



# 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



Vol. 11 No. 7



*We are a Stephen Ministry Church*

April 8, 2014

## *Holy Week Walk*

Holy Week is the most important week in the life of the church. It begins on Palm Sunday, which commemorates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the first in a series of dramatic events that make up the last week of Jesus' life. Often these events can overwhelm adults, but they can be even more difficult for children to understand. And yet by skipping the Holy Week events and just experiencing Palm Sunday and Easter, children are deprived of knowing the full story and experiencing important life lessons in friendship, betrayal, love, and faith. Knowledge of these events that are part of our story, the story we share as Christians, is important to our formation as followers of Jesus.

**On Palm Sunday, April 13, Children's Ministry will present the Holy Week Walk at 9:45 a.m. in room 309.** Everyone is invited. Experience the different events from Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Sunday until his death on Friday. Remember how during the days in between, Jesus taught the people, shared the Passover Supper with his closest friends, and continued to faithfully depend upon his Father in heaven. Each scene from Palm Sunday through the Last Supper and the Cross to the Resurrection is presented as a way to enable us to meditate on the life and sacrifice of Jesus. It is the story that renews our spirits and strengthens us for the journey.

## *Holy Week Schedule*

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

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

**April 18, Good Friday, 12 – 3 p.m.**- Little White Church and sanctuary open for prayer;

7:30 p.m. - Seven Last Words worship service, sanctuary

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

Sunrise service in courtyard, weather permitting,

8:30 and 11 a.m. services in the sanctuary.

**"Made Like Him, Like Him We Rise"** is the title of the message to be presented by Rev. Dr. Kendall Soulen at the combined adult Sunday School class on Easter. It will be held at 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome! Rev. Soulen is Director of the Master of Theological Studies Program, Professor of Systematic Theology at Wesley Theological Seminary.

**Sing Hallelujah on Easter!** If you have ever sung the "Hallelujah Chorus", you are invited to join the adult choir during the singing of the final hymn on Easter Sunday. Join the choir as we "raise our voices" in singing this timeless classic together as one great, massed choir in honor of our risen Savior!

## **This Issue of the Witness:**

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## Three Degrees of Separation

Grace and peace in the name of our Savior! Our intention in this series of columns about stewardship is to introduce the notion that most of our church conceptions regarding stewardship

are diminished and pale if we connect them solely to the issue of money, budgets and tithing. All of those are important elements of stewardship to be sure, but come short of understanding the concept holistically. To counter that, I offer the wonderful resource of the book *Holy Currencies: Six Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries* (St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2013), by Eric Law. It is profitable reading.

I begin here with one of the first currencies he treats, that being the currency of relationships. He suggests that we all remember well the concept of “six degrees of separation.” This concept is borrowed from a theory that was originally set out by Frigyes Karinthy and popularized in a play written by John Guare. The thought here is that there are no more than six relational links between us and anyone else on earth. Law extends that to a theoretical model proposed by Nicholas A. Christakis and James H. Fowler. According to this theory, Law says, “Everything we do or say tends to ripple through our network, having an impact on our friends (one degree), our friends’ friends (two degrees), and even our friends’ friends’ friends (three degrees).” This principle helped the spread of early Christianity until it engulfed the entire know world.

Problematic for the church, Law asserts, is that along the way there was a disconnect. The story that was shared ceased to be about Jesus and began to be about the interpretations of Jesus. This led to many negative consequences – conflicts, wars, persecutions. The correction is a reconnection. Even though we are scores of generations away from the first Christians who connected directly with Jesus, says Law, faithful Christians must find ways to stay close to the source of our network—Jesus. Further, if we abide in Christ, Christ calls us to be connected to each other as brothers and sisters. If we were to see each other in that way, it would transform our lives and the life of the church.

Further, we are called to recognize and to be stewards of multiple connections, internal and external. We are to be stewards of relationships among ourselves

(internal) and with the community at large (external). The latter can be done if we stay connected to the issues our communities are facing. We do this well with the issues of hunger, homelessness, and human trafficking. We cultivate relationships with community partners: FACETS, Fairfax County Offices of Neighborhood Services, ACCA, and many others. We do so through social events, financial support, and volunteering. Through these activities, we seek to see all others through the eyes of Jesus as brothers and sisters. This is the work of transforming the world.

In short, we seek to transform the way we do things from the biblical “Martha-esque” (task driven) to Mary-esque” (relationship driven) form of ministry. This, Law says, would be currency well spent. We will seek in future offerings to look at the other currencies of truth, wellness, time and place, money, and leadership. They are worth pondering.

Yours for a Vital Witness to Christ,

*Clarence*  
Clarence

**AARP Safe Driving Course for seniors** will be offered on Monday and Tuesday, **May 5 and 6**, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (an hour off for lunch), in the Media Center. Those who complete the course may reduce their auto insurance premium. Many insurers require you to take the course every three years to maintain the reduction. The cost is \$15 for AARP members (bring your card) and \$20 for non-members. Space is limited so register in advance by contacting Jane Underhill at 703-573-2056 or jrundie37@gmail.com. If you get an answering machine, leave your name and telephone number, and she will confirm your reservation. Pay on the first day of the course – cash or a check made out to AARP.

### DATEBOOK

**May 3-4** – Women’s Retreat

**May 3** – Contemporary Worship Service

**May 14** – Wednesday Night Together

**May 31** – Stop Hunger Now

# NEWS IN BRIEF

**Give Generously** to our Lenten Mission Projects: help support our community and the world through service, prayer, financial support and fellowship. AUMC's Mission Committee has identified seven Lenten Mission Projects for 2014: Poe Middle School Food Ministry and Children's Ministry/KIMyr Pantry for Poe, Camp Highroad, Heritage Drive Campus Ministries, Stop Hunger Now, Brazil Mission Trip, Haiti and Mozambique. Please give generously to LMP in the designated offering envelope. Make checks payable to "AUMC" with "Lenten Mission Project" in the memo line. For more information, visit [www.annandale-umc.org](http://www.annandale-umc.org) or pick up a Lenten Mission Project brochure in the Atrium or the church office.

**Name That Sermon:** Do you have a pressing religious question? Are you curious about what our pastors think about your favorite topic? Don't miss this opportunity to help determine the subject of the Name that Sermon series following Lent. Email your suggestions to [office@annandale-umc.org](mailto: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, drop off or mail your ideas to the church office. Here is a sample of the suggestions submitted so far: "What do we believe today about hell and purgatory?", "Is God's message for me on the cutting room floor?" and "Does the United Methodist Church honor any additional writings 'up there with the Bible'?" Some of the sermon topics for the 2013 Name That Sermon series were: "Christian Home: Who Should Submit?", "Sin and Grace" and "Forgiveness".

**AUMC's Camp Highroad Camp Out** will be May 16-18, and everyone is invited. This is an opportunity for families, groups and individuals to help clean up and repair the facilities and grounds at this Methodist adventure camp near Middleburg, VA, which is also one of AUMC's Lenten Mission projects. In addition to campfires, singing and fellowship in the camp lodge, participants will assist with light construction and more. Cost is \$20/night/person for inside lodging or \$15/night/person for tent space. Reservations are due May 1. Contact Mark Bradley at [Bradleyfam@aol.com](mailto:Bradleyfam@aol.com).

**New Member Class**, "Brownies with Brown" will meet April 27, 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.

**A Mission Trip** to Belo Horizonte, Brazil, is being planned for the last two weeks of July, and anyone interested should contact team leader Ryan Witkowski at [witkowskir@gmail.com](mailto:witkowskir@gmail.com) or 703-635-6062. Commitments are needed by April 15. The focus of the trip will be construction of a second floor of an existing building. The construction work will be led by Mark Bradley. There will also be many children around, so there will be opportunity for interaction and activities. The trip's cost will be dependent on the airline rates, but I expect the cost to be at least \$2,000, but under \$2,500 (right now it appears the flights are still a little more expensive than usual right after the World Cup).

**A Volunteers in Mission** adult mission trip to Brenton, WVa with the Appalachian Service Project 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. 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 [clarkejhl@gmail.com](mailto:clarkejhl@gmail.com). Commitments are needed with a nonrefundable deposit of \$250.

**Heritage Drive Ministries:** Over the past several months, a group of Annandale members have been gathering to strategize about the ministries and missions for AUMC's Heritage Drive Campus. From our meetings, we created this working vision:

**Heritage:** A place where a loving, inclusive faith community is building bridges of transformative relationships, hope and acceptance. In this place, families and individuals support, nurture and assist each other to fulfill their dreams.

**To begin** living this vision, three ministries are beginning to emerge:

**1) Food Distribution** operates on Thursday evenings from 5-7 p.m. To assist, contact Betsy Clevenger at 703-425-6424.

**2) ESL classes** meet on Tuesday evenings from 7-9 p.m. Contact Mike or Liz Hoefler at 703-845-7751 with questions.

**3) Tutoring Program** is being planned for this spring. For more information, contact Barb Pearson at 703-323-6114 or [b-pearson@cox.net](mailto:b-pearson@cox.net).

**For additional ideas and questions**, contact Bill Sinclair 703-321-7529. Join your God-given passion to make a difference with one of these or other future ministries springing forth from AUMC's Heritage Drive Campus.

## MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tues., April 15	Church Council	7:15 p.m.	Room 302
Tues., April 22	SPRC	7 p.m.	Room 210

## LECTIONARY TEXTS

**April 13, Palm Sunday:** Matthew 21:1-11, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH 839), Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16 (UMH 764), Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

**April 17, Maundy Thursday:** Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837); I Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**April 18, Good Friday:** Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837); I Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35



**A Place at the Table:** Have you noticed the large table and chairs placed on the chancel during Lent? Have you seen the symbolic garments or changes to the table and chairs each week? The addition of a high chair, wheel chair, U.S. flag, rainbow flag, Kente cloth, prison garb, baby bib and more show that we believe all are invited to God's banquet, and there is room for everyone at the table.

**Christmas in April** (Rebuilding Together) is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, and volunteers are needed for a half or full day. 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 John Clark: [clarkejh1@gmail.com](mailto:clarkejh1@gmail.com).

**Enrollment is underway** for AUMC's Weekday Preschool for children 1 – 4 years. Call 703-256-1100.

**Young Adults'** twice-monthly discussion is combining with a weekly "Lunch and Learn" Lenten discussion group led by the Pastors during Lent on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. in room 210. Discussion will be based on *The Prodigal God* by Tim Keller. Light lunch will be provided. For details, contact Eduardo Carrillo, [ecarrillo@annandale-umc.org](mailto:ecarrillo@annandale-umc.org).

**A Contemporary Worship Service** will be held on Saturday, April 12, from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Hughes Hall. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend! For details, contact Rev. Eduardo Carrillo, [ecarrillo@annandale-umc.org](mailto:ecarrillo@annandale-umc.org) or 703-256-8330.

**AUMC Food Ministry**, Heritage Drive campus, needs volunteers on Thursdays, April 17 and 24, from 5 – 7 p.m. for the food distribution program. For details call Betsy Clevenger, 703-425-6424.

## 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, April 13

**Door greeters:** 8:10 a.m. R. Hampton, W. Lord

9:30 a.m. B. Brown

10:30 a.m. D. Johnson, W. Ward

**Welcome Desk:** 8:30 a.m. E. Herbst, 11 a.m. K. Nietsey

**Fellowship hour:** Deborah Circle/Funeral Ministry

**Ushers:** 8:30 a.m. S. Groves, G. Sherfey, P. Sherfey, E. McKenney (c)

11 a.m. C. Jones, C. Jones, R. Witkowski, P. Adams (c)

### Sunday, April 20

**Door greeters:** 8:10 a.m. S. Fleming, J. Beyer

9:30 a.m. D. Ruhter

10:30 a.m. W. Ward

**Welcome Desk:** 8:30 a.m. L. Miller/V. Cannon, 11 a.m. C. Jones

**Fellowship hour:** Education Committee

**Ushers:** 8:30 a.m. A. Cogswell, S. Fleming, E. Sackey, R. Gordon,

S. Nkesi (c)

11 a.m. S. Fleming, G. Rothman, G. Sherwood, R. Gordon, P. Shockley (c)

## LECTIONARY TEXTS

**April 20, Easter Sunday:** Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839); Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

## NEXT DEADLINE

Friday, April 11 is the deadline for the April 22

Witness which covers April 27 and May 4