



AUMC WITNESS

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

Annandale United Methodist Church
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Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver
Rev. Luz Zuleta

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We are a Stephen Ministry Church

April 22, 2014

AUMC Youth Participate in 30-Hour Famine

Can you name 30 schools in this area? They could be elementary, middle, or high schools – give it a try. (I'll wait). According to a 2011 UNICEF survey, approximately 19,000 children under the age of 5 die every day, with approximately half of these deaths due to issues of hunger. That's the equivalent of 30 American public schools – every day. Gone. Some die from starvation, some die from malnutrition, and some die from lack of access to potable drinking water. While the numbers are staggering, what's even more surprising is that these deaths are preventable, with the help of people like you.

On April 25-26, the youth of Annandale UMC will join together for a 30-Hour Famine – a program put together by World Vision to bring funds and awareness to this global hunger issue. Beginning at noon on Friday, our youth will take part in a 30-hour fast from food and participate in a weekend of Bible studies, games, and service to the community. Our youth will get a chance to learn more about what day-to-day living looks like in developing countries through a combination of educational videos, lessons, and personal testimonials. Our youth will also be partnering with the Young Adults Ministry in a Culmore Clean-Up Day on Saturday during the fast. The event ends Saturday at 6 p.m. with a time of communion and prayer for those around the world who are struggling to have their basic needs met.

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Have Fun While Helping Camp Highroad

Do you have fond memories of summer camp? Singing around the campfire, hiking through the woods, camping out under the stars, and of course, "camp food"! You can help assure that these fun activities continue at Camp Highroad by attending a cleanup/fix up weekend, or making a financial donation. Camp Highroad is a Christian Adventure Camp located in Virginia and operated by the United Methodist Church to provide a critically needed place for year-round group retreats, camping, team building, outdoor education, Christian summer and winter camps, and special events in a natural setting. Over 10,000 people visit the facility every year.

If you/your family/your group would like to participate in AUMC's cleanup/fix up weekend May 16-18, to help clean up and repair the facilities and grounds at the camp near Middleburg, contact Mark Bradley Bradleyfam@aol.com or 703-930-2726. Reservations are due May 1. Cost is \$20/night/person for inside lodging or \$15/night/person for tent space. Funding for supplies and equipment for Camp Highroad repairs have been designed as an AUMC Lenten Mission Project. If you would like to make a donation, make your check payable to AUMC Lenten Mission Project and in the note line put "Camp Highroad".

Name That Sermon Update

Thank you to everyone who submitted topics for upcoming sermons. Based on your suggestions, here is the schedule for the next eight weeks.

- April 27**, "How Do I Overcome Pride?", preacher Dr. Brown
- May 4**, "Do I Have to Forgive Everyone?" preacher Dr. Brown with KAIROS Community
- May 11**, "Were There Women Disciples?" preacher Rev. Johnson-Oliver
- May 18**, "Are the Bible and Science Contradictory?" tentative with preacher TBD
- May 25**, "Praying Without Being Selfish" preacher Rev. Carrillo
- June 1**, Healing Service, preachers Dr. Brown, Rev. Carrillo, Rev. Johnson-Oliver
- June 8**, Youth Sunday, preacher Trish Bradley, Dir. of Youth Ministries
- June 15**, Trinity Sunday, "Just What is the Trinity, Anyway?" preacher Dr. Brown

This Issue of the Witness:

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FROM FAMINE TO FEAST

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all people a feast of rich food... It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for God, so that God might save us.

- Isaiah 25:6

Dear Friends,

The Parable of the Prodigal Son ends in a feast. In the final chapter of *The Prodigal God*, author Timothy Keller describes this feast as a metaphor for salvation. Based on this metaphor, Keller makes four conclusions about the nature of salvation. Salvation is experiential, material, individual, and communal.

We have studied Keller's book throughout the season of Lent. But as I reflect on what this study should mean for our church, the material and communal aspects of salvation stand out.

That salvation is material is important for anyone who faces physical problems, including hunger, poverty, homelessness, injustice, illness, or disability. As I mentioned in my sermon, we have a scientific tradition that values the physical world at the expense of the spiritual. But we also have a Christian, monastic tradition that values the spiritual at the expense of the physical. It is important for us to remember, however, that God created the physical world and proclaimed that it is good. God cares about our physical condition, and calls us to tend to the physical needs of others. Indeed, the 49 million people who are hungry in America are not simply hoping for a metaphorical feast. When we tend to the physical condition of those in need, we are ambassadors for Christ and agents of divine salvation.

But there is more. Salvation is also communal. Through salvation, we are reconciled to God and to one another in a community of faith. Sharing a feast can be a joyous occasion of love, grace, and reconciliation. But living in community can also be difficult. We are often challenged when the people at the table have different ethnic backgrounds, life experiences, beliefs, orientations, and even political affiliation. Our communities are made whole only when we recognize that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, that all of us experience alienation from God and one another, and all of us are in need of reconciliation and love.

But what happens when these two principles, the material and the communal, are combined? What would happen if we sought to not only provide for the material needs of others, but to bring them into our community of faith? What would happen if we, in the words of Samuel Wells, sought to do ministry with – rather than ministry

to – those in our community? To accomplish this, we would have to be ready to truly embrace the other – in our worship services, small groups, committees, ministries, mission projects, and more. We would have to truly make a place at the table for all.

We concluded our study with a reminder of the meaning of the title, *The Prodigal God*. Indeed, the word prodigal does not mean lost or wayward. It means recklessly extravagant, wastefully lavish, unsparingly liberal and generous. It is a reminder that God is prodigal with grace. God is recklessly extravagant, lavish, and unsparing in God's love toward us. At God's feast, our plate is full and our cup overflows.

Let us prayerfully consider how we might share this grace with our community; indeed, our world.

Easter Blessings,

Cynthia

(Continued from page 1)

Our young people will be sharing briefly about their 30-Hour Famine experience during the April 27 worship services. We are also looking for people interested in sponsoring our young people as they prepare for their fast. Each dollar helps – when 1 in 5 people in developing countries is living on \$1.25 a day, no contribution is too small! All funds collected will go to World Vision. To make a donation/sponsor a youth, you may write a check payable to "AUMC" and in the note line put "30-Hour Famine." Place the check in the Sunday offering plate or send to the church office. Please keep us in your prayers during this weekend and especially pray for the hearts of the teenagers that are participating – this can truly be a lesson in empathy and social responsibility that I pray pierces the hearts of everyone who is contributing.

- Trish Bradley

DATEBOOK

April 27 – New Member Class

April 29 – UMW event

May 2 – 4 – Women's Retreat

May 3 – Contemporary Worship Service

May 14 – Wednesday Night Together

NEWS IN BRIEF

A Contemporary Worship Service will be held on Saturday, May 3, from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Hughes Hall. All are welcome. Bring a friend! For details, contact Rev. Eduardo Carrillo, ecarrillo@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330.

Young Adults' twice-monthly lunch discussion will meet on May 11 and 25 at 12:30 p.m. in room 210. Light lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Eduardo Carrillo, ecarrillo@annandale-umc.org.

There's still time to donate to Lenten Mission projects: Poe Middle School Food Ministry, Camp Highroad, Heritage Drive Campus Ministries, Stop Hunger Now, Brazil Mission Trip, Haiti and Mozambique. Make checks payable to "AUMC" with "Lenten Mission Project" in the memo line. For more information, visit www.annandale-umc.org or pick up a Lenten Mission Project brochure in the Atrium or the church office.

Attention gardeners: If you are going to plant a vegetable garden this spring, consider planting an extra row for the Heritage Drive Food Site. AUMC's food ministry serves about 70 low-income families each week. We have had to stretch donations of perishables further because of increased need and decreased donations. Any amount of your harvest which your family cannot use would be a blessing to a family in Annandale. Bring your donations to the Heritage Drive campus Fellowship Hall any Thursday afternoon. If you have questions, call Betsy Clevenger 703-425-6424.

Summer volunteer opportunities: volunteers, center leaders, and shepherds are needed for AUMC's Vacation Bible School July 7-11, 9 a.m. to noon. Contact Becki Stewart, bstewart@annandale-umc.org or call 703-256-8330.

Volunteer opportunities at Heritage Drive:
Food Distribution operates on Thursdays from 5 - 7 p.m. Contact Betsy Clevenger, 703-425-6424. **ESL classes** meet on Tuesdays from 7 - 9 p.m. Contact Mike or Liz Hoefler at 703-845-7751. **A Tutoring Program** is being planned for this spring. Contact Barb Pearson at b-pearson@cox.net or 703-323-6114. **For additional ideas and questions** about this campus, contact Bill Sinclair 703-321-7529.

Pew Patrol needs a volunteer to prepare the pews for the 5th Sundays of each month. For 2014, that will include June 29, Aug. 31 and Nov. 30. Pew Patrol works any day during the week; duties include making sure the pews have attendance pads, pencils and other materials. To volunteer or for more information, contact Garry Bell gbell@annandale-umc.org.

"Scream-Free Parenting", a free seminar, will be offered at AUMC on Sunday, May 18, 4 - 6 p.m. Pre-registration is not required. Child care will be provided with advance reservations, call 703-256-8330 or email jkitzmiller@annandale-umc.org. The seminar will be presented by Myra Binns Bridgforth, M.S., Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

A Volunteers in Mission adult mission trip to Brenton, WV 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 may go Sunday and return Wednesday or early Thursday at a cost of \$350. Contact John Clarke by phone or text 703 606-6464 or email clarkehj1@gmail.com. Commitments are needed with a nonrefundable deposit of \$250.

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. Complete the two-day course and receive a certificate to submit to your auto insurance company for a reduction of the insurance premium. For those who have completed the course in the past, many insurers require you to take the course every three years to maintain the rate reduction. The cost is \$15 for AARP members (bring your card) and \$20 for non-members. Space is limited. Contact Jane Underhill at 703-573-2056 or jrundie37@gmail.com. Pay on the first day by cash or check made payable to AARP.

Grace and Truth Small Group will begin *The Way* by Adam Hamilton. The study retraces the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Begins Monday, May 5, 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

A Parent Coffee presentation on "Emotional Intelligence", sponsored by The AUMC Weekday Children's Programs, will be held Thursday, May 1, 7 p.m. in the Media Center. Francine Ronis, LPC, LLC will explain emotional intelligence, the significance of it in your child's life, and discuss how you can increase your child's Emotional Quotient to help him/her have more successful relationships. Everyone is welcome.

CIRCLE NEWS

DEBORAH: Mon., May 12, 7:30 p.m., AUMC Rm. 210. Prog.: Carol Irons will continue leading the study of the book *Spirit Walk*. Hostess: Joy Price. Dev.: TBA.

LYDIA: Thurs., May 8, 11:30 a.m. Prog.: Spring luncheon at Clyde's.

MARTHA: Mon., May 19, 12:30, Heritage Campus Fellowship Hall. Prog.: Betsy Clevenger will lead the study of women of the Bible. There will be devotions, and light refreshments will be served.

M&M's: Sat., May 17, 8 a.m., at the home of Pat Sherfey. Hostess: Evie Herbst. Dev.: Pam Thomas.

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

MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tues., May 6	Trustees	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Wed., May 7	Stephen Ministry	7:30 p.m.	Room 303

LECTIONARY TEXTS

April 27, Second Sunday of Easter: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16 (UMH 748); I Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

May 4, Third Sunday of Easter: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837); I Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

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WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, April 27

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

9:30 a.m. M. Pearson

10:30 a.m. D. Johnson

Welcome Desk: 8:30 a.m. E. Herbst, 11 a.m. G. Rothman

Fellowship hour: In His Steps Class

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

11 a.m. E. Carrillo, R. Gallagher, J. Thomas, P. Snitzer (c)

Sunday, May 4

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

9:30 a.m. B. Brown, B. Otto

10:30 a.m. W. Ward

Welcome Desk: 8:30 a.m. J. Brooks, 11 a.m. M. Sherwood

Fellowship hour: Finance Committee

Coming in the next few days...

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: clarkejhl@gmail.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. For details call 703-256-8330.

Immanuel Class begins an award-winning series titled *From Christ to Constantine: The Trial & Testimony of the Early Church* on April 27 at 9:45 a.m. in room 300. This twelve-week series includes bible study, DVD segments filmed in the Holy Land, and discussion. Join us in learning about the early church.

Women of the Day begins a new study of *He Chose the Nails*. Author Max Lucado invites you to examine the cross, contemplate its purpose, and celebrate its significance. Begins Sunday, April 27 at 9:45 am in the Parlor.

"Methodist Women of Mozambique"

program and dessert will be presented by AUMW on Tuesday, April 29, 7 p.m. in Wright Hall. It will feature Almina Maibaze, president of the Mozambique Women, and Victoria Chifeche, General Secretary for Methodist Society of Women in Mozambique and part of the Bishop's cabinet.

A Parent Support Group "Parents Helping Parents", supported by Poe Middle School After-School Program and AUMC, will hold its first meeting on April 29, 7 p.m., at Poe Middle School. Enter through Entrance 2. Babysitting will be provided. This group will discuss raising children, seek and offer advice to others, special guests, and other topics. For more information contact Sheila Kyer 703-981-6080 Kyer027@aol.com or Amanda Sperling at acsperling@fcp.edu.

Enrollment is underway for AUMC's Early Learning Program for children 1 – 3 years. Call 703-256-8667.

NEXT DEADLINE

Friday, April 25 is the deadline for the May 6 Witness which covers May 11 and 18