

AUMC WITNESS

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

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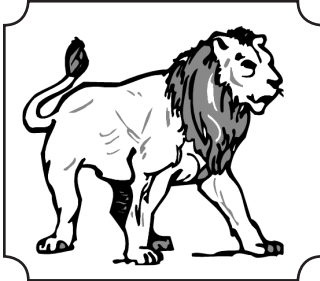
Ministers:
Rev. Dr. Clarence R. Brown, Jr.
Rev. Eduardo Carrillo
Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver
Rev. Luz Zuleta

Vol. 11 No. 3



We are a Stephen Ministry Church

February 11, 2014



Feb. 27, 28, March 1



The Music Ministry of Annandale UMC will present *The Wizard of Oz* on Feb. 27 and 28 at 7 p.m. and March 1 at 2 and 7 p.m. Our church sanctuary will be transformed into a Kansas farmland and the Emerald City where the story will be revealed by timeless characters including Dorothy (Kyla Carney), Scarecrow (Justin Dean), the Tinman (Adam Whitman), the Lion (Phil Krzywicki), Aunt Em (Margaret Vaughn) Glinda, the Good Witch (Jackie Long) and the Wicked Witch of the West (Michelle Ohmke) and many more. Come and see the children of Munchkinland, the Jitterbug dancers, the Flying Monkeys, the Winkies, the Ozians, and of course, the Great Oz (Gavin Dock) himself and darling Toto, Dorothy's dog.

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"! Music will be provided by pit orchestra. Under the creative and talented stage direction of Nancy Bonanno and producer Pat Vaughn, the sanctuary will become a magical place.

More than 100 members and friends of the AUMC church family are involved in this production of *The Wizard of Oz*. In addition to the musicians and the actors on

stage, volunteers are building and painting the set, sewing and purchasing costumes, borrowing and building props, selling tickets and advertisements for the playbill. During the performances, dozens of volunteers will be stage hands, costumers, applying makeup and styling hair, running lights and sound equipment. Everyone has enjoyed the collaborative effort.

Tickets are \$15 each and are available for purchase Sunday mornings in Wright Hall and during the week in the church office. Child care is available for the Friday night performance only but reservations are required (call the church office 703-256-8330).

This is the fourth musical produced by the AUMC Music Ministry, following *The Sound of Music*, *The Music Man*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. These *Wizard of Oz* performances are utilizing drama to reach out to our community, introducing more families to AUMC, and to help inspire all ages to contemplate the path they are traveling in life.

Come see the amazing talents of AUMC children, youth and adults as they share a story of valuable friendship and family ties. There's No Place Like Home!

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Abiding in Love

“My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn’t know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can’t know him if you don’t love. This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they’ve done to our relationship with God. My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us—perfect love!”

— I John 4:7-12, The Message



Culturally we have been told that Valentine’s Day is the time to express and prove our love to one another. As much as I like seeing hearts, roses, and cupids all over the stores as soon as Christmas ends, I have to challenge that. If we are to live in a loving relationship with each other, we should not need a holiday or spend money to express ourselves.

February 14 is actually a time to honor St. Valentine who ministered to Christians persecuted under the Roman Empire. He went to great lengths to show the love of God to others and was martyred for his actions. As such, Valentine’s Day held a deeper meaning of love for early Christians.

How can we cultivate this kind of sacrificial love in our lives today? How can we restore God’s vision of love in the world? I John tells us that we cannot know God if we have not loved, because God is love. That seems pretty straightforward, yet we don’t always practice it. I certainly

don’t feel very loving when people are cranky, the car breaks down, or I’m having a bad day. It’s hard to remember and exercise love when life’s annoyances get in the way, but as a follower of Christ we are called to love no matter what.



Because God first loved us, we are called to extend grace, mercy, and compassion to others. Not one day but every day. Not just show love to those who already love us but also to difficult people. We are even called to pray for those who speak ill of us. My friends, our tools to expand the kingdom of God are not weapons of war or diplomatic speeches. Rather, it is the love of God that restores all of us to right relationship with one another and to our Creator.

Abide in God. Stay in love with your partner. Care for your family, friends, and neighbors in deep and meaningful ways. Love one another as God has loved us and find creative ways to do so today and always.

Eduardo
Eduardo

DATEBOOK

Feb. 15 - Stop Hunger Now

Feb. 16 – Youth Spaghetti Dinner

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

March 4 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March 5 – Ash Wednesday

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/>.

Opportunities for Ministry and Service:

Would you like to become more involved with worship services at Annandale United Methodist Church? Service opportunities are available for all ages, from children through adult. Volunteers are needed to serve as acolytes, crucifers and ushers during worship, to assist the Altar Guild and Flower Ministry to prepare for worship services, and to take communion to homebound members. For more information, contact Joyce Kitzmiller in the church office jkitzmiller@annandale-umc.org or call 703-256-8330.

Volunteers are needed to assist with costume changes, hair/makeup, moving props and other backstage activities during the Wizard of Oz, Feb. 27, 28 and March 1. If you would like to volunteer, contact Barbara Gordon, bgordon@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330.

New Member Class: "Brownies with Brown" new member class will meet on Sunday, Feb. 16, 9:45 a.m. in room 212C. The class, taught by Rev. Dr. Clarence Brown, Jr., is a time of exploration and discernment of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ at Annandale UMC. Topics will range from Wesleyan Theology to United Methodism 101; from Stewardship to Spiritual Gifts. Pre-registration is not necessary. For more information, call 703-256-8330.



Thank you to everyone who donated food in January to the ACCA Food Pantry. The January AUMC food collections for ACCA was a huge success! AUMC donated a record monthly total of 65 bags of groceries to the ACCA food pantry. Our

hungry neighbors will appreciate your generous donations even more during this long, cold winter. ACCA food collection is the first Sunday of every month and non-perishable food donations can be made weekdays in the church office.

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.



AUMC car magnets are available for \$5 each as a fundraiser for youth activities. The magnets are oval, about 5" across, white with red lettering. Magnets can be purchased in the church office.



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

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.



MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tues., Feb. 18	Church Council	7:15 p.m.	Room 302
Tues., Feb. 25	SPRC	7 p.m.	Room 210

LECTIONARY TEXTS

Feb. 16, Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8 (UMH 840); I Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

Feb. 23, Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40 (UMH 840); I Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

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Annandale United Methodist Church

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WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, Feb. 16

Door greeters: 8:10 a.m. S. Fleming, J. Beyer
9:30 a.m. D. Ruhter
10:30 a.m. L. McConville, E. Moss

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

Fellowship hour: Issues in Christianity Class

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. S. Chase, S. Groves, E. Sackey, S. Nkesi (c)
11 a.m. C. DeLeon, R. Gallagher, G. Rothman, R. Gordon (c)

Sunday, Feb. 23

Door greeters: 8:10 a.m. J. Vance, B. Brown, S. Naugle
9:30 a.m. A. Witkowski, B. Otto
10:30 a.m. D. Johnson

Welcome Desk: 8:30 a.m. M. McCarthy, 11 a.m. A. Lohr

Fellowship hour: Kairos Prison Ministry

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. D. Pemberton, G. Sherfey, R. Gordon, P. Sherfey (c)
11 a.m. C. Perdue, G. Sherwood, P. Shockley, P. Snitzer (c)

NEXT DEADLINE

Friday, Feb. 14 is the deadline for the Feb. 25 Witness which covers Mar. 2 and 9.



The Children's Ministry's KIMyr (Kids in Mission Year 'Round) program is in full swing! This past fall our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders participated in several fellowship and service activities, including serving a meal to our Hypothermia guests in December. We kicked off 2014 with an "Almost" Lock-in at the church in January, and are looking to several upcoming events.

If you have a child in 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade, we hope he/she can join us for:

- **Sunday, March 2: KIMyr Work Day** after the 11 a.m. service to prepare for our Lenten Mission food drive for Poe families
- **Sunday, March 30: Visit to Ramp**
- **May 16-18: Church-wide Family Camp Out** at Camp Highroad

For more information, contact Becki Stewart, bstewart@annandale-umc.org or call 703-256-8330.



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.