



AUMC WITNESS

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

Annandale United Methodist Church
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Vol. 11 No. 6



We are a Stephen Ministry Church

March 25, 2014

A Place at the Table + Lent Through Easter

Lent is a time when we are invited to examine our faith and deepen our commitment to live a Christian life. At AUMC, our 2014 Lenten theme is "A Place at the Table", based on our Lenten Study *The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller. Keller provides an intriguing interpretation of the parable of Jesus traditionally known as the parable of the prodigal son (which ends with a feast at the table). Keller argues that the parable is really about both sons. Want to learn more? Our pastors are preaching this Sunday mornings and at Wednesday Night Together during Lent; you can also

participate in a book study, small group discussions, and read a blog <http://academyofdiscipleship.com/2014/03/11/a-place-at-the-table/>. For example, the blog post dated March 11 explained that the theme "A Place at the Table" means that all are invited to God's banquet, and there is room for everyone at the table! During Sunday worship, notice how the table and chairs placed on the altar change in appearance every week. In addition, the Choral Response during Lenten worship is entitled "There's Always a Place at the Table", as a reminder of God's boundless grace.

Other opportunities to examine your faith, prepare for Easter, and make room for everyone at the table are:

Quiet Day, March 26, contemplative worship and meditations throughout the day.

Wednesday Night Together, March 26, April 2, and April 9, dinner 5:45 p.m. and Lenten Communion 6:30 p.m.

Easter Festival, April 5, 10:30 a.m. (see details on page 2).

Contemporary Worship Service, April 12, 6:30 p.m.

Holy Week

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

Maundy Thursday worship, April 17, 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 18, prayers 12 – 3 p.m., Seven Last Words Service at 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 20, worship at 6:30, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Easter Sunday Adult Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. "Made Like Him We Rise"

Love God, Love Neighbor, Serve the World

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. We support our local community and the world through service, prayer, financial

support and fellowship. 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 and Children's Ministry/KIMyr Pantry for Poe
+Camp Highroad +Heritage Drive Campus Ministries

International Projects: +Stop Hunger Now +Brazil Mission Trip +Haiti +Mozambique

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Just a Closer Walk with Thee

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."—Romans 15:13

There was once a Sunday School teacher who diligently taught his young students all about Lent, including the importance of Ash Wednesday, Shrove Tuesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and such. "Who knows what happens on Easter?" he asked the class. In response, a young boy screamed, "That's the day my heart will be filled with joy!" Beaming with pride, the teacher asked the student, "Why is that?" The young boy in all his wisdom declared, "I get to eat chocolate!"

Hopefully by now you've come to understand that Lent is not just about our personal relationship with God. Rather, this season is also a time for the church community to grow in right relationship together and with God. While the Lenten journey ends on Easter Sunday, our discipleship—our journey of spiritual growth—does not stop. The things we have given up for Lent that interfere with our relationship with God and others are not meant to be taken up again, including chocolate if need be.

Lent is meant to close the gap between God and us as individuals and as a church community. Relationships that were estranged can become reconciled, and returning home can be seen not as an impediment but as an encouragement for all of us; because that's what a closer walk with God brings: a closer walk with others.

The hope we have heard over and over in Timothy Keller's book and our sermon series *The Prodigal God* allows us to take a closer look at ourselves and others as younger or older brothers and sisters. Our lives change and others are transformed as we come to know who we truly are and whose we are. As children of God, we can offer love, joy, and peace to our fellow sisters and brothers in Christ. We can reconcile with those who have become estranged from God's love, not only in the streets and shopping malls—but also in our pews and classrooms.

The hope we have in Christ becomes the pinnacle of our Lenten walk that meets the promises of Easter morning with its empty tomb and victory over death.

Knowing that God makes all things new, how will you celebrate Easter a bit differently this year? How will you welcome your sisters and brothers among you? Chocolate or no chocolate, how will you seek to live in right relationship with God and others? May God's kingdom come and God's will be done through us in our walk together as a church, as brothers and sisters, and as saints and sinners.


Eduardo

AUMC **Faster Festival**

Saturday, April 5 10:30 a. m.- 12 noon

- **Activities and crafts** for children of all ages
 - **Hear the legend** of the Easter Egg
 - **Bring a basket** for the Easter Egg Hunt
 - **Challenge Egg Hunt** for 2nd - 4th graders

EASTER Festival!? The AUMC Children's Council thoughtfully considered the best title for this family event. Rather than the generic or politically correct "Spring Festival" we reached forward to the upcoming Holy Day of Easter to convey who we are as a Christian people. While the Easter Egg hunt, crafts, and games are fun and exciting, central to it all is the love of Jesus Christ and our desire to share it with others. Everyone is welcome! Helpers are still needed! Contact Becki to help: bstewart@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330.

DATEBOOK

April 2 and 9 – Wednesday Night Together dinner and Lenten Communion

April 5 – Easter Festival

April 12 – Contemporary Worship Service

April 13 – Palm Sunday

NEWS IN BRIEF

Collecting Food for Pantry for Poe: the food drive to benefit students at Poe Middle School who receive free/reduced meals ends next week. Led by KIMyr, Kids in Mission Year 'Round, the food collected will be sent home with children during spring break to eat when they are not in school. Bring non-perishable food donations next Sunday, March 31, or to the office during the week. Collection boxes are located in the atrium, in the Children's Wing on the 3rd floor, and near the Preschool/CDC classrooms on the 1st floor.

Name that sermon! Do you have a pressing religious question? Are you curious about what our pastors think about your favorite topic? Now's YOUR chance to help determine the subject of the "Name that Sermon" series following Lent. Email your suggestions to office@annandale-umc.org with "Name That Sermon series" in the subject line, and our pastors may use your ideas as the subjects of the sermon series later this spring! If you don't have email, you can also drop off or mail your ideas to the church office, 6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003.

A Contemporary Worship Service will be held on Saturday, April 12, 6:30 p.m. in Hughes Hall. Everyone is welcome! During the Lenten season, as we focus on how there is "A Place at the Table" for all, we would like to explore different styles of worship to assist our congregation in encountering God. Everyone is invited to participate in our second Contemporary Worship Service this year, which will include times of prayer, scripture, reflection, and praise music.

Wednesday Night Together fellowship dinners and Lenten Communion will continue on April 2 and 9. Dinner begins at 5:45 p.m. and communion at 6:30 p.m. Register for dinner on the pew pad Sunday morning, online at www.annandale-umc.org, by emailing Joyce Kitzmiller: jkitzmiller@annandale-umc.org or by calling 703-256-8330 by noon on Monday. The meal price (pay at the door) is \$8 per person, \$3 for children under 12, and \$25 per family maximum.

Are you being called to serve as a tutor?

Annandale UMC is developing a tutoring program for elementary and middle school children who live in the community around our Heritage Road campus. Tentatively, the tutoring program will operate this spring one evening a week for two hours. If you are interested in serving as a tutor, receptionist, helping with snacks, or if you have questions, contact Barb Pearson at b-pearson@cox.net or 703-323-6114.

Annandale Food Ministry, Heritage Drive campus, needs volunteers at noon, every Thursday, 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.

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 located on the third floor of AUMC Parent Resource Area (near room 311).

Volunteers are needed for Christmas in April (Rebuilding Together), scheduled for Saturday, April 26. 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 in a full or half day. This project is sponsored by our Missions Committee and ACCA. Anyone interested in joining us or "fixing a treat for the workers" email John Clark: clarkejh1@gmail.com.

CIRCLE NEWS

DEBORAH: Mon., April 14, 7:30 p.m., AUMC Rm. 210. Prog.: Baby shower for Joy Price.

LYDIA: Thurs., April 10, 10:00 a.m., AUMC Rm. 209. Prog.: Putting together personal hygiene baskets for Bethany House. Please bring 10 of your designated item. Hostesses: Shirley Bailey, Gloria Rothman, and Jennifer Stokes. Dev.: Shirley Bailey.

M&M's: Sat., April 19, 8 a.m. at the home of Pat Sherfey. Hostess: Jolie Fleming. Dev.: Jolie Fleming.

MARTHA: Mon., April 28, 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., April 1	Trustees	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Wed., April 2	Stephen Ministry	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Tues., April 8	Finance Committee	7 p.m.	Room 210
Tues., April 8	Missions Committee	7 p.m.	Room 302

LECTIONARY TEXTS

March 30, Fourth Sunday in Lent: I Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137); Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

April 6, Fifth Sunday in Lent: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130 (UMH 848); Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

AUMC WITNESS

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Annandale United Methodist Church

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WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, March 30

Door greeters:

8:10 a.m. R. Hampton, W. Lord

9:30 a.m. B. Brown

10:30 a.m. L. McConville, E. Moss

Welcome Desk: 8:30 a.m. J. Brooks, 11 a.m. C. Jones

Fellowship hour: Witness/Missions

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. S. Chase, G. Sherfey, P. Sherfey, S. Nkesi (c)

11 a.m. C. DeLeon, G. Rothman, R. Witkowski, P. Adams (c)

Sunday, April 6

Door greeters:

8:10 a.m. E. Wilson, C. Cox, S. Naugle

9:30 a.m. M. Pearson

10:30 a.m. L. McConville, E. Moss

Welcome Desk: 8:30 a.m. R./N. Sayre, 11 a.m. M. Sherwood

Fellowship hour: Bible Fellowship Class

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

11 a.m. R. Gallagher, C. Perdue, P. Straub, P. Shockley (c)

Kairos prayers and cookies: Sign up now to pray or to provide home-baked cookies or cash for baking supplies. 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. To include your name on the Prayer Chain, sign the Prayer Chain list in the Atrium. Annandale UMC is also responsible for baking 700 dozen homemade cookies. A cookie sign-up sheet, prison approved cookie recipes, and instructions are on the table in the Atrium. To make a donation for baking supplies, make your check payable to AUMC, designated for Kairos Cookies, by Sunday, March 30. Place your home-baked 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.

Slots are available for a Volunteers in Mission (VIM) adult mission trip to Brenton, WV (Wyoming County) with the Appalachian Service Project (ASP), 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. Some people may go Sunday and return 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 clarkeh1@gmail.com. Commitments are needed with a nonrefundable deposit of \$250.

Easter Flower Opportunity

Help beautify the Sanctuary by donating special flowers. To place tulips in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please complete this form and return it to the church office with your check for \$13 per plant, payable to AUMC, no later than April 6. **Fill out a separate form for each plant.** No telephone orders can be accepted.

Placed by _____

Telephone _____

(Circle One) In Memory / Honor of:

(Check One) I will take the plant

Give my plant to a homebound member

(For office use only) Date received _____

Check number _____

NEXT DEADLINE

Friday, March 28 is the deadline for the April 8 Witness which covers April 13 and 20