



AUMC WITNESS

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

Annandale United Methodist Church
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Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver
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Vol. 11 No. 17



We are a Stephen Ministry Church

November 18, 2014

[ADVENT CONSPIRACY]

Advent Study 2014

Christmas was meant to be celebrated not regretted.

We all want our Christmas to be filled with a lot of things. Joy. Memories. Happiness. Above all, we want it to be about Jesus. What we don't want is stress. Or debt. Or feeling like we "missed the moment". Advent Conspiracy is a movement designed to help us all slow down and experience a Christmas worth remembering. But doing this means doing things a little differently. A little creatively. It means turning Christmas upside down.

Join us as we join the Advent conspiracy! This four-part series will help us to 1) worship fully, 2) spend less, 3) give more, and 4) love all. Sermon series, book study,

and small group DVD-based study begin on Sunday, Nov. 23. The following classes and groups are participating in this study:

Group	Facilitator(s)	Day, Time	Room
Immanuel	Janet Woods	Sun, 9:45 am	300
In His Steps	Bill Iwig	Sun, 9:45 am	302
Parents and Promises	Jim Harrington	Sun, 9:45 am	305
Women of the Day	J. Hampton/ J. Montgomery	Sun, 9:45 am	Parlor
Grace and Truth Small Group	G. FitzGibbon/ T. Mitchell	1 st & 3 rd Mon, 7:00 pm	Parlor
Thursday Bible Study	Clarence Brown	Thu, 7:00 pm	209



Hanging of the Greens will be featured when Advent begins on Sunday, Nov. 30, with worship services at 8:30 and 11 a.m. The beautiful Hanging of the Greens is based on the English tradition of decorating the home with wreaths, garlands, a Christmas tree, and evergreens for Advent and Christmas. In a church setting, it readies the sanctuary (and church members) for the season. Invite your friends and family to this special worship service!

Wednesday Night Together fellowship dinner and Advent communion program is scheduled for Dec. 3, 10 and 17 in Wright Hall. Dinner begins at 5:45 p.m. and the program begins at 6:30 p.m. The menus will be Dec. 3: garden salad, chicken and dumplings, pineapple upside down cake; Dec. 10: tossed salad, bean and ham soup, crescent rolls, harvest dump cake; Dec. 17: Italian salad, tortellini and meatball soup, breadsticks, eggnog pie. 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 9, and \$25 per family maximum.

The beloved AUMC **Children's Christmas Pageant** will be Sunday Dec. 14 during 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship services. The children will present a Christmas Pageant retelling the story of Jesus' birth complete with Mary and Joseph, angels, shepherds, animals, and more! This service includes carols, dramatic sets, and special costumes that make the wonder and joy of the season come alive. Registration forms are available from Sunday school teachers (children age 3 yrs.-5th grade). Rehearsal will be Saturday morning, Dec. 13, followed by St. Nick's workshop. For details, contact Becki Stewart, bstewart@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330.

St. Nick's Workshop: Be a part of a special holiday celebration for children and families on Dec. 13, 12 noon – 2 p.m. A light kid-friendly lunch will be provided followed by simple crafts and a visit to the Youth Secret Santa shop where children can purchase gifts (\$1-\$5) for their families. Other activities will include the story of St. Nicholas, "the Santa that all the other Santas came from" and a storybook corner. Children can have their picture taken with St. Nick! For more information, contact Becki Stewart bstewart@annandale-umc.org, 703-256-8330.

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Join the Advent Conspiracy!

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

-- Matthew 1:23

Dear Friends,

The countdown to Christmas began several weeks ago. Retailers began selling Christmas decorations before Halloween, and many have been promoting pre-Black Friday sales since early November. According to the Wall Street Journal, holiday sales are expected to reach over \$488 billion. Those who defend this overly commercialized season argue that but for the holiday season, many businesses would not be profitable for the year. Unfortunately, retailers' efforts to put their businesses in the black leave many families in the red.

Families are stressed, strained, and in debt after the holiday season. There has to be a better way.

During this Advent season, we invite you to join the Advent Conspiracy. We invite you to opt out of the overly commercialized stress of the season and instead, spend time worshipping God, spend time with family, and engage in meaningful giving to help the poor and others in need. We invite you to commit to the four tenets of the Advent conspiracy: worship fully, spend less, give more, and love all.

It all begins with worship. The Advent story, in fact, is filled with worship. According to the Gospel of Luke, after Mary was visited by an angel, she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Mary worshipped God with her now famous Magnificat, saying "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...." After the birth of his son, John the Baptist, Zechariah worshipped God, saying "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David...." Similarly, the angels that appeared to the shepherds worshipped, saying "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" According to the Gospel of Matthew, wise men from the east found the Christ child and worshipped him, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

In this Sunday's sermon, I will reflect on what it means to "worship fully." I will describe worship as not simply a weekly commitment, but a moment-by-moment way of living in God's presence. This season, I invite you to fill your spirits not your credit cards; to worship fully, spend less, give more, and love all. Perhaps then we can truly experience the presence of Immanuel, God is with us.

Blessings,

Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver

Share how the Advent Conspiracy is blessing you and your family. Visit www.Facebook.com/academyofdiscipleship.

Help support AUMC activities and/or purchase a unique gift for family or friend: AUMC T-shirts for \$10 each in youth and adult sizes; AUMC car magnets are \$5 (supports youth missions). Purchase in the church office. Exact cash or check payable to AUMC with "t-shirt" or "magnet" in the note line.

2014 new crop pecans will be sold by UMW on Sundays after worship in Wright Hall. To reserve a case of 24, or to make a special request, contact Sally Bizer @ 703-256-3373 or Joni Laurence @ 703-941-7481. Thank you for supporting UMW mission projects.

Stamp Out Loneliness: Caring Ministries is collecting 2015 picture calendars, note/greeting cards, Christmas cards, writing paper and "Forever" postage stamps for women incarcerated in the Fluvanna (Va.) Correctional Center for Women. Bring calendars, un-used cards, paper and stamps to the purple collection box outside of the church office. Please give postage stamps to the office staff for safe keeping.

Dec. 7 will have a single service at 10:30 a.m. of Lessons and Carols with children, youth, and adult choirs.

AUMC will host a hypothermia relief center for the homeless Nov. 30 – Dec. 7. Everyone is invited to participate. Signup sheets are in the atrium. Donations are needed of men's winter clothes, toiletries and fast food gift cards. Donation boxes for clothes are in atrium. Take gift cards to the church office. For more information, contact AUMC's Hypothermia Coordinator, Cyndi Jones, 571-282-3822 or cyndij123@verizon.net.

Deliver hope to children, families in need, the homeless, and victims of human trafficking victims this holiday season by participating in AUMC's Advent Giving Tree. Look for Christmas trees with special tags just outside of the sanctuary. The Missions Committee is collecting gift items and donations for local needs in our community. The deadline for Alternative Giving is Dec. 21.

Thanksgiving Baskets for our homebound shut-ins will be filled on Saturday, Nov. 22, 10 a.m. – noon, in room 210. Volunteers needed to fill the baskets! Sign up in the Atrium to deliver bags. Contact Jane Underhill, 703-573-2056 or gwaposr@cox.net if you have questions.

Volunteers are needed for ACCA's furniture ministry, which delivers donated furniture to needy families. AUMC's next date to assist is Saturday, Dec. 20, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. For more information, and to volunteer, contact Brad Rothermel bigbadbrad63@hotmail.com or 703-256-3511.

Share your love for Annandale UMC with future generations. Leave a legacy gift through your will or estate plan to Annandale UMC. To discuss potential gifts to the AUMC Foundation, contact Bill Iwig at 301-365-7532.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy Scout Troop 150 will sell **Christmas wreaths** before and after Sunday services until they are sold out. This is the troop's only fundraiser each year, and your support is very much appreciated. All funds go toward camping trips, Scout events, and troop equipment.

Youth and Children's Ministries are collecting new (and very gently used) gift items for the St. Nick's Workshop. We need gift bags of all sizes, tissue paper, and gift tags. Also needed are board games, soaps, jewelry, and other gifts for dad. Children shop, with youth "elves" for family members, and then have their secret selections wrapped to take home and place under the tree. Collection box will be in the atrium and on the third floor in the Parent Resource Area (blue boxes by the elevator near room 311). Donation deadline is Sunday, Dec. 7. To volunteer to help set up Dec. 12, or to ask questions, contact Joni Laurence, 703-941-7481 or Laurence4school@verizon.net.

The need is greater than ever. A special offering is taken on Communion Sundays (first week of each month) to help ACCA and for our neighbors in need. So when you see the plates by the communion rail Sunday mornings, please give generously.

Charge Conference: A Charge Conference will be held at AUMC on Thursday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. All members are welcome to attend.

"Brownies with Brown" New Member Class will meet Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 14 at 9:30 a.m. in room 212C.

Young Adults' lunch discussion following Sunday worship will meet Nov. 23 and Dec. 8 at 12:30 p.m. in room 210. Light lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Eduardo Carrillo, ecarrillo@annandale-umc.org.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service: AUMC will participate with other churches in the Annandale Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving worship service on Tuesday, Nov. 25, 7:30 p.m., at John Calvin Presbyterian, 6531 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Everyone is welcome!

CIRCLE NEWS

DEBORAH: Tues., Dec. 2, 12 noon, Wright Hall. Prog.: Hosting a staff Christmas Luncheon.

LYDIA: Thurs., Dec. 11, 11:30 a.m., Clyde's Restaurant (Alexandria). Prog.: Christmas Luncheon.

MARTHA: Mon., Dec. 15, 1 p.m., at the home of Janet Woods. Prog.: Christmas Potluck Luncheon. For information call Betsy Clevenger at 703-425-6424.

M&M's: Sat., Dec. 20, 6 p.m. at the home of Debbi Iwig. Prog.: Christmas Potluck Dinner. Spouses and friends are invited.

As always, new members and guests are welcome at all circle meetings!

Serve as a Tutor: AUMC's Heritage Drive Tutoring Program assists elementary and middle-school students on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. To volunteer as a tutor, receptionist, helping with snacks, or in some other way, or if you have any questions, contact Jerry Beyer at beyerga@gmail.com or 703-399-1395. The Tutoring Program will be closed Nov. 26, Dec. 24 and 31.

Feed the Hungry: Help is needed with food distribution, Heritage campus, 7901 Heritage Dr., every Thursday, 5 – 7 p.m. except Nov. 27, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, when the site will be closed. For details call Betsy Clevenger, 703-425-6424.

The Haiti Mission Team will depart for Petit Goave, Haiti, on Jan. 8 and will do construction work and relational ministry as well as host Vacation Bible School for 350 Haitian children. **The following donations are needed:** two tarps (12' x 16'), eight regulation-size soccer balls, one air pump, eight Chinese jump ropes, eight jump ropes 14' or 16' long (jump ropes available at Amazon), two 20-foot parachutes (available at www.discountschoolsupply.com, eight plastic beach balls to use with parachutes, stickers (anything child oriented), clothes pins, 350 Crayola fine-tip markers and 350

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

To place a poinsettia in the Sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one on Dec. 24, please complete the form below and return it to the church office with your check for \$11 per plant **by Sunday, Dec. 7.**

Please use a separate form for each plant ordered.

No telephone orders will be accepted. Make checks payable to AUMC.

Poinsettia given by: _____

Phone: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

In memory/honor of: _____

(Check one) I will take the poinsettia Give poinsettia to shut-ins

boxes of 8-count Crayola crayons (this box size and brand only). Place donations in the marked boxes in the Atrium by Sunday, Dec. 14. Cash donations will help purchase a snack and juice box for children attending VBS. For many, that will be their only meal of the day. For more information, contact Pam Jones at 703-820-0058 or foueverfree@verizon.net.

The need for food is growing: help our neighbors in need! Bring non-perishable canned and boxed food on Sunday, Dec. 7, for the ACCA Food Pantry.

MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tues., Nov. 25	SPRC	7 p.m.	Room 210
Tues, Dec. 2	Trustees	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Wed., Dec. 3	Stephen Ministry	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Tues., Dec. 9	Finance Committee	7 p.m.	Room 210
Tues., Dec. 9	Missions Committee	7 p.m.	Room 302
Tues., Dec. 16	Church Council	7:15 p.m.	Room 302



Upcoming Sermons, Advent Conspiracy:

Nov. 23: "Worship Fully" – Rev. Johnson-Oliver

Nov. 30: "Spend Less" – Dr. Brown

Dec. 7 Single Service: "Give More" – Rev. Carrillo

Dec. 21: "Love All" – Rev. Johnson-Oliver

Help Needed to Locate Lost Lambs 2014

Please call the AUMC office (703-256-8330) if you have **a current and correct address** for the following people:

Mark Beery	Raymond Scott Lynch
Nicholas Black III	Kendall Millard
Charles Bladen	Katherine Millard
Carolyn Botkin	Margaret Moore
Edgar Bradley III	Susan Moore
Scott Bradley	Alexander Morrow
Martin Brotemarkle	Barbara Mullan
Anthony Bunte	Victoria Nkrumah
Robert Couper	Wilbur Oates
Philip Drew	Rhett Parker
Charles Dwan	Teresa Parker
Eugene Frinks	Kimberlee Payton
Nancy Gallagher	Doris Pugh
Anita Goff	William Rogers
Florence Gyamfi	Chan Rosado
John Harrison	Carla Rosado
Anne Harrison	Leah Sebetic
Catherine Heberlein	Jonathan Sweet
James Heberlein	Ronda Sweet
Judith Helsel	Sarah Tate
Linda Hendershott	Jennifer Walsh
Eloise Hoke	Debra White
Ellen Howard	Marion White
Donna Jackson	William Wyatt
Jean Khan	Shirley Wyatt
Linda Lauffer	

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(USPS 046-900)

Send address changes to:

Annandale United Methodist Church

6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003-3458

Published monthly.

Periodicals Postage Paid at

Annandale, VA 22003

WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, Nov. 23

Door greeters: 8:10 a.m. J. Maxwell, K. Redden, W. Lord;

9:30 a.m. D. Ruhter; 10:30 a.m. W. Ward, E. Moss

Welcome Desk: 8:30 L. Miller, V. Cannon;

11 a.m. D. Johnson

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. S. Chase, J. Clarke, S. Kenski, S. Fleming (c)

11 a.m. G. Rothman, R. Witkowski, P. Snitzer,

P. Adams (c)

Sunday, Nov. 30

Door greeters: 8:10 a.m. S. Fleming, J. Beyer, R. Hampton;

9:30 a.m. B. Otto; 10:30 a.m. D. Johnson, R. Bruns

Welcome Desk: 8:30 S. Kyer, S. Keplinger;

11 a.m. A. Gribben

Fellowship hour: Lydia Circle

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. D. Pemberton, R. Roberts, G. Sherfey,

P. Sherfey (c)

11 a.m. S. Fleming, C. Perdue, P. Straub, R. Gordon (c)

Single Service Sunday, Dec. 7

Door greeters: 9 a.m. J. Vance, S. Naugle;

10 a.m. M. Pearson, W. Ward

Fellowship hour: Staff Parish Relations Committee

Ushers: S. Chase, J. Clarke, J. Petty, K. Sabo,

R. Gallagher, P. Straub, J. Thomas, P. Adams

Sunday, Dec. 14

Door greeters: 8:10 a.m. E. Wilson, C. Cox, J. Schnur;

9:30 a.m. D. Ruhter; 10:30 a.m. D. Johnson, R. Bruns

Fellowship hour: Trustee Committee

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. A. Cogswell, D. Pemberton, E. Sackey,

E. McKenney (c)

11 a.m. E. Carrillo, S. Fleming, G. Rothman,

P. Shockley(c)

NEXT DEADLINE:

Friday, Dec. 5 is the deadline for the Dec. 16 Witness which covers Dec. 21, 24, and 28, and Jan. 7, 14, and 21.