



AUMC WITNESS

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

Annandale United Methodist Church
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Vol. 8 No. 23



We are a Stephen Ministry Church

November 8, 2011

As the temperatures begin to drop, most of us think about hunkering down inside our warm homes, maybe around the fireplace, and just hiding out until spring. For about 1500 men, women and children in Fairfax County, that isn't an option. Our county, one of the richest in the nation, has a sizeable homeless population and not enough shelters to provide



warmth in the coldest days.

In 2005, the county began to address this specific need after several homeless individuals died from hypothermia. Since 2006, AUMC has hosted the FACETS Central County Hypothermia Response for one week each winter. This program provides overnight housing, dinner, breakfast, and a sack lunch for homeless adults. Various churches throughout the county each take a week from Thanksgiving week through the end of March. During the coldest times, there are often two churches hosting the same week.

AUMC's history in serving the homeless population dates back to the days when there were no shelters in Fairfax County. Our congregation not only housed the homeless but also played a critical role in getting the Bailey's Shelter established, so we have a long history in serving this community.

Since 2006, we have learned that this program is critical to the survival of many of the homeless. Most who come to our church are reluctant to go to the regular shelters (if there is room) and prefer the churches as a sanctuary from the cold. Unfortunately, a number of our guests come and stay with us each year and we have gotten to know them. Others are in a temporary situation. We have found the guests to be generally kind and appreciative of the churches opening their doors.

At the same time, this program has enabled FACETS and the county to move a number of "regulars" into permanent housing and to begin or continue the process of providing social services to newly identified clients.

This year, AUMC will again be hosting our homeless neighbors the week of November 27 through December 4. While FACETS provides staff to manage the program, your help is needed to host our guests in the evenings, overnight and each morning and to provide meals. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Erin McKenney at hoopsfan1@verizon.net or 703-403-1742. If you are interested in providing a meal (dinner or breakfast), please contact Molly Wilmarth at mollyhaven@yahoo.com. The sign-up board will be in the atrium starting in early November. This is a great service opportunity for small groups, Sunday School classes, etc.

Other ways to help include:

- Purchase \$5 gift cards to McDonalds, Burger King, Starbucks, etc. These give folks a place to go during the day, especially on Sundays when day shelters are not open.
- Provide warm clothes: long underwear (for men and women), socks, coats, hats, scarves, gloves, shoes. (Larger sizes are always needed).
- Provide magazines, movies, etc, that the guests can read or watch during their stay.
- Purchase metro SmartTrip cards (good for bus and subway) to help clients get to work, day shelters, social services, etc.

As Matthew 25: 34-3 reminds us: "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty **cont. on page 2.**



Does God get what God wants?

For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Philippians 2:13

My brothers and sisters, have you ever felt like God has come short? Maybe things seem to be out of reach and just not working at all? Maybe the desires of your heart become real but you have to let them go for a brighter and bigger purpose? More like God's purpose?

I have the pleasure to facilitate and lead Disciple 1 Sunday school edition and Thursday night with the young adults of our church. It has been a great experience to discuss and dig into how early experiences about God can lead us to think of God and our relationship. And then in the other class we are starting to see the beginning of God's covenant to Israel and how God's will and abundance is shown to people in the Old Testament. While reading Rob Bell's *Love Wins* book, I came across a sentence that really spoke to me. It says: "Once again, God has a purpose. A desire. A goal. And God never stops pursuing it," making reference to when God decides to bless a person it happens not taking into account age, past transgressions or even

how many times we stumble and take a step away from God. God wants to bless you and I, and God will not stop knocking our everyday lives until we are truly participants in His plan for this world. There are many of us who are blessed every day, but is that all God wants? To bless us? I dare to say no, God wants to bless us and to bless others through us. God is not a personal item, but a communal God. Therefore God not only wants a direct relationship between Him and me, but a relationship of us and Him. And we cannot have us without speaking to each other, without caring for each other and most importantly without praying for each other.

If you think that your situation is above what you can handle, if you think God has forgotten about you, God wants you to know that He has not given up on you. God is still reaching out to us to have a loving communion through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. Let's not put our hopes down, let's not stop reaching for God, because God gets what God wants and that is to live in peace with one another, to love our neighbor, and to have a close, meaningful relationship between Him and us.

FLU SHOT CLINIC DATES



Wednesday (WNT Family Night)
November 9, 2011

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Room 210

Sunday, November 13,

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Room 210.

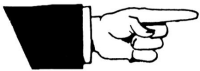
Cost: \$30.00 or Medicare B. Ages 4 years old and up.

Call 703-256-8330 to register.



cont. from page 1.

and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?" And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."



AUMC will once again host an AARP Driving Safety Course for Seniors (55 and over).

It will be held Monday and Tuesday, December 5 and 6, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (hour off for lunch) in AUMC's Media Center. Cost: \$12 for AARP members; \$14 for non-members. Don't miss this opportunity to lower your insurance rates by completing the two-day class. Invite friends and neighbors to join you. To reserve a space, call Bob Herbst (703-941-5930) or Jane Underhill (703-573-2056). If you get an answering machine, leave a name and number and we'll confirm your reservation.

AUMC'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES WILL BE SET UP ON NOVEMBER 19.

This year's recipients are Bethany House (supports women in domestic violence and abuse), Rising Hope (a mission oriented church supporting the needs of the disadvantaged and poor along the Route 1 corridor in Alexandria), and the Northern Virginia Training Center (a regional residential training center for individuals with intellectual disabilities). Gifts are not to exceed \$25. All cards/gifts must be returned by Sunday, December 4. Please pick up your ornament and return your card or gift by December 4, so others, less fortunate, may have a Merry Christmas. Thank you.





OUR CHURCH *family*

Congratulations

Wedding congratulations to Angelique Frush and Cristhian Soruco who were married October 15, 2011.

Thank You

Dear Friends,

On behalf on my entire family I would like to thank the congregation for the many expressions of sympathy and support following the illness and death of Harry. Our church family has been a great source of comfort and strength.

Shirley Stevenson

Thanks so much for the prayers, cards, calls, and the beautiful flowers brought to me by DeEtte and Don Johnson. They have helped during my recovery and are truly appreciated.

Bill Stacy



VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY NOVEMBER 11, 2011



The congregation is invited to attend our Veteran's Day Ceremony in our church cemetery at 9:00 a.m. on November 11, 2011. AMERICAN LEGION BICENTENNIAL POST 1976 will provide the honors for our 30 interred veterans. Attendees are requested to assemble in the vicinity of our memorial flagpole by 8:50 a.m.

HONORED VETERANS

Malcolm R. Moore	Charles Lynch Sr.
Charles Lynch Jr.	John J. Zych
John A. Jackson	Phillip Gibson
Donald L. Plucknett	Aubrey Chason
Edward Kaiser	Shelton T. White
John C. Webb	F. Dean Hannah
Theodore P. Gleiter	Russell Mikel
Amy Mikel	Jack Pierce
Betty M. Bullock	George Hartley
Ralph May	James B. Bladen
William Chapman	Lowell Wakefield
Sam Lynch	Edward B. Bunch
Dale Farringer	Maurice Lacy
Sandford W. Merryman	George H. Williams
Henry C. Cock	Elhanan W. Wakefield

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2011 HELP THE HOMELESS WALKATHON!

Saturday, November 19, 2011. As you may have heard, 2011 is the last Help the Homeless Walkathon on the National Mall as the Program is transitioning to a national Community Walk model in 2012. Make 2011 the biggest success to date by signing up to walk! To register, go to www.helpthehomelessdc.org. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Molly Wilmarth at mollyhaven@yahoo.com.

“STAMP OUT LONELINESS” PROGRESS REPORT-

AUMC's contribution to a project to collect “forever” postage stamps, note cards, Christmas cards, miscellaneous greeting cards and 2012 calendars for the 1250 women at the Fluvanna Correctional Center is progressing nicely. Stamps may be left with church staff in the office. Cards, etc. can be placed outside the church office.

HAPPY WANDERERS - THURSDAY NOVEMBER

17. We will make our annual pilgrimage to Occoquan to shop for Christmas gifts and pretty things. Lunch at Madigans. Call Hilda (703) 532-3016 for bus reservations.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS FOR SHUT-INS - Again this year, AUMC will be preparing small Thanksgiving baskets of fruit and other yummys along with holiday greetings for our homebound or shut-in members. Baskets will be assembled on Saturday morning, Nov. 19. Volunteers, contact Jane Underhill, 703-573-2056. Baskets will be ready to be picked up by members of the congregation on Sunday, Nov. 20, to be delivered between then and Thanksgiving day.

ACCA BENEFITS FROM WORKPLACE GIVING CAMPAIGNS. United Way of the National Capitol Area giving campaigns usually take place in local business. Designate to ACCA by using Code #8058. Combined Federal Campaign takes place in Federal Government offices. Designate to ACCA using Code #58934.

NOTE FROM FINANCE OFFICE:

If you are using the pew envelopes, please put your full name on the envelope.

MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tues., Nov. 15	Church Council	7:15 p.m.	Room 111
Wed., Nov. 16	Stephen Ministries	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Wed., Nov. 17	SPRC	7:30 p.m.	Room 210
Wed., Nov. 22	Education	7:30 p.m.	Room 302

LECTIONARY TEXTS

November 13, 2011, Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost: Judges 4:1-7, Psalm 123 or Psalm 76 (UMH 797), I Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30

November 20, 2011, Christ the King Sunday: Ezekial 34:11-16, 20-24, Psalm 100 (UMH 821), Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46

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Annandale United Methodist Church

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WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

NOVEMBER 13, 2011

Outreach Greeters: (8:30) R. Hampton (9:30) B. Brown (10:30) D. Johnson

Greeters: Issues In Christianity

Fellowship Hour Hosts: Kairos Prison Ministry

Acolytes: (8:30) K. Carney; (11:00) TBD

Crucifers: (8:30) TBD; (11:00) TBD

Ushers: (8:30) S. Chase, G. Sherfey, P. Sherfey (C) S. Nkesi; (11:00) B. Gordon, E. Ramsey, G. Sherwood (C) P. Shockley

NOVEMBER 20, 2011

Outreach Greeters: (8:30) S. Fleming, D. Abdulle (9:30) D. Ruhter (10:30) W. Ward

Greeters: Mary and Martha Circle

Fellowship Hour Hosts: Phoebe/ Lydia Circles

Acolytes: (8:30) E. Van Zandt, B. Van Zandt; (11:00) TBD

Crucifers: (8:30) TBD (11:00) TBD

Ushers: (8:30) J. Clarke, B. Pethal, P. Pethal (C) R. Gordon (11:00) G. Rothman, R. Smith, B. Summerson (C) B. Brown

NEXT DEADLINE Thursday, Nov. 10 is the deadline for the Nov. 22 Witness which covers Nov. 27 & Dec. 4



YOU HEARD WHAT?

Annandale UMC (AUMC) and Immanuel UMC (IUMC) are going to merge?

Not true, exactly, at least not yet, but not untrue, either. It depends on each of you!

Earlier in 2011, IUMC's Administrative Council undertook a critical examination of IUMC's future. The IUMC Council came to the conclusion that IUMC could not sustain itself independently in the near future. So IUMC approached the Alexandria District Superintendent, Rev. Ken Jackson, for assistance..

AUMC was identified as the most likely congregation to which IUMC might merge. Joint meetings were held to determine AUMC's ability to provide a church home for the IUMC congregation.

Those meetings are continuing for the purpose of developing a detailed plan for how the two congregations will become one. AUMC representatives on the steering committee include Harry Day, Bill Iwig, Richard Robinson, and Pat Sherfey.

Rev. Jackson is urging the committee to finalize its plan by early 2012. At that time, both congregations must hold formal congregational meetings to approve the plan—that's where you come in! AUMC's committee representatives will be sharing as much information as possible as it becomes known. Please forward your inquiries to Harry, Bill, Richard, or Pat.

Watch this space for more details in the future.

AUMC WEEKDAY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS



CDC CELEBRATES FALL

In mid October the older CDC children had a fall outing to the Burke Farm. There they went on a hayride, played on the pirate ship and slides, picnicked and picked out their own pumpkin to bring home. At Halloween time, the parents and staff planned a morning of fun activities. The children made a pumpkin painting, did ghost art, a freeze dance, and Mr. Cody served up "swamp water" (seltzer, lemonade, tapioca pearls, and gummy worms)! The celebration ended with a costume parade.