turn to a common question that keeps many people from living their life purpose: what if I fail?

Well, what if you fail? There is an inherent risk in stepping out of one's comfort zone and trying something new. Things may not work out as you had hoped. Failure is a real possibility. Thus, the fear of failure is a vivid and at times paralyzing experience for many people. But what if failure isn't the worst thing that could happen? What if failure could be, contrary to our perception, a blessing?



Many people have spoken of failure as a part of the journey on the road to success. Thomas Edison, after thousands of failed attempts to invent the light bulb, famously said, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." Similarly, C.S. Lewis has said, "Failures are finger posts on the road to achievement."

Failure can be a difficult, even traumatic experience when it occurs. But often, failure can be re-conceptualized as an opportunity to learn, grow, and gain insights on what is necessary to succeed. Failure, when overcome by perseverance, can be a mere pit stop on the road to success.



There is something worse than failure: never trying, never taking the risk, never taking the step of faith necessary to live with passion and purpose.

For this Sunday's sermon, I will discuss how failure, vulnerability, and even weaknesses can provide as much insight into our purpose as our successes and our strengths. Perhaps then we will be truly ready to take a leap of faith and live with passion and purpose.

See you Sunday!

Cynthia

DATEBOOK

Feb. 2 – ACCA Food Drive

Feb. 12 - Wednesday Night Together

Feb. 15 - Stop Hunger Now

Feb. 16 – Youth Spaghetti Dinner

Feb. 27-28, March 1 – The Wizard of Oz

NEWS IN BRIEF

The 2014 Lenten Study begins March 2 and will be based on *The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller. Visit www.annandale-umc.org for more information and to register for classes and small groups. Everyone is invited to join the discussion on AUMC's blog, which includes comments from AUMC's small group leaders at <http://academyofdiscipleship.com/blog/>.



Tickets go on sale Feb. 2 for AUMC's presentation of *The Wizard of Oz* on Feb. 27 and 28 at 7 p.m. and March 1 at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each. Don't miss this musical

fantasy adventure based on the 1900 novel by L. Frank Baum with such favorite songs as "Over the Rainbow", "If I Only Had a Brain" and "We're Off to See the Wizard"! Come see the amazing talents of AUMC children, youth and adults. There's No Place Like Home!

Next Sunday, Feb. 2, is collection day for the ACCA food pantry. Items needed are jelly, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, bags of rice, crackers, dried beans, cookies, Jello, pudding mixes, and canned meats. ACCA collection day at AUMC is the first Sunday of each month but donations of non-perishables can be brought to the church office weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

ACCA's furniture ministry (which delivers donated furniture to needy families) needs volunteers! AUMC's next date to assist is Saturday, Feb. 15, 8 a.m. to 12 noon. If interested, call Peter Taylor, 703-477-3903. For more information about donating furniture and to arrange for pickup, contact Don Di Spirito at ddmld@verizon.net or 703-256-9513. Items needed include: mattresses/box springs (all sizes except King size), kitchen and dining tables and chairs, sofas (not sleeper sofas), living room chairs, coffee tables, end tables, and lamps.

The next Wednesday Night Together is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 12. The program will be presented by Jennifer Budlong-Cole, Executive Director Clean Fairfax, at the invitation of AUMC's Earth and Spirit class. The menu will be Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, broccoli, rolls, and white chocolate cheesecake. Register on the pew pads, online at www.annandale-umc.org, by emailing Joyce Kitzmiller - jkitzmiller@annandale-umc.org or calling 703-256-8330. The meal price (pay at the door) is \$8 per person, \$3 for children under 12, and \$25 per family maximum.

The AUMC youth will host a spaghetti dinner on Sunday, Feb. 16, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Wright Hall. Cost is \$10 per person and the meal includes salad, spaghetti, bread, drinks, dessert. The youth will help prepare and serve the meal; proceeds will benefit upcoming Grid activities. Reservations are encouraged, but not required. Pay at the door. Child care will be available if there is enough interest. To make a reservation for the dinner and to request child care, send an email to Joyce Kitzmiller, jkitzmiller@annandale-umc.org or call the church office 703-256-8330.

Fighting hunger year 'round: Volunteers are needed for sandwich making and food distribution at the Heritage Drive campus. Every Thursday, volunteers make sandwiches for guests at Bailey's Homeless Shelter from noon – 1 p.m. and help distribute food from 5 – 7 p.m. The second Tuesday each month (Feb. 11 and March 11) – volunteers make 600 sandwiches and then transport them to Poe Elementary to be the evening meal for the after school program. Volunteers are needed to make sandwiches at 1:30 p.m. and to distribute the sandwiches at 3:30 p.m. For more information call Betsy Clevenger, 703-425-6424.

CIRCLE NEWS

DEBORAH: Monday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., AUMC Room 210. Program: Carol Irons- leading discussion on the book, *Bad Women of The Bible*. Hostess: Sandy Barker. Devotion: Joy Price.

LYDIA: Thursday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m., AUMC Room 209. Program: TBA. Hostesses: Bina Cumby and Joan Oliver. Devotion: Rosemary Perdue.

M&M's: Saturday, Feb. 18. Program: Attend "Stop Hunger Now" at AUMC to be followed by lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Pat Sherfey's.

MARTHA: Monday, Feb. 24, 1 p.m., Heritage Campus Fellowship Hall. Program: Study of women of the Bible.

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

MINISTRY MEETINGS

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------|----------|
| Tues., Feb. 4 | Trustees | 7:30 p.m. | Room 303 |
| Tues., Feb. 11 | Finance Committee | 7 p.m. | Room 210 |
| Tues., Feb. 11 | Missions Committee | 7 p.m. | Room 302 |

LECTIONARY TEXTS

Feb. 2, Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany: Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15 (UMH 747); I Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Feb. 9, Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany: Isaiah 58: 1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-10 (UMH 833); I Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16); Matthew 5:13-20

AUMC WITNESS

(USPS 046-900)

Send address changes to:

Annandale United Methodist Church

6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003-3458

Published biweekly.

Periodicals Postage Paid at
Annandale, VA 22003

WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, Feb. 2

Door greeters: 8:10 a.m. E. Wilson, C. Cox, S. Naugle
9:30 a.m. M. Pearson
10:30 a.m. D. Johnson

Welcome Desk: 8:30 a.m. J. Brooks, 11 a.m. M. Sherwood

Fellowship hour: Finance Committee

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. S. Groves, D. Pemberton, R. Gordon, K. Sabo(c)
11 a.m. S. Fleming, P. Straub, J. Thomas, P. Snitzer (c)

Sunday, Feb. 9

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

Welcome Desk: 8:30 a.m. J. Lord, 11 a.m. G. Rothman

Fellowship hour: In His Steps Class

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. A. Cogswell, S. Fleming, R. Roberts, E. McKenney(c)
11 a.m. C. Jones, C. Jones, R. Witkowski, P. Adams(c)

NEXT DEADLINE

Friday, Jan. 31 is the deadline for the Feb. 11 Witness which covers Feb. 16 and 23.

Open Houses: The Weekday Preschool and Early Learning Programs will have Open Houses for prospective parents for the 2014 – 2015 school year on Wednesdays, Feb. 12 and 26. The preschool open house begins at 9:30 a.m. and the Early Learning Program at 10:30 a.m. Each will have an informational session followed by a tour of the program. For more information see the website www.annandale-umc.org/preschool-programs.



NEW CLASS: James: Mercy Triumphs meets Mondays at 7 p.m. in Room 210. Led by Pam Adams, *James: Mercy Triumphs* is a Beth Moore study exploring the New Testament epistle of James and practical ways to put your faith in action through DVD and personal study. Note: Beth Moore studies are not just for women. This is a study for anyone seeking to understand a no-nonsense approach to living the Christian life.



Coming soon: Lenten Study 2014: *The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller, March 2-April 20, 2014. To lead or host a small group, contact cjohnsonoliver@annandale-umc.org



Continued from page 1

The Annandale UMC Foundation provides an opportunity to plant seeds today that will germinate continuously into the future for those who succeed us. Gifts of cash or securities, above and beyond your support of the annual operating budget, are encouraged. In addition, planned gifts through bequests, life insurance, and life income plans, are attractive ways for many donors to “continue giving” into the future. These types of gifts should be planned with a financial advisor or attorney. The Annandale UMC Foundation Board of Directors has developed a flexible structure that allows the donor to fund a variety of ministry programs. If you have any questions about the AUMC Foundation, please contact Bill Iwig, President of the Board of Directors, at 301-365-7532.