

AUMC WITNESS

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

Annandale United Methodist Church
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Vol. 11 No. 5



We are a Stephen Ministry Church

March 11, 2014

2014 Lenten Mission Projects

We are a congregation that lives our love of God through service to those in need, whether they live in our neighborhood or on distant shores. Acting on AUMC's overall mission to Love God, Love Neighbor and Serve the World, we support our local community and the world through service, prayer, financial support and fellowship. Our mission outreach is structured to ensure that everyone, young and old alike, can participate.

AUMC's Mission Committee has identified seven Lenten Mission Projects for 2014 and set a fund raising goal of \$75,000. They are:



Local Projects

- + Poe Middle School Food Ministry - \$10,000 to grant local children the certainty of a hot dinner each week and to pay for food to distribute to those in need in the Annandale area. (Also a focus of Children's Ministry/KIMyr Lenten Mission Project Pantry for Poe)
- + Camp Highroad - \$10,000 to fund a variety of projects to allow this Methodist adventure camp to continue serving groups of all ages year-round. AUMC's Camp Highroad work weekend is May 16-18.
- + Heritage Drive Campus Ministries - \$10,000 to provide initial resources to launch new ministries in the area.

International Projects

- + Stop Hunger Now - \$10,000 to provide 40,000 meals for those in need across 75 countries. (The snowed-out February event has been rescheduled for May 31.)
- + Brazil Mission Trip - \$10,000 to continue to support the Shade and Fresh Water Program.
- + Haiti - \$10,000 to help rebuild orphanages, homes and schools severely damaged in recent earthquake and hurricanes.
- + Mozambique - \$15,000 to complete a men's dormitory in the Combine Mission compound for the investment in the future of Mozambique.



Everyone is encouraged to participate in a local or international Lenten Mission Project. More information will be included in upcoming Sunday worship bulletins. For more information, visit www.annandale-umc.org or pick up a Lenten Mission Project brochure in the Atrium or the church office.

LENT THROUGH EASTER + A PLACE AT THE TABLE

Lenten Sermon Series based on *The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller - Sundays during Lent, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Wednesday Night Together Fellowship Dinner (5:45 p.m) and Communion (6:30 p.m.): March 19, 26, April 2 and 9. Dinner reservations required 703-256-8330.

Quiet Day: March 26, contemplative worship and meditations offered throughout the day in the Sanctuary.

Easter Festival: April 5, 10:30 a.m. - noon. A family event with crafts and games including the Easter Egg Hunt and the Legend of the Easter Egg (Wright Hall).

Palm Sunday: April 13, 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship services.

Maundy Thursday: April 17, 7:30 p.m. worship with Holy Communion and foot washing.

Good Friday: April 18, 12 -3 p.m. sanctuary and Little White Church open for prayer; worship service 7:30 p.m.

Easter: April 20 worship services at 6:30, 8:30 and 11 a.m. Easter combined adult Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., sanctuary.

There's a place at the table for all at AUMC events!

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SAINTS AND SINNERS

"For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"
- Romans 3:23

Dear Friends,

We are in the midst of our Lenten study and sermon series based on *The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller. It has fallen to me to preach the sermon on the topic of sin. (I must have drawn the short straw!) The book chapter is titled "Redefining Sin." In this chapter, Keller identifies two paths utilized to seek happiness and fulfillment: the path of self-discovery and the path of moral conformity. The moral conformists seek to follow all of the moral rules. They correspond to the elder brother in the parable who looks down upon the younger brother for his waywardness. The self-discoverers eschew the moral rules determined to chart their own path. They correspond to the younger brother in the parable and tend to look down upon the elder brothers of the world for their religious self-righteousness.

According to Keller, both paths ultimately fall short because both place the self as savior rather than Christ. Both paths amount to a rebellion against God. The self-discoverer rebels by rejecting morality. The moral conformist rebels by seeking to control God through a strict adherence to morality. As in the parable, both can lead to estrangement from God. Yet God invites both to the feast of reconciliation and love.

I am intrigued by this analysis of the parable of the prodigal son. I believe that most parables call us to see ourselves in the parable to better understand our relationship to God. In this parable, however, I believe that Jesus (and now Keller) asks a more challenging question: where do we see the church in this parable? As a church, are we a group of younger brothers who have been returned home to God's love? Or are we the elder brothers who have obeyed all the rules and feel we deserve a better place at the table? Or are we a combination of the two? Would a modern day younger brother feel welcome at our church? Would he be greeted with the open arms of the father or the disdainful response of the elder brother?

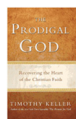
In my sermon this Sunday, we will seek to understand how all of us are ultimately in the same predicament.

Indeed, all have sinned and fall short of God's glory. Moreover, all are invited to the table of grace and welcomed into the arms of God's love.

Blessings,

Cynthia

We welcome Katie Anderson, Linda Clark, Jacki Maxwell, Jared Price, and Karen Redden, who were received as new members of Annandale UMC on Sunday, Feb. 16.



Lenten Study 2014 – *The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller. Join the discussion! The following groups are participating in this study:

Exploring Faith in Life: Sundays, 9:45 a.m., room 303

Immanuel: Sundays, 9:45 a.m., room 300

In His Steps: Sundays, 9:45 a.m., room 302

Women of the Day: Sundays, 9:45 a.m., Parlor

Lunch & Learn: Sundays, 12:30 p.m., room 210

Grace and Truth Small Group: Mondays, 7 p.m., Parlor

Thursday Small Group: Thursdays, 7 p.m., room 209

DATEBOOK

March 14 – Mission dinner

March 19, 26, April 2 and 9 –
Wednesday Night Together/Lenten Communion

March 26 – Quiet Day

April 5 – Easter Festival

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kairos Prayers and Cookies: AUMC's Kairos Prison Ministry Team is preparing to share God's love again with the men at the Greensville Correctional Center (GRCC), in Jarratt, VA, April 10 - 13. Your prayer support for this weekend is critically important. If you would like to have your name included on the Prayer Chain that is shared with the men at GRCC, so they can visibly see that many people are praying for them throughout the weekend, sign the Prayer Chain sign-up list on the table under the video screen in the Atrium. Also, the Annandale UMC Team is responsible for baking 700 dozen homemade cookies. Cookies are a tangible expression of our love and the only gift that Kairos can give to inmates. A cookie sign-up sheet, prison approved cookie recipes, and instructions are also on the table in the Atrium. If you cannot bake cookies but want to make a donation for baking supplies, make your check payable to AUMC, designated for Kairos Cookies, by Sunday, March 30. Other church members and team members will do the baking! Place your cookies, one dozen per quart freezer bag, in the AUMC kitchen freezer by Sunday, April 6 and label them "Kairos Cookies." Contact Bill Iwig at 301-365-7532 if you have any questions.

Are You Being Called to Serve as a Tutor?

Annandale UMC is developing a tutoring program to serve the community around our Heritage Road campus. Conversations with parents who attend our Thursday food distribution program and with other individuals, including students, have identified that a tutoring program for elementary and middle school children would be much appreciated. These parents are striving to raise their children so they may be prepared to flourish and serve society in a positive way in their youth and adult years. And the students want to succeed! As Christians, we are called to share God's love through serving the needs of our community and the world. Tentatively, the tutoring program will start operating this spring one evening each week for two hours, helping students with their homework. If you have an interest in serving as a tutor, receptionist, helping with snacks, or in some other way, or if you have questions, contact Barb Pearson at 703-323-6114.

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

Mission Trip to West Virginia: Volunteers in Mission (VIM) adult mission trip to Brenton, WV (Wyoming County) with the Appalachian Service Project (ASP) is scheduled for Sept. 21-27, 2014. 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.

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 are 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 AUMC youth (age 14 and over), young and older adults participating. This project is sponsored by our Missions Committee and ACCA. Anyone interested in joining us or "fixing a treat for the workers" email clarkejhl@gmail.com.

Wednesday Night Together fellowship dinners and Lenten Communion will be held March 19, 26, April 2 and 9. Dinner begins at 5:45 p.m. and communion at 6:30 p.m. Register for dinner by noon on the Monday before each 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.

The Weekday Children's Programs will sponsor a **Scholastic Book Fair** Tuesday, March 18 through Thursday, March 20 in room 105 (Youth Room). The Fair will be open on Tuesday and Thursday from 9 - 10 a.m., 12 - 1:30 p.m., and 2 - 3:30 p.m. On Wednesday it will be open longer hours: 8 - 10 a.m., 12 - 1:30, 2 - 3:30, and 5 - 7 p.m. Books for toddlers, preschoolers, and early elementary will be available.

A Parent Coffee on "Helping your child to have an 'edu-taining' learning experience ... through play" will be held on Tuesday, March 25 at 7 p.m. in the Media Center. Sherril Reid, Assistant Director of the Weekday Preschool and Early Learning Program will share about multiple intelligences and how we use them to help young children learn.

MINISTRY MEETINGS

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

LECTIONARY TEXTS

March 16, Second Sunday in Lent: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121 (UMH 844); Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

March 23, Third Sunday in Lent: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95 (UMH 814); Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

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Annandale United Methodist Church

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WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, March 16

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. K. Nietzey

Fellowship hour: Phoebe/Lydia Circles

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. D. Pemberton, E. Sackey, G. Sherfey, P. Sherfey (c)
11 a.m. S. Fleming, P. Straub, R. Witkowski, P. Snitzer (c)

Sunday, March 23

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

Welcome Desk: 8:30 a.m. J./W. Lord, 11 a.m. A. Lohr

Fellowship hour: Staff Parish Relations Committee

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. A. Cogswell, S. Fleming, S. Groves E. McKenney (c)
11 a.m. C. Jones, C. Jones, G. Sherwood, R. Gordon (c)

NEXT DEADLINE

Friday, March 14 is the deadline for the March 25 Witness which covers March 30 and April 6



John Dodge

Providing Safe Drinking Water

Last fall, AUMC's Earth and Spirit Committee launched a campaign to raise funds to purchase drinking water filters for the people of northern Ghana. The goal was to purchase 25 filters, at a cost of \$250 each, for a total of \$6,250. Last month the Committee was notified that the funds raised at AUMC will be used in 27 households in a part of the world where the need for safe drinking water is critical. Thank you to all who donated to this effort!

Around the world, 900 million people lack access to safe drinking water and 2.5 billion have inadequate sanitation, leading to water contaminated with deadly bacteria such as E. Coli. Every 20 seconds, a child dies of preventable water-borne disease. The water filtration devices can provide clean, safe water for a family of 4-6 every day for more than 10 years.

The filters are distributed in Ghana by World Vision, the largest non-governmental organization providing clean water and other assistance in the developing world. World Vision is an evangelical Christian organization working in more than 100 countries around the world.