



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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We are a Stephen Ministry Church

December 16, 2014

New Year Sermon Series:

SERVING FROM THE HEART

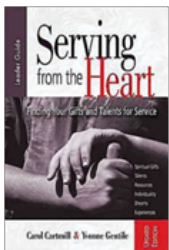
Finding Your Gifts and Talents for Service

Jan. 4 – Feb. 8

God's plan for the church calls for each member of the Body of Christ to play a vital role. Sometimes we think that serving God is an obligation that it isn't meant to be enjoyable. The truth is that God wants us to find joy and fulfillment when we serve. That happens when we serve in a role that matches who God created us to be.

This sermon series includes a workbook for individual or group study, including a spiritual gifts inventory. There will also be opportunities to learn more about and discuss ways to serve in ministry at AUMC. Dr. Brown will preach Jan. 4 and 11; Rev. Carrillo will preach Jan. 18.

For more information, visit www.annandale-umc.org/academyofdiscipleship or contact Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver at cjohnsonoliver@annandale-umc.org.



In this updated edition of *Serving from the Heart* (produced by United Methodist Church of the Resurrection), church members will take a 6-week journey of self-discovery to assess their STRIDE - Spiritual gifts, Talents, Resources, Individuality, Dreams and Experiences - all adding up to an enhanced capacity to serve God and neighbor.

DATEBOOK

Wed., Dec. 17, 5:45 p.m., Wednesday Night Together dinner; 6:30 p.m. Advent worship/communion

Sun., Dec. 21, 8:30 and 11 a.m., Fourth Sunday in Advent - Worship. Last sermon for Advent Conspiracy--"Know Justice, Know Christmas", Rev. Johnson-Oliver.

Sun., Dec. 21, 6:30 p.m., A Brethren Christmas Concert, tickets \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door

Wed., Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, 4 p.m. Worship for families/children; 7 and 11 pm. Communion Worship

Thurs., Dec. 25, Christmas Day (no services)

Sun., Dec. 28, 10:30 a.m., Worship, young adults lead; no child or youth Sunday School

Christmas Eve at AUMC!
Join us on Wednesday, Dec. 24, in celebration of the birth of Christ.

Come at 4 p.m. for a service that's fun for all ages, including a nativity scene!

Communion services will take place at 7 and 11 p.m. Childcare is available at 7 p.m.

Both services will feature candle-lighting.
Have a very merry Christmas!

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Christmas Gifts



As the holiday season rapidly approaches and we prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, for many the air is filled not with joy and anticipation—but anxiety, apprehension, and stress. We are faced with the reality that the season requires so much of our time, so much of our strength, and yes—so much of our money.

The list of gifts seems to get longer and longer, or maybe you find yourself with shorter lists and bigger totals. Whatever the case might be, I hope you are taking time to reflect and ponder what's important to you and your loved ones this Christmas.

Many times we think that the bigger the price tag is, the bigger the thank you will be. But that's often not the case. Sometimes the intention behind our gift giving is what matter most.

I grew up in a household where, for many years, the lists for presents were modified from toys and gadgets to winter clothing and school supplies. Now, when you are a child and you get what you need versus what you actually want, you tend to feel let down. Our immediate reaction is to say not fair! Or we might even dare to think we deserve something better.

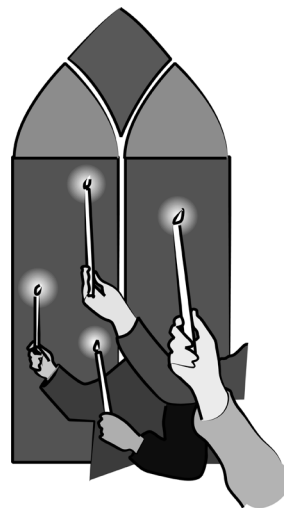
But is Christmas about what we deserve? Thanks be to God that we don't get what we deserve, but we receive what God gives.

This season, the prophet Isaiah commands our attention: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (9:6). In the midst of these hectic times, such social unrest, and the uncertainty of what's ahead in 2015, God gives us God's own self through Jesus.

This gift is not only another one of many, it's not just another present we put under the tree, and it's definitely not what we deserve. But what makes this

gift even more special is that it is one to be shared. We can invite and share a meal with that lonely person in the pew who we all see yet barely talk to. We can offer a smile and a hug to troubled faces we see day in and day out. We don't have to buy a gift to share Jesus with one another—we just have to be like Jesus.

Give of your time, share God's mighty acts with others, but most of all, remember that Jesus is the Prince of Peace who we can all rely on—not just this season but all throughout 2015. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Eduardo
Eduardo



CIRCLE NEWS

DEBORAH: Mon., Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m., AUMC Rm. 210. Prog.: Carol Irons will continue the book study of *The Spirit Walk*. Hostess: Marilyn Deihr. Dev.: Sandy Barker.

LYDIA: Thurs., Jan. 8, 10 a.m., AUMC Rm 209. Prog.: Betsy Clevenger will present details concerning the Braddock Road Elementary School mission needs. Hostess: TBA. Dev.: Shirley Bailey.

MARTHA: Mon., Jan. 26, 1:00 p.m. Heritage Campus Fellowship Hall. Prog.: Study of Women of the Bible. Light refreshments and a devotion will be provided.

M&M's: Sat., Jan. 17, 8:00 a.m., at the home of Pat Sherfey. Hostess: Joni Laurence. Dev.: Cyndi Jones.

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

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Communion Steward Committee needs more stewards to assist with setting up communion in the Sanctuary. If you are interested, contact Emily Wilson, 703-876-5858 or Garry Bell, gbell@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330.

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!

Young Adults' lunch discussion following Sunday worship will meet Jan. 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.

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

Serve as a Tutor at AUMC's Heritage Drive Tutoring Program for elementary-aged students on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Contact Jerry Beyer at beyerga@gmail.com or 703-399-1395. The Tutoring Program will be closed Dec. 24 and 31.

Volunteer as a teacher at the ESL Program. Call Mike or Liz Hoefler at 703-845-7751 for details.

Wednesday Night Together fellowship dinner is scheduled for Jan. 14 in Wright Hall. Dinner begins at 5:45 p.m. and the program begins at 6:30 p.m. 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 need for food is growing: help our neighbors in need! Bring non-perishable canned and boxed food on Sunday, Jan. 4, for the ACCA Food Pantry.

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.

New crop pecans will be sold by UMW on Sundays after worship in Wright Hall. Thank you for supporting UMW mission projects.

Upper Room Readers: a new Upper Room devotional booklet is available each month and can be picked up in the brochure racks by the front door. To help off-set the costs, those who take the Readers are requested to contribute \$5. Checks should be made payable to AUMC with "Upper Room Reader" in the note line. Checks can be brought in or mailed to the church office.

Volunteers are needed for ACCA's furniture ministry, which delivers donated furniture to needy families. AUMC's next date to assist is Saturday, Jan. 14, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. For more information, and to volunteer, contact Brad Rothermel, 703-338-6970, or bigbadbrad63@hotmail.com.



Flowers on the Altar Needed

If you would like to place flowers on the altar in memory or honor of a loved one, please circle the date(s) you wish and return the form below along with a check, made payable to AUMC. Cost: \$25 per arrangement. Flowers are not placed on the altar on the first Sunday of each month, Communion Sunday; Easter Sunday and the Sunday before Christmas have special flowers.

January		11	18	25
February		8	15	22
March	8	15	22	29
April		12	19	26
May	10	17	24	31
June		14	21	28
July		12	19	26
August	9	16	23	30
September		13	20	27
October		11	18	25
November	8	15	22	29
December		13		27

Name of Donor: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory of In Honor of (check one)

I/we wish to leave the flowers for distribution to shut-ins or those in the hospital. YES _____ NO _____

MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tues., Dec. 23	SPRC	7 p.m.	Room 210
Tues, Jan. 6	Trustees	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Wed., Jan. 7	Stephen Ministry	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Tues., Jan. 13	Finance Committee	7 p.m.	Room 210
Tues., Jan. 13	Missions Committee	7 p.m.	Room 302
Tues., Jan. 20	Church Council	7:15 p.m.	Room 302

Inclement Weather Announcements: When the weather is severe enough to cancel services/activities, information will be recorded on the office voice mail system. Call 703-256-8330 to hear the recorded message or visit the website www.annandale-umc.org.

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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.

“How does one thank others who cared for them and prayed for them during a major health crisis? And later these friends showered the person with cards, calls, flowers, and goodies to eat, and continued to pray for this person’s recovery. The only way I know is to say thank you and may our Lord greatly bless each of you.” – *Stella C. Byers*.

News You Can Use: Stay Informed!

News about AUMC is as close as your “in box” or a click of your mouse! Have you visited the AUMC Facebook page? Go to the web site www.annandale-umc.org and click on the “f” in the bottom right hand corner. Would you like to be notified of funerals at AUMC? Send an email to drogerson@annandale-umc.org and ask to be notified when funeral services are scheduled here. Did you know you can receive the Witness newsletter via email? (Save paper and postage!) Ask to be included on the email distribution by sending an email to drogerson@annandale-umc.org.

WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, Dec. 21

Door greeters: 8:10 a.m. R. Hampton, W. Lord;
9:30 a.m. B. Otto; 10:30 a.m. W. Ward, E. Moss

Welcome Desk: 8:30 J. Brooks;
11 a.m. A. Gribben

Fellowship hour: United Methodist Men

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. S. Kenski, R. Roberts,
G. Sherfey, P. Sherfey (c)
11 a.m. E. Carrillo, R. Gallagher,
R. Witkowski, P. Snitzer (c)

Single Service Sunday, Dec. 28

Door greeters: S. Fleming, J. Beyer; M. Pearson;
R. Bruns, W. Ward

Welcome Desk: S. Kenski, B. Frush, A. Ayala

Fellowship hour: Witness/Missions Committee

Ushers: 10:30 a.m. C. Jones, C. Jones, C. Perdue,
R. Gordon (c)



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sunday, Jan. 4

Door greeters: 8:10 a.m. J. Maxwell, K. Redden, S. Naugle;
9:30 a.m. M. Pearson; 10:30 a.m. D. Johnson, R. Bruns
Welcome Desk: 8:30 J. Brooks; 11 a.m. K. Nietzey

Sunday, Jan. 11

Door greeters: 8:10 a.m. R. Hampton, W. Lord, J. Schnur;
9:30 a.m. D. Ruhter; 10:30 a.m. W. Ward, E. Moss
Welcome Desk: 8:30 M. McCarthy;
11 a.m. D. Johnson, D. Johnson

NEXT DEADLINE:

Friday, Jan. 9 is the deadline for the Jan. 20 Witness which covers Jan. 18 and 25 and Feb. 1, 8, and 15.