



AUMC WITNESS

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

Annandale United Methodist Church
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Vol. 8 No. 25



We are a Stephen Ministry Church

December 20, 2011

UPDATE ON IUMC MERGER

By now you should have received a letter from me, Richard Robinson, informing you about discussions of a proposed merger with Immanuel UMC. I appreciate receiving the numerous questions and comments that I have received, and the Council will do its best to respond to all of them. The purpose of this article is to provide additional background about why these discussions are occurring now.

No church wants to close its doors forever; however, our Christian brothers and sisters at IUMC have determined that could be a likely outcome for their congregation if they did not act. IUMC, with the assistance of the Alexandria District Office, examined a spectrum of options, from closing forever, to becoming part of a two-point charge, hiring a part-time pastor, or merging with another church of any kind.

None of these options was pleasant to the IUMC congregation; they are mourning the loss of their congregation's ability to continue on its own. IUMC decided that the best option for them was to merge with another church, and so they approached Annandale UMC with a request to consider a merger. It was not a notion that originated with the AUMC Council.

The AUMC Council is working very hard to examine the impact to all areas of our ministry and mission, but ultimately the decision will be made by you, the AUMC congregation and the IUMC congregation. Informational congregational meetings will be held in January and February prior to a decision-making church conference on February 26.

If the proposed merger is approved, we will endeavor to welcome and integrate the IUMC congregation and their ministry programs into our own. The IUMC assets will become AUMC assets. We will be one congregation on two campuses, and the AUMC staff will support activities at both campuses. We will continually monitor and evaluate the mission and ministry opportunities for both campuses.

If the merger is not approved, the District Office will determine which of the other less attractive options to take, and IUMC might survive for several years before it once again faces this decision. When a United Methodist Church closes, its assets are disposed of and the proceeds revert to the District office.

Many of you have expressed concerns about AUMC's ability to support two campuses; you are questioning why AUMC would agree to such a proposal. If it was only a matter of business planning, the decision would be easier; but it is a matter of extending the love of Christ to those who seek Him. And that is the basis for every mission and ministry we sponsor.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - "The Lord Is Near"

Saturday, December 24

4:00 p.m.

Family Service

A service focused on the children

7:00 & 11:00 p.m.

Candlelight Communion Services

(childcare provided at 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.)

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE - 10:00 a.m. ONLY!

Sunday, December 25

10:00 a.m.

Carols and Scripture Service

One combined service for the WHOLE church family! Come and enjoy the carols and scripture as we celebrate the coming of the Christ Child. Also, bring your favorite breakfast casserole or brunch item to share with the church family in Wright Hall after our time of worship together. No Sunday School.

NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICES

Sunday, January 1, 2012

8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.



DRAW NEAR TO THE *Light*

In John 1:5 we read “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” Darkness refers to death and light refers to life; the darkness we experience away from God and the life we experience in Jesus. John tells us with this simple illustration that Jesus comes into the world and shines in such a way that death does not have a hold of us.

If you have ever been camping in the wilderness, you know how dark it can get. Experienced campers know there needs to be a fire for warmth...and s'mores! What happens when it starts getting darker and colder? The fire seems to work like a magnet drawing everybody around it. Everyone comes closer to the fire for warmth, for light. As John indicates, our brokenness separates us from the life-giving source, so therefore we experience darkness and coldness. But we live in a world whose sustainer is God; we live in a world where God is the light of this world!

Was 2011 the year of searching for fire starter and wood? Was this year cold and away from the light - away from the warmth that can be experienced only through the Creator? As this year comes to a close, let us first come back to the fire and celebrate the light being born into this world. Let us always draw near to Christ for warmth and life, and may we experience God's blessings in abundance this coming year.

**Get your NEXT Witness
Quickly and In Color!**

**Just sign up to receive it
by email. Send an email to
office@annandale-umc.org
with your request or call
703-256-8330**



AUMC now offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader!

Forward by Faith

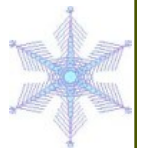
FBF Financial Campaign Update. During our church services on November 27, 2011 our FBF Bridge Team reported to the congregation that we were so close to meeting our goal of retiring our bank loan on January 31, 2012. We needed only \$30,000. FBF Campaign donations in November totaled \$9,100 moving us ever closer to our goal. Keep those pledge contributions flowing in and all contributions are welcome. We still need \$21,000.

WE CAN DO THIS! YES, WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Your Bridge Team.



Camp Highroad Winter Camp 2012!!



WHO: All 3rd — 8th graders

WHAT: A weekend of fellowship and fun in God's creation—including great indoor and outdoor activities such as a hayride, grass boarding, a bonfire, a movie, games, challenge course, crafts, scavenger hunt, and more!

WHEN: Saturday, Jan. 14th – Monday, Jan. 16th, 2012

WHERE: Pine Lodge at Camp Highroad

COST: \$170.00 per camper

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR CAMP:

Go to www.camphighroad.org/index.php/summer-camp/winter-camp/ and register online or print out the registration form and mail/fax it in.

Hurry! Spaces are limited!

If you have any questions,
please contact Josh Johns, Highroad Naturalist
(540)-687-6262 or naturalist@camphighroad.org



**WNT WILL RESUME
IN JANUARY 2012!**



OUR CHURCH *family*

Thank You

AUMC,

Thank you for the lovely Thanksgiving basket containing "goodies" and fruit that was delivered to me at Woodbine Rehab and Healthcare Center. Also, for a number of beautiful floral bouquets that I have enjoyed this past year that members of the church brought. I appreciate receiving communion that Dick and Carolyn Turner and Rev. Carrillo administered. Thanks again.

Please keep my son and myself on the prayer list. Without the prayers from the church and many others, we would not have survived this far. A miracle that only God can and has performed.

Naomi Totten



To my dear friends in Annandale United Methodist Church,

I just wanted to tell you that I appreciated the very nice card that you sent me for Thanksgiving.

We all have so much to be thankful for each day of our lives. And believe me -- I have had many, many days -- 85 years to be truthful. How many days are in 85 years?...

This has turned into a very long "thank you" for remembering me. Hopefully, we will meet again! Richmond isn't that far away.

With love,

Betty Maconaughey

Our Sympathy

Naomi Totten and family on the death of her son,
Jesse Totten

Ann Ames and family on the death of her mother,
Ellen Frommer

Family and friends of Dick Savage

Edouard Quansah and family on the death of his brother,
Abraham Quansah



NOTES FROM YOUR FINANCE OFFICE

Reminder: All gifts that you wish credited for 2011 tax purposes must be received by the church office by 11:30 a.m. on Friday, December 30, or postmarked by December 31 if they are mailed. If you are responsible for vouchers for your work area, vouchers must be submitted on or before Dec. 29 for payment from the 2011 budget.

UMW PECAN SALES - 2011 NEW CROP NUTS

Time to stock up for holiday gifts and baking and help support the UMW's mission projects. 16 oz Mammoth Pecan Halves, \$10; 16 oz Extra large pieces including some halves \$10; 12 oz Gift bags of chocolate covered pecans \$10; 12 oz English Walnuts \$9 gift ready. Pecan's will be sold during Sunday coffee hours until all are gone. **Call Evie for orders or to reserve a case of 24. 703-256-2905.**

Thank you for supporting our mission projects.

HELP THE HOMELESS THIS WINTER. AUMC has again partnered with Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter to provide a safe, warm place for local homeless men and women this winter. We will be opening our doors as one of several "overflow sites" and providing space in the Media Center on designated nights. Our December schedule is: Dec. 20, 21, 27 and 28. If you can help with setup in the evenings or cleanup in the mornings, please contact Jay Morris at jmorris55@verizon.net or 703-924-1919. We will also be hosting the homeless in January and March.



COLLECTION ITEMS NEEDED FOR HYPOTHERMIA RESPONSE

In support of our homeless guests who will be staying with us during the hypothermia response, we will be collecting the following items:

SOCKS, LONG UNDERWEAR, HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES, \$5 GIFT CARDS FROM MCDONALDS OR BURGER KING ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED AS WELL.

The cards give a homeless person a "legitimate" reason to be in the restaurant, particularly on days when the day shelters are closed. Items can be delivered to the box at the hypothermia board in the atrium. Gift cards should be given to a member of the missions committee or left in the church office.

MINISTRY MEETINGS

No meetings at this time.

LECTIONARY TEXTS

December 25, 2011, Christmas Day: Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98 (UMH 818), Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12), John 1:1-14

January 1, 2012, Epiphany Sunday: Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 148 (UMH 861), Revelation 21:1-6a, Matthew 25:31-46

AUMC WITNESS

(USPS 046-900)

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Annandale United Methodist Church

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WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

DECEMBER 25, 2011

Outreach Greeters: (9:30) J. Vance, B. Brown, A. Witkowski, L. McConville, E. Moss

Greeters: Witness/Missions

Fellowship Hour Hosts: TBD

Acolytes: (10:00) TBD

Crucifers: (10:00) TBD

Ushers: (10:00) G. Sherfey, P. Sherfey; E. Ramsey (C) P. Snitzer

JANUARY 1, 2011

Information not available at press time.

NEXT DEADLINE

Wed. Dec. 21 is the deadline for the Jan. 3 Witness which covers Jan. 8 and 15

PEW PATROL IS RECRUITING - The five teams of volunteers who take care of supplying the pew racks are looking for more help. Each team works once a month and you may come at your convenience Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30. Time commitment is approximately one hour. Please contact Sue Cook, 703-256-8330 or scook@annandale-umc.org, if you are interested in being part of this essential work to keep our sanctuary prepared for services.

AUMC WEEKDAY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS



An important part of this season is learning to share our many blessings. A side benefit of the Consignment Sale is that many items which do not sell are passed on to local organizations. This fall we were able to donate many articles of clothes and children's toys and necessities to Rising Hope UMC, Braddock Elementary School's Boutique, AMVets, and the Salvation Army.

During November the CDC families contributed 48 canned goods, 31 packages of pasta, rice, or stuffing mix, 12 baking mixes, 7 jars of baby food, 4 boxes of cereal, 4 bags of beans, and 44 juice boxes to the ACCA food pantry. The ELP and WPS are currently collecting boxes of crayons. PRO will decorate and assemble bags with crayons and a coloring book to be given to Belvedere's kindergarteners. *These are some of the ways we help children to learn empathy.*

For unto you
is born this day
in the city of
David a Saviour,
which is Christ
the Lord.



Luke 2:11

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!