



AUMC WITNESS

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

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We are a Stephen Ministry Church

Vol. 11 No. 4


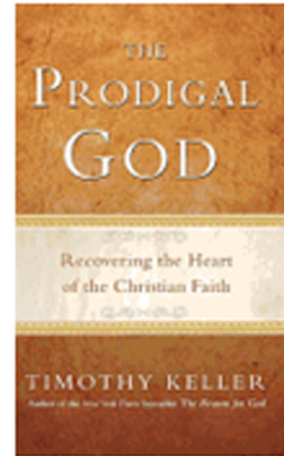
February 25, 2014



Academy of Discipleship
Annandale United Methodist Church

Lenten Study 2014
The Prodigal God
by Timothy Keller
March 2-April 20

Church-wide book study, sermon series, small group discussion, blog
Visit Academyofdiscipleship.com

“There is more than one way to run away from God and defy him. But there is only one way back... Few books unpack this theme with greater force than this slim volume from Tim Keller.” – D.A. Carson

The Academy of Discipleship is pleased to offer as its seventh annual Lenten Study, *The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller. Taking his trademark intellectual approach to understanding Christianity, Keller uncovers the essential message of Jesus, locked inside his most familiar parable. Within that parable, Jesus reveals God’s prodigal grace toward both the irreligious and the moralistic. This book will challenge both the devout and skeptics to see Christianity in a whole new way.

Keller is a New York Times bestselling author and the pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church, which welcomes six thousand worshippers. Newsweek has called Keller a "C.S. Lewis for the twenty-first century."

Lenten Study 2014 will include a sermon series, a book study, a DVD and study guide for small groups, a blog, and other opportunities for discussion.

The following classes and groups are participating in Lenten Study 2014:

Class	Facilitator(s)	Day, Time	Room
Exploring Faith in Life	Harry Day	Sun., 9:45 a.m.	303
Immanuel	Janet Woods	Sun., 9:45 a.m.	300
In His Steps	Bill Iwig	Sun., 9:45 a.m.	302
Women of the Day	Hampton/Montgomery	Sun., 9:45 a.m.	Parlor
Lenten Discussion Group	Clergy	Sun., 12:15 p.m.	TBD
Grace and Truth Small Group	FitzGibbon/Mitchell/Mock	Mon., 7:00 p.m.	Parlor
Thursday Small Group	Jaie Brown	Thu., 4:30 p.m.	Parlor

More groups forming! See bulletin for details.

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Let it All Flow

Grace and peace in the name of our Savior! As we live into the year 2014 - and more importantly live into the flow of another Christian year – we look forward to the reflections of Lent and the renewal of Easter. One of my favorite parts of the Lenten journey is the time we spend celebrating our mission projects and the commitment of stewardship it takes to undergird them. Touching lives in Haiti, Brazil, Mozambique, and our sisters and brothers in need in Northern Virginia is how we contribute to the making of disciples and transforming the world in partnership with God.

Our constant concern, however, is to make our ministry sustainable. Nothing is more disconcerting than to begin to make a difference and then to back away from our commitment to make a difference. The news on our economy – which I personally believe is on its way back to some semblance of health – makes us hesitant. Our faith quotient – which has been on spectacular display here at AUMC – will continue to be tested. The challenges of community transformation – and thus movement toward what we discern as God's preferred picture of the future – grow ever more formidable. What, then, shall we do? Glad you asked!

Much of the answer I have found in Eric Law's recent publication, *Holy Currencies: Six Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries* (St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2013). His view, which I do injustice to by truncating, is that God's tremendously abundant blessings are bestowed generously over all the creation and that those blessings are not all about money. He teaches and talks about these blessings as currencies that should be put into circulation. There are currencies of relationship, compassion, truth, wellness, leadership, time and place and – as it should be – money. It is the movement, the flow of these currencies – not the amount – that create a climate of sustainability.

In the coming months I will be dedicating this space to the exploration of these currencies, as I have always believed that stewardship is an ongoing, holistic enterprise. It is not the once a year, fund the budget exercise that one might experience in many of our churches. In addition, we will be offering teaching and learning experiences around these Holy Currencies, and invite you to look for and participate in them.

It is my prayer that you are experiencing abundance in these currencies, and that you are in the business of passing them along.

Yours for a Vital Witness to Christ,

Clarence
Clarence

DATEBOOK

March 2 – ACCA Food Drive Sunday

March 4 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March 8 – Methodist Men Spring Training

March 5 – Ash Wednesday

March 12 – Wednesday Night Together

March 14 – Mission dinner

NEWS IN BRIEF

Young Adults will meet for lunch and discussion March 9 and 23, 12:30 p.m. in Room 210. It is a time to share a meal and ideas and all young adults are welcome! For more information, contact Eduardo Carrillo, ecarrillo@annandale-umc.org.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is scheduled for March 4 at 5:45 p.m. (serving line 5:45-6:30 p.m.) and everyone is invited. The menu will include pancakes with all the fixings, activities for the kids, kid's parade, King's cupcakes, and pancake races. Kids, wear your Halloween costumes for the parade! Cost for dinner is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children and \$15 maximum per family. Make checks payable to AUMC. Register Sunday morning or contact Joyce Kitzmiller jkitzmiller@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330. The deadline is noon on Monday, March 3.

Kids in Mission Year 'Round (KIMyr) Food Drive, a Children's Ministry Lenten Mission Project, will provide food for students at Poe Middle School who receive free/reduced breakfasts and lunches. The food will be packaged to send home during spring break so the children will have enough food to eat when they are not in school. During worship services on April 6, the food will be blessed before being distributed at the Poe after-school program.

VIM Trip to West Virginia: AUMC is again sponsoring a Volunteers in Mission (VIM) adult mission trip to Brenton, WV (Wyoming County) with the Appalachian Service Project (ASP) Sept. 21-27, 2014. We will be doing relational ministry and home repairs—typical ASP projects include roofing, drywall and insulation, wheelchair ramps, plumbing, electrical, foundation repair, painting, stair and floor repairs. Cost for the trip is \$525 and includes transportation, lodging, meals and all construction materials. Volunteers who cannot go for the full seven days (five work days and two travel days) are welcome. We anticipate some people going on Sunday and returning late Wednesday or early Thursday at a cost of \$350. Interested persons should contact John Clarke by phone or text 703 606-6464 or email clarkejhl@gmail.com. Commitments are needed with a nonrefundable deposit of \$250.

New Member Class "Brownies with Brown" meets on Sunday, 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.

Christmas in April (Rebuilding Together) is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, and volunteers are needed for a half or full day. AUMC is participating in Christmas in April for the 15th straight year! We will again be teaming with ACCA/St Barnabas Episcopal on a local "house repair project" to a deserving family or Fairfax County "group home". We look forward to having AUMC youth group (age 14 and over), AUMC young and older adults join us for fun and work making our home a better place to live. This project is sponsored by our Missions Committee and ACCA. This is a great opportunity for anybody who needs Community Service Hours. Anyone interested in joining us or "fixing a treat for the workers" please email clarkejhl@gmail.com. More details will be provided in early April when "our house" has been assigned.

Save the Date! Dinner and presentation by Dieudonne Karihano, Agricultural Missionary for Cambine Mission Compound, Mozambique, Friday, March 14 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Wright Hall. More information to follow.

United Methodist Men Spring Training event is scheduled for March 8. AUMC will be one of three churches in the state hosting this event. It will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with lunch and four separate training workshops. Think of it as your "Spring Tune-up" or Men's Retreat. Contact Gary FitzGibbon at 703-963-8707 or gary@garyfitzgibbon.com to sign up and to volunteer to help.

CIRCLE NEWS

DEBORAH: Mon., Mar. 10, 7:30 p.m., AUMC Rm. 210. Prog.: Carol Irons will present a book study on the book *Spirit Walker*. Hostess: Liz Walker. Dev.: Sandy Barker.

LYDIA: Thurs., Mar. 13, 10 a.m., AUMC Rm. 209. Prog.: Kristine Grow will give a presentation about Human Trafficking and strides made in its prevention. Hostess: TBA. Dev.: TBA.

M&M's: Sat., Mar. 15, 8 a.m., at the home of Pat Sherfey. Hostess: Sally Bizer. Dev.: Emma Clay.

MARTHA: Mon., Mar. 24, 12:30 p.m., Heritage Campus Fellowship Hall. Prog.: Betsy Clevenger will lead the study of various women of the Bible. There will be devotions and light refreshments will be served.

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

MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tues., Mar. 4	Trustees	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Wed., Mar. 5	Stephen Ministry	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Tues., Mar. 11	Finance Committee	7 p.m.	Room 210
Tues., Mar. 11	Missions Committee	7 p.m.	Room 302

LECTIONARY TEXTS

Mar. 2, Last Sunday After the Epiphany: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99 (UMH 819); 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Mar. 9, First Sunday in Lent: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32 (UMH 766); Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

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Annandale United Methodist Church

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WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, March 2

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

Fellowship hour: Little White Church

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. A. Cogswell, S. Fleming, E. Sackey, K. Sabo (c)
11 a.m. E. Carrillo, P. Straub, J. Thomas, R. Gordon (c)

Sunday, March 9

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

Fellowship hour: Mary and Martha Circle

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. D. Pemberton, R. Roberts, R. Gordon, S. Nkesi (c)
11 a.m. C. DeLeon, R. Gallagher, C. Perdue, P. Shockley (c)

Wednesday Night Together fellowship dinners and Lenten Communion will be held March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9. Dinner begins at 5:45 p.m. and communion at 6:30 p.m. The menu for March 12 will be corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, Irish soda bread, and chocolate pistachio cake. Register for dinner online at www.annandale-umc.org, by emailing Joyce Kitzmiller: jkitzmiller@annandale-umc.org or by 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.

Annandale Food Ministry, Heritage Drive campus, needs volunteers on Thursday, March 6 and 13, at noon, to help bag lunches for Bailey's Shelter. From 5 – 7 p.m. on Thursdays, help set up and distribute food and cleanup after. For more information call Betsy Clevenger, 703-425-6424.

Children's Clothes Closet: Donations of new or gently used clothing for infants and children are being collected for families who live around the Heritage Drive campus. A collection box is at the AUMC Parent Resource Area (near room 311).

Heating and Air Conditioning Project

update: Annandale UMC is blessed to have facilities that are used extensively every week serving our congregation and the community. Buildings are meant to be used – and ours are well used! But extensive use also requires maintenance. Over the past few years, the Trustees have been monitoring the lower level heating and air conditioning system that serves the Media Center, Music Ministry, Lower Atrium, and Child Development Center. Users of these areas are experiencing poor air circulation and high humidity conditions. So, the time has come to replace the large air handling unit serving this area and renovate other parts of the system. The Trustees have selected Capitol Boiler Works, Inc. for this work. Initial renovations will start soon with the project scheduled to be completed by early April. The project will cost approximately \$250,000. The Trustees have funds available from various sources to cover \$50,000. The Annandale UMC Foundation is allocating \$100,000 to this project, available from bequests to the church. The Finance Committee is arranging a bank loan to cover the remaining \$100,000 and will seek funds from the congregation after Easter to cover this loan. More information will be communicated to you as this project proceeds. Thank you in advance for your support of our facilities and our ministry at Annandale UMC.

NEXT DEADLINE Friday, Feb. 28 is the deadline for the Mar. 11 Witness which covers Mar. 16 and 23.