

AUMC WITNESS

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

Annandale United Methodist Church
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We are a Stephen Ministry Church

January 19, 2016

I Know the Plans I Have for You!

Grace and peace in the name of our Savior!

"4Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." (Jeremiah 29:4-7)

These words were sent to a generation of people who had been sent into exile; they had lost home, lost possessions, lost family members, lost the Temple, lost their identity, and lost faith in God. Their initial expectation was that their exile would last but a few years, but this word from the prophet offers that their time in this alien place will be extended.

Something strange happens when multiple generations inhabit an alien land. While it will never be home for those who are the first generation, the succeeding generations, "gen 1.5 or gen 2," often become hybrids, become familiar with the culture, become at home with the language and rhythms of the place they find themselves in.

For many who wear the mantle of Christian, this world can be a foreign and hostile place. We wish for a world which is the perfection of God's intention. But that is not what this particular prophetic word says to us. Instead the prophet asks that we seek the welfare of the city or the context in which we find ourselves.

That is resonant with our missional call to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. That is resonant with our stated intention of offering Christ to a new generation. That is resonant with our stated intention of helping our newly arrived neighbors become fully participating and contributing members of the community. Above all, it is resonant with the necessity of continuing to grow in Christ and deepening our discipleship.

As we begin a new year, I am full of excitement for the concrete plans we have developed to make those intentions a reality; I am further excited about the many new persons in our faith community who are stepping up, stepping in, and finding new and creative ways to turn those visions into an actual picture of God's preferred future.

Clarence
Clarence

Lenten Missions Projects:

Responding to needs here and around the world! During this Lenten season, renew your commitment to serve others through the AUMC Mission Program. Join our Christian outreach by making a generous Lenten Mission Project offering. (Use special envelopes or give online at www.annandale-umc.org.) The Missions Committee set a target to raise \$100,000 to fund six local projects: Meals Ministry at Poe Middle School, Stop Hunger Now, Camp Highroad, ACCA, 100,000 Homes; Kairos Prison Ministry, and three international projects: Rebuilding Haiti Mission Project, Brazil Mission Project, Mozambique Mission Project. For a complete description, visit www.annandale-umc.org or pick up a Lenten Mission Project flyer in the Atrium or church office.

Lent Through Easter

Lenten Communion, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary, every Wednesday through March 16

Wednesday Night Together dinner, 5:45 p.m.,
Feb. 24, March 9

Easter Festival, March 12, 10:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday, March 20, worship 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Maunder Thursday, March 24, worship 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, March 25, 12 - 3 p.m. Little White Church open for prayers; 7:30 p.m. worship, sanctuary

Easter Sunday, March 27, worship 6:30, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Easter Adult Sunday School: "The Mystery of the Empty Tomb: Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson", Rev. Jerry Bruce.

This Issue of the Witness:

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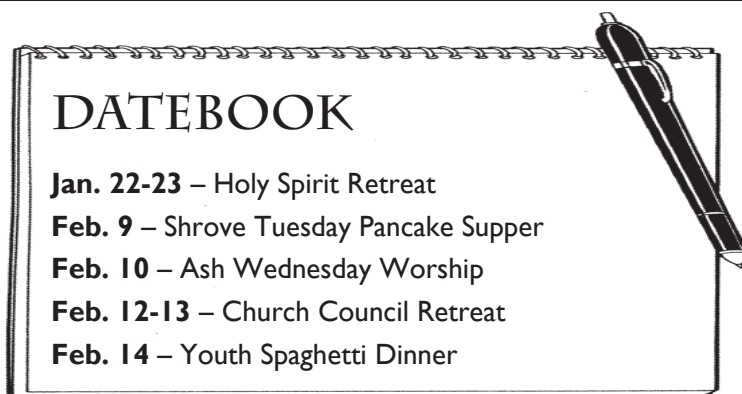
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The Holy Spirit Retreat will be held at AUMC Jan. 22-23, and everyone is welcome. Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit? Join AUMC pastors and staff as they explore these questions in a spirit-filled retreat and discuss the meaning and significance of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Based on the Alpha Course, this church-wide event for both youth and adults will inspire us for the new year! The Retreat will be held at AUMC beginning Friday at 6:30 p.m. and ending Saturday at 3:30 p.m. Registration fee is \$20 (includes meals and materials). Child care will be available for children ages 1-5 with advance registration. Cost: \$5 per child. Register at www.annandale-umc.org/holyspiritretreat.

AUMC's Women's Retreat is coming up fast - April 29, 30 and May 1 - and spaces are filling up. The total payment is due Feb. 7. Don't miss an opportunity to get to know the ladies of AUMC in a small group setting. The keynote speaker will be United Methodist Minister Rev. Debra Colbert Cline, who will bring an energetic and Bible-based message of "Be Strong in the Lord and His Might Power". Retreat attendees will also attend the Sight and Sound Theater to see the magnificent play "Samson". All women are invited! Register Sunday mornings in Wright Hall. For more information, contact Cyra Doty at radu94@aol.com or 703-354-5330.

A "Special" Charge Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. in room 210. All are welcome.



Wednesday Night Together dinners and Lenten worship and communion are scheduled for Feb. 24 and March 9, 5:45 p.m. in Wright Hall (worship at 6:30 p.m.). Register for dinner on the pew pad on Sundays or by noon on the prior Monday either online at www.annandale-umc.org, by contacting Joyce Kitzmiller: jkitzmiller@annandale-umc.org or calling 703-256-8330. Menu for Feb. 24 will be harvest salad, meatloaf, cupcakes, mashed potatoes, green beans, white Texas sheet cake. Meal price is \$8/adult, \$4/child under 9, or \$25 max/family.

Beginning with this issue, the Witness newsletter will only be sent via US Mail upon request. To help AUMC save hundreds of dollars in postage and printing, the monthly Witness newsletter will no longer be automatically mailed to every member; instead it will be sent via email. It is also posted on the web site www.annandale-umc.org. However, if you do not have computer access and/or want to continue receiving the Witness via U.S. Mail, call the church office at 703-256-8330.

Open Houses for Weekday Preschool and Early Learning Programs' prospective parents will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 26, Thursday, Feb. 11, and Wednesday, Feb. 24. Open houses will begin with an informational session about the programs to be followed by a tour and begin at 10 a.m. in the WPS/ELP Office, room 122.

Ushers needed! Women, men, or youth are needed to serve as ushers for the 8:30 worship service once a month (or less frequently if more volunteer). If interested or need more information, contact Randy Gordon, rgordon@ngfa.org or call the church office 703-256-8330.

Help feed the hungry: the ACCA food pantry needs to be restocked. Sunday, Feb. 7, is collection Sunday for ACCA. The Heritage campus food distribution collection Sunday will be Feb. 21. Bring boxes, bags and cans of non-perishable food to the Atrium on those Sundays.

Inclement weather info: When the weather is severe enough to cancel worship services/activities, information will be recorded on the office voice mail system. Call 703-246-8330 to hear the recorded message.

Join the snow removal team! In the event of snow, volunteers are needed to help shovel snow from sidewalks around Annandale United Methodist Church (main campus). If you would like to volunteer, contact the Board of Trustees Chairman Eldon Hildebrandt and your name will be added to the list. He can be reached at ehildeb123@aol.com or 703-532-3970.

Valentine's Day spaghetti dinner,
 hosted by the AUMC youth, is scheduled for Sunday,
 Feb. 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. in Wright Hall. Cost is \$10
 per person and includes salad, spaghetti, bread, drinks,
 and dessert. Seatings will be available at 5, 5:30, 6 and
 6:30 p.m. Reservations are requested and can be made
 online at <http://goo.gl/forms/p0bixd0RFQ> or by calling
 703-256-8330. The youth will help prepare and serve
 the meal; proceeds will benefit upcoming youth
 Grid activities. Pay at the door; checks
 can be made payable to AUMC
 with "youth dinner" in
 the noteline.

Help distribute food to neighbors in need every
 Thursday, 5-7 p.m., at the Heritage campus, 7901
 Heritage Dr. Both stand up and sit down tasks available.

AUMC's furniture ministry for ACCA needs
 volunteers! This team delivers donated furniture to
 needy families in the Annandale area one morning a
 month. AUMC's next date to assist is Saturday, Feb.
 20, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. For more information, and to
 volunteer, contact Brad Rothermel, 703-338-6970, or
 bigbadbrad63@hotmail.com.

Tutors, readers, snack providers and
 administrative volunteers are needed for AUMC's
 Tutoring Program on Wednesdays from 3:45 – 5:45 p.m.
 at the Heritage Campus. Contact Jerry Beyer, 703-399-
 1395 to serve in the tutoring program or for more
 information.

The need is greater than ever this time of year.
 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 Feb. 7, please give generously.

Give My Regards to Broadway, the AUMC
 Dessert Cabaret, will be Friday, Feb. 26. If the Friday
 show sells out, an encore performance will be added
 on Saturday, Feb. 27. Join us for AUMC Music Ministry's
 exciting evening of popular Broadway show tunes and
 delectable desserts! Show time is 7:30 p.m. in the
 Sanctuary. An array of fine desserts will be available
 during the intermission. Tickets are \$10 in advance and
 \$15 at the door. Tickets will be sold on Sunday mornings
 in Wright Hall and in the church office during the week.
 Invite your family and friends for a entertaining evening!



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

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 _____

CIRCLE NEWS

DEBORAH: Will not be meeting in February

LYDIA: Thurs., Feb. 11, 10 a.m., AUMC Rm 209.
 Prog.: TBA. Hostesses: Bina Cumby & Joan Oliver.
 Dev.: Shirley Bailey.

MARTHA: Mon., Feb. 22, 1 p.m., Heritage Campus
 Fellowship Hall. Prog.: Continuing the study of women of
 the Bible led by Betsy Clevenger. Hostess: Diane
 Strickland. Dev.: Emma George.

M&M's: Sat., Feb. 18, 8 a.m., at the home of Pat Sherfey.
 Hostess: Margaret Bruce. Dev.: Polly

SARAH ELIZABETH: Sun., Feb. 14, 1 p.m.,
 AUMC Rm 209.

**Visitors and guests are welcome
 at all circles!**

Thank you for making a difference!

The AUMC family continues its tradition of supporting international, local and regional mission activities – and the efforts are appreciated! Elsewhere in the newsletter the Lenten Mission Projects for 2016 are listed, and information about AUMC's mission programs are available on the web site www.annandale-umc.org and in a brochure available in the church office.

AUMC's food ministry is one that makes a big impact. Did you know that our four Poe Teams feed 300 – 350 teens in Poe Middle School's after school "at risk" program every Tuesday? We also package a simple take-home meal for 52 fourth and fifth graders each week during the school year. We package and send off approximately 100,000 meals for people near and far during AUMC's two annual "Stop Hunger Now" events. During the hypothermia months of December through March we pack 50

MINISTRY MEETINGS			
Tues., Jan. 26	Church Council	7:30 p.m.	Room 210
Tues., Feb. 2	Trustees	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Wed., Feb. 3	Stephen Ministry	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Tues., Feb. 9	Finance Committee	7 p.m.	Room 210
Tues., Feb. 9	Missions Committee	7 p.m.	Room 302
Tues., Feb. 16	Church Council	7:15 p.m.	Room 302

bag lunches weekly for the Bailey's homeless shelter and during the summer make 700 sandwiches weekly to help feed children who would have eaten free lunch at school. The Heritage Drive food site distributes donated food Thursday evenings year-round to families in the neighborhood, many who live in low income housing. During 2015, the site served 3,075 families which included 11,557 family members!

AUMC folks donate cash, food, clothing, volunteer hours and prayers of support for these and other outreach programs. Everyone's help is welcome! For more information, call the church office 703-256-8330.



Attention all current and beginning Acolytes and Crucifers! There will be a mandatory meeting and training for all acolytes/crucifers and parents on Sunday, Jan. 31, from 9:40 -10:10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Please confirm your attendance by e-mail to Pat Vaughn at pvaughn@annandale-umc.org

WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, Jan. 24

Door greeters: 8:10 J. Maxwell, K. Redden, S. Naugle;
9:30 M. Pearson;
10:30 W. Ward

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. A. Cogswell, R. Patton, R. Gordon,
E. McKenney (c)
11 a.m. A. Bretzfelder, L. Bretzfelder, P. Straub,
P. Snitzer (c)

Sunday, Jan. 31

Door greeters: 8:10 R. Hampton, W. Lord;
9:30 D. Ruhter;
10:30 D. Johnson

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. J. Haymaker, S. Naugle, R. Gordon,
S. Fleming (c)
11 a.m. S. Fleming, R. Gallagher, G. Rothman,
P. Adams (c)

Sunday, Feb. 7

Door greeters: 8:10 a.m. J. Beyer, E. Wilson;
9:30 a.m. B. Otto;
10:30 a.m. W. Ward

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. A. Cogswell, R. Patton, G. Sherfey,
P. Sherfey (c)
11 a.m. W. Annan, C. Perdue, J. Thomas,
R. Gordon (c)

Sunday, Feb. 14

Door greeters: 8:10 a.m. J. Vance, C. Cox;
9:30 a.m. M. Pearson;
10:30 a.m. D. Johnson

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. S. Chase, J. Clarke, S. Fleming,
E. McKenney (c)
11 a.m. S. Fleming, R. Gallagher, G. Rothman,
P. Shockley (c)

NEXT DEADLINE:

Friday, Feb. 5 is the deadline for the Feb. 16 Witness which covers Feb. 7 and 14.