



# AUMC WITNESS

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

Annandale United Methodist Church  
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Vol. 9 No. 2



We are a Stephen Ministry Church

January 17, 2012

***“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” -1 Timothy 4:12***

Many of us can look back in our lives and remember the experiences that shaped who we are today. Maybe it was the relationship with a loved one. Maybe it was the encouragement of a teacher or pastor. Maybe it was the closing of one door, only to find another one opening. Whatever the experience was, it shaped some aspect of who we are today in 2012. However, what about those experiences that seemed to be so hard at the time? It could have been standing up to a bully, saying, “Yes,” to a task that seemed out of our league, or maybe doing something that you were the only one that chose to do it. It is in these hard moments of our lives that we find things out. We see traits in ourselves that we didn’t even know existed. We find out who our “true” friends really are. Maybe, just maybe, we begin to see what God truly has in store for us.

In a book called “Do Hard Things” brothers Alex and Brett Harris share this:

*“In many ways you can deliver less than 100 percent and still get away with it—on a team, in youth group, at work, at home, in your personal and spiritual life... This choice goes right to the heart of what it means to be a rebelutionary. Without a doubt, pushing yourself to do more than is asked, expected, or required is nearly always a lonely choice. It can set you apart from friends, co-workers, other Christians, even family.”*

Youth today hear too often statements like: “You can’t do that,” “Let an adult do that,” or “You are just a kid.” It is a statement like one of these that paralyzes the hopes and abilities of youth. Society has set such low standards and expectations of youth, that when they complete a task like making their bed, that is enough...now go play. It is then that the youth is told this lie that they can’t do much and that they don’t need to until they are an adult.

Why share this? The reason I share this with you is because on the upcoming ski trip, January 27-30, the youth of The Grid



will be challenged to “Do Hard Things.” On the Sunday of the ski trip, youth will break out into different groups and go through workshops focused in three areas: doing hard things at home, school, and our relationship with God and His church. It is our hope and prayer that when these *Continued on page 3*

## **4th Grade Living Gift Market collected \$6,512.00**

One goal for Children’s Ministry is that our children learn from a young age to be compassionate, mission-minded followers of Christ. Children here at AUMC do more than just learn about mission.

They actually do this work through projects like Heifer. Our 4th grade class exceeded their goal of \$5,000 by \$1,512.00. With the addition of the children’s offering, the total sent to Heifer was \$6,721.66. Your donations made it possible for families around the world to feed themselves and work toward becoming self-reliant.

Thank you for being a church that empowers children to do big things for God !!

**Children’s Ministry..... Loving Neighbor and Serving the World.**



## THANKSGIVING

Grace and peace in the name of our Savior!

I know that the title of the column might seem a little anachronistic. After all, we have just passed the holyday season that began with Thanksgiving and ended with the New Year. The trees are now down, the presents unpacked and put away. We are back to school and back to work. The rhythms of life are in full swing, and our attention riveted to the rigors of the day to day.

But, as the sage Greek philosopher was known to have remarked, "...the unreflected life is not worth living." As we move forward as individuals and as faithful disciples who are members of a community of faith, it is critically important that we make use of the disciplines we have embraced along the way. One of the most important to our spiritual growth – not to mention our sanity – is to take time out; to spend time with God; to enjoy Sabbath, to reflect. The benefits of this practice are many and varied; it is like performing maintenance on your vehicle – if you fail to keep the oil changed, you are cruising toward a breakdown. Another important benefit, which connects with our column theme, is the welling up within our souls the refreshing waters of thanksgiving. When given time and perspective, we can see the hand of God at work more clearly. As I think of this past year with you, I am filled with thanksgiving.

I am thankful for our lay leadership, which has worked

tirelessly and diligently to connect us with the work of calling, nurturing, equipping and sending forth passionate disciples who love God, love neighbor, and serve the world. I am thankful for the many young families who have come to be with us, entrusting to us their precious children through the waters of baptismal covenant and the children's ministry team that nurtures them in the language of our faith story. I am thankful for the tremendous young adult community which gathers for fellowship and service and is continuing to take leadership responsibility in our community. I am thankful for the young people who gather in increasing numbers on Sunday afternoons to praise God in new and exciting ways. I am thankful for the missional heart of this faith community, and the loving relationship we have with the people of Mozambique, Brazil, Haiti, ACCA, Rising Hope, and FACETS Hypothermia. I am thankful for an excellent music and worship team that ushers us into the presence of God in transcendent ways.

For all of these, and many others, I thank God for allowing me the privilege of serving you. And most profoundly, I am thankful for a community that gives freely of their time, talent, gifts, money and service so that God might be glorified. Every day, then – when we take time to think about it – is a day of Thanksgiving.

Yours for a Vital Witness to Christ,

Clarence

### Forward by Faith

**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 are almost there! We just need \$2,500.00.

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

*Your Bridge Team*



**DON'T FORGET to buy your supply of UMW Nuts for year long use. You'll love having them on hand! ON SALE in Fellowship Hall.**



### EXERCISE CLASSES AT AUMC



**Classes are underway in Wright Hall!  
Classes will be held as follows:**

**Monday and Thursday**

**8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Sculpting/Toning class**

**Tuesday**

**8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. – Aerobics and Sculpting class**

**All are welcome; \$5 per class. Bring your own weights and a mat. For more information, contact Tracy Carney on carneys@cox.net.**



### THE ANNANDALE BOOK LOVERS

February 19 we will read *The Story of a Beautiful Girl* by Rachel Simon.



# OUR CHURCH *family*

## *Our Sympathy*

Family and friends of Oralie (Lee) Worley

Wilton and Peggy Ward and family on the death of their sister-in-law, Mildred Ward



*Continued from page 1* youth return, they are equipped and encouraged to live out 1 Timothy 4:12.

However, there is a crucial part in this. How will we as the church, we as Annandale United Methodist Church, respond to these young people? Will we continue to tell them the lies that society has told them and they have heard too many times? Or will we support them and walk with them as they are rebelling against low expectations? This is for you to decide.

It is my prayer that each of these youth decide to rise against the low expectations of society. It is my prayer that they begin to see the potential and great things that God can do in and through them. It is my prayer that as a church body, we embrace these youth and encourage them as they return. It is my prayer that we all do hard things together.



**HAPPY WANDERERS - Thursday, January 26** - Come with us to the Amish Market in Upper Marlboro, MD. It is in a very large building with many items made by the Amish in addition to the wonderful

food that we have come to expect. Bring a friend. Call Hilda for reservations @ 703-532-3016.



**Haiti Mission Trip 2012.** AUMC is leading a mission trip to Port-Au-Prince Haiti Jan. 16 - 31. Our mission is to help rebuild a Church damaged in last year's earthquake. Go to website [haitimissiontrip2012.wordpress.com](http://haitimissiontrip2012.wordpress.com) and you can follow our progress. Please pray daily for the success of this mission.

**ACOLYTE/CRUCIFER TRAINING** will be conducted on Jan. 22 following the 11 a.m. church service for all individuals interested in serving in this important worship ministry. The program will last about 30 minutes in the Sanctuary. Anyone interested in becoming an acolyte or crucifer who cannot attend this training, should contact Kevin Sabo at [KMSabo61@gmail.com](mailto:KMSabo61@gmail.com).

### **BREAD TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED**

Remember how wonderful it was to receive a fresh loaf of bread the very first Sunday you attended AUMC? The AUMC Bread Team shares weekly bakery pick-up, bagging and tagging duties for the dozen loaves of bread that Le Matin de Paris Bakery prepares. With the addition of two or more new members, you'll only be picking up the bread every 6-8 weeks. Contact Ron and Lallie Leighton (team coordinators) at 703-354-8745 or [LAPADAW04@verizon.net](mailto:LAPADAW04@verizon.net) for more info.

## Flowers on the Altar

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

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., Jan. 17	Church Council	7:30 p.m.	Room 302
Tues., Jan. 18	Stephen Ministries	7:00 p.m.	Room 303
Tues., Jan. 24	Education Ministries	7:30 p.m.	Room 302

## LECTIONARY TEXTS

**January 22, 2012, Third Sunday after the Epiphany:** Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 62:5-12 (UMH 787), 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

**January 29, 2012, Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany:** Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 111 (UMH 832), 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

## AUMC WITNESS

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Annandale United Methodist Church

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## WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

**Outreach Greeters:** 8:30 J.Vance and B. Brown; 9:30 A. Witkowski; 10:30 W.Ward

**Greeters:** Funeral Ministry

**Fellowship Hour Hosts:** Finance Committee

**Welcome Center:** 8:30 TBD; 9:25 TBD 10:30 TBD

**Acolytes:** 8:30 TBD; 11:00 TBD

**Crucifers:** 8:30 TBD; 11:00 TBD

**Ushers:** 8:30 A. Cogswell, G. Sherfey, P. Sherfey, K. Sabo; (C); 11:00 S. Flemming, G. Sherwood, B. Summerson, P. Shockley; (C)

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

**Outreach Greeters:** 8:30 E. Wilson, C. Cox; 9:30 M. Pearson; 10:30 L. McConville, E. Moss

**Greeters:** In His Steps

**Fellowship Hour Hosts:** Issues in Christianity

**Welcome Center:** 8:30 TBD; 9:30 TBD; 10:30 TBD

**Acolytes:** 8:30 TBD; 11:00 TBD

**Crucifers:** 8:30 TBD; 11:00 TBD

**Ushers:** 8:30 A. Burris, B. Pethal, P. Pethal, S. Nkesi; (C); 11:00 C. Perdue, G. Rothman, G. Sherwood, R. Gordon; (C)

**NEXT DEADLINE** Fri. Jan. 20 is the deadline for the Jan. 31 Witness which covers Feb. 5 and 12

## PROPOSED MERGER INFORMATION

AUMC will convene a church conference on Feb. 26 to vote on the proposed plan of merger with Immanuel UMC.

Additional informational meetings about the proposal will be held in the sanctuary on the following dates and times:

Jan. 29, 12:15 p.m.; and Feb. 12, 9:45 a.m.

**ESL TEACHERS NEEDED** -- We offer four classes each Tuesday and Thursday night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. We are looking for additional teachers to serve in this important ministry. Please contact Liz or Michael Hoefler at 703-845-7751 (or email [mdhoefer@cox.net](mailto:mdhoefer@cox.net)) if you are interested in teaching or assisting. The class year begins on Feb. 7.



**AUMC staff member and spouse looking for a place to rent.** For more information, contact TJ Knowland: [tjknowland@annandale-umc.org](mailto:tjknowland@annandale-umc.org) or 765-210-5517.

**SEMINAR/KALEIDOSCOPE - Sun. Jan. 22** (Room 300) Jack Underhill will continue his annual summary of the “**State of America in 2011: a Time of National Struggle for Recovery**”. The focus is on the status of minorities and the poor, education, unemployment and economic growth, and other topics.



## MANY SUPPORT GROUPS AT AUMC

AUMC has many support groups that meet here on a regular basis. Through these groups people experience love through fellowship and small groups, producing personal wholeness, a sense of belonging, and significant interdependent relationships. These groups include AA, Al-Anon, Emotions Anonymous, and Alzheimer's Support. For information, go to the AUMC Event Calendar on the web page or call the church office 703-256-8330.

If you would like to be notified when we have funerals for AUMC members, please send an email to [drogerson@annandale-umc.org](mailto:drogerson@annandale-umc.org) or call the church office, 703-256-8330. An email will be sent when the arrangements are final.