



AUMC WITNESS

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

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Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver



We are a Stephen Ministry Church

Vol. 13 No. 2

February 16, 2016

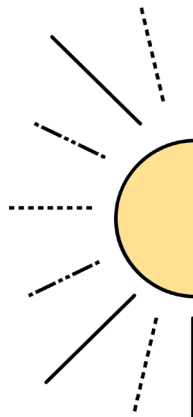
Spirituality of Community

During Lent, there is often much talk about the inward spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, solitude, and silence. Thanks to the rich monastic traditions, including Benedictine spirituality, we have been made aware of the benefits of an inward spiritual life.

Equally important, however, are the spiritual practices that involve community. These include worship, confession, guidance, service, and spiritual friendship. These practices call us out of ourselves, to intentional spiritual relationships of authenticity, accountability, and togetherness. During this Lenten season, Annandale UMC has launched a pilot ministry of home-based small groups. In a world of busyness and disconnection, the spiritual practice of community can be as challenging to implement as many of the inward disciplines. Yet the benefits of spiritual community can be equally rewarding, transformative, and life changing. Here are a few thoughts on the spirituality of community.

+ Theology of Community

Our highest expression of community is seen in our theology of the Trinity. The Christian understanding of the divine is one God in three persons: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit. The Gospel of John describes the Holy Spirit as sent from the Father in the name of Christ: "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you." This vision of divine community is both mystery and model. It is a mystery that exceeds human understanding but also a model of union and communion to which humanity can aspire.

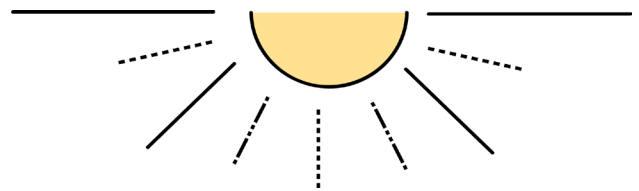


Lenten Missions Projects:

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 Projects offering. (Use special envelopes or give online www.annandale-umc.org.) The Missions Committee set a target to raise \$100,000 to fund five 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 of the Mission Projects, visit www.annandale-umc.org or pick up a 2016 Lenten Mission Project flyer in the Atrium or church office. The Children's Ministry's Lenten Mission Project will be the Fantastic Food Race, a food drive for Annandale Terrace Elementary School.



+ Humanity of Community

As a humanity created in the image of God, our need for community is innate. The Book of Genesis describes the first human relationship as resulting from the realization that it is not good for humans to be alone. Similarly, the wisdom literature of the Hebrew Bible speaks of the benefits of spiritual friendship. According to Ecclesiastes, "two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. Likewise, Proverbs advises that "iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens the wits of another." Thus, intentional relationships for the purpose of spiritual growth fulfill a deep need for connection and community. *(Cont. on page 3)*

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NEWS IN BRIEF

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!

AUMC Easter Festival - Saturday, March 12, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon: activities and crafts are planned for children of all ages! ! Helpers are still needed! Contact Becki to help bstewart@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330.

Wednesday Night Together dinners followed by 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. The menu for March 9 will be: salad, corned beef, cabbage, roasted potatoes, and pistachio pudding dessert.

All men are invited to United Methodist Men's next Men's Steak Dinner on Thursday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. in Wright Hall. Please RSVP to gary@garyfitzibbon.com or 703-963-8707 and bring a couple of friends!

Children's Sacraments Class: Fulfilling the promise of Baptism will meet on Sundays during the 11 a.m. worship service. The goal of the class is to help 3rd-5th grade children to participate more fully in the worship life of our community of faith. Sessions are designed to help them understand the sacraments of Baptism and Communion as well as the different parts of the worship service such as the Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed. Classes taught by Becki Stewart, Director of Christian Education for Children. Baptism: Feb. 21 and 28. Communion: March 6 and April 6. Sign up online at www.annandale-umc.org/classes-for-all-ages/children_s-ministries.

DATEBOOK

Wednesdays through March 16 – Lenten Communion, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Feb. 17 – Lenten worship

Feb. 18 – UMM Steak Dinner

Feb. 24 – WNT dinner, program

Feb. 27 – Dessert Cabaret

March 2, 9, 16 – Lenten worship

March 9 – Wednesday Night Together

March 12 – Easter Festival

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

March 24 – Maundy Thursday, worship 7:30 p.m.

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

March 27 – Easter Sunday; 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.

The Spirit is Moving Campaign Update: The Spirit is Moving Campaign was conducted during the spring of 2015 with a goal of receiving financial commitments of \$300,000 over the two-year period, July 2015 – June 2017, for needed repairs to our ventilation and cooling system. Commitments of approximately \$293,000 were received, which included \$61,000 previously contributed to the project prior to the campaign. Through December 2015, AUMC members contributed an additional \$87,000, providing a total of \$148,000 available to the project. This is a great start! We are almost half-way to our goal! These funds have enabled the Trustees to complete Phase I of the project, which included replacing a large air handling unit in the lower level of the church and installing a new computer control system for operating the HVAC system. Phase II of the project has been delayed due to other HVAC equipment now needing to be repaired or replaced, including a large chiller. The Trustees are working to resolve these issues and to utilize The Spirit is Moving Campaign contributions in the most effective way possible for needed improvements to our HVAC system. Thank You for your continuing support of The Spirit is Moving Campaign. Contributions can be made by designating your gift for "HVAC" on your giving envelope or through E-giving.

(Cont. from Page 1)

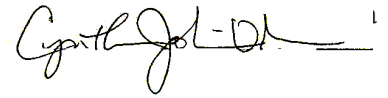
+ Ecclesiology of Community

Finally and most directly related to small group ministry, the early church formed for the purpose of creating Christian community. Following Pentecost, the Book of Acts records that those early converts "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." They met "from house to house" and "were together and had all things in common." On the basis of their shared faith, these early Christians formed small groups known as house-churches where they tended to the needs of the community. Small group ministry follows the ecclesiology of the early church. Small groups facilitate the development of spiritual friendship and intentional

communities for discipleship, fellowship, mission, and evangelism. Small groups can change lives, support individuals through challenging times, and help members grow spiritually so as to fulfill their life calling.

During this season of Lent, you are invited to attend to the spiritual practice of community through small groups. In doing so, I know that you will experience the blessing of spirituality in community.

Blessings,



Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver



Lend a Hand in Lent

The ACCA food pantry needs to be restocked. Sunday, March 6, is collection Sunday for ACCA. The Heritage campus food distribution collection Sunday will be Feb. 21 and March 20. Bring boxes, bags and cans of non-perishable food to the Atrium.

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 March 6, please give generously.

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.



Christmas in April (Rebuilding Together) will be Saturday, April 30. Volunteers are needed for half a day/entire day. This is AUMC's 15th straight year for participating in Christmas in April. We will again be teaming up with ACCA/St Barnabas Episcopal on a local "house repair project" to a deserving family or Fairfax County "group home". Look forward to having AUMC youth (age 14 and over), AUMC young and older adults for fun and work making homes a better and safer place to live. This project is sponsored by AUMC's Missions Committee and ACCA. This is a great opportunity for anyone who needs Community Service Hours. If you are interested in participating or fixing a treat for the workers, call John Clarke, 703 642-3836 or 703 606-6464 (cell) or email clarkejhl@gmail.com.



2015 Annandale UMC Foundation Report

The Annandale United Methodist Church Foundation was created to receive and administer gifts to the church to help meet the church's future ministry, mission, and outreach needs that are beyond the scope of other funding. As of Dec. 31, 2015, the Foundation portfolio included approximately \$1.5 million. Most of these funds were received through bequests stipulating the purpose of the gift and that only earnings be available for use each year, preserving the principal for the future. The AUMC Foundation Board of Directors has set a goal to increase the Foundation assets to \$3.5 million by the end of 2020. to help meet new and worthy ministry opportunities. In 2015 the Foundation disbursed approximately \$102,000 based on requests from program ministry areas and other entities in accordance with donor stipulations. This amount included funds for:

- the renovation of the air-conditioning/ventilation system near the Media Center,



Young Adults will meet Feb. 28 and March 13 for lunch and discussion at 12:30 p.m. in room 210. Light lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Rev. Eduardo Carrillo, ecarrillo@annandale-umc.org.

MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tues., Feb. 23	SPRC	7 p.m.	Room 210
Tues., Mar. 1	Trustees	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Wed., Mar. 2	Stephen Ministry	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Tues., Mar. 8	Finance Committee	7 p.m.	Room 210
Tues., Mar. 8	Missions Committee	7 p.m.	Room 302
Tues., Mar. 15	Church Council	7:15 p.m.	Room 302

- installation of a wireless access system to the church,
 - video recording of stewardship vignettes,
 - ACCA,
 - the Lenten Mission Project,
 - the Culmore Clinic,
 - Boy Scout Troop #150,
 - and other education, worship, and facilities' maintenance needs.
- Planned gifts to the AUMC Foundation through bequests, life insurance, and life income plans, are attractive ways for many donors to "continue giving" into the future. These types of gifts should be planned with a financial advisor or attorney. If you have any questions about the AUMC Foundation, contact Bill Iwig, President of the Board of Directors, at 301-365-7532.

WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, Feb. 21

Door greeters: 8:10 J. Maxwell, K. Redden;
9:30 D. Ruhter; 10:30 W.Ward

Fellowship Hours: In His Steps

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. J. Haymaker, S. Kenski, G. Sherfey, P. Sherfey (c)
11 a.m. A. Bretzfelder, L. Bretzfelder, P. Straub,
P. Adams (c)

Sunday, Feb. 28

Door greeters: 8:10 S. Fleming, R. Hampton
9:30 B. Otto; 10:30 D. Johnson

Fellowship Hours: Deborah Circle/Funeral Ministry

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. S. Chase, A. Cogswell, R. Gordon, S. Fleming (c)
11 a.m. C. Jones, C. Jones, P. Snitzer, R. Witkowski (c)

Sunday, March 6

Door greeters: 8:10 a.m. J. Vance, S. Naugle;
9:30 a.m. M. Pearson; 10:30 a.m. W.Ward

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. J. Clarke, S. Naugle, R. Gordon,
E. McKenney(c)
11 a.m. R. Gallagher, C. Jones, C. Jones,
P. Adams (c)

Sunday, March 13

Door greeters: 8:10 a.m. E. Wilson, C. Cox;
9:30 a.m. D. Ruhter; 10:30 a.m. D. Johnson

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. S. Chase, A. Cogswell, G. Sherfey,
P. Sherfey (c)
11 a.m. A. Bretzfelder, L. Bretzfelder, G. Rothman,
P. Shockley (c)

Sunday, March 20

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

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. J. Haymaker, S. Naugle, K. Sabo,
S. Fleming (c)
11 a.m. W. Annan, P. Straub, J. Thomas, P. Snitzer (c)

NEXT DEADLINE:

Friday, March 11 is the deadline for the March 22 Witness which covers March 27 and April 3, 10, and 17.