

AUMC WITNESS

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



Walk in the Light

Vol. 9 No. 26



We are a Stephen Ministry Church

Ministers:

Rev. Dr. Clarence R. Brown, Jr.
Rev. Eduardo Carrillo
Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver
Rev. Dr. Paul Y. Shin

Annandale United Methodist Church
6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003
P: 703-256-8330 F: 703-914-8896
office@annandale-umc.org

December 18, 2012

Christmas Eve Worship Services: Monday, Dec. 24, 4 p.m.: Family Service Focused on Children
Monday, Dec. 24, 7 and 11 p.m.: Candlelight Communion Services (childcare provided at 4 and 7 p.m.)

Good Nutrition for Kids = Mission Opportunity for Adults

It has been written that a society is judged by how well its children flourish. The care and love we give to children eventuates in loving persons who contribute to the health and well being of our neighborhoods. A great part of that care that we give is good nutrition. Good nutrition is critical to the future health, well-being and success of children, boosting productivity and improving economic prospects for families and communities. While Fairfax County is one of the wealthiest areas in the United States, pockets of poverty are scattered through many neighborhoods and not everyone in the County has good access to good food.



Annandale United Methodist Church lives its love of God through service to those in need, whether they are nearby neighbors or on distant shores. Beginning in January, members and friends of AUMC have an opportunity to help insure that children at Poe Middle School, right here in Annandale, have better access to good nutrition. The school offers an after-school program which includes academics and play time. Children are currently provided a snack, but beginning next month, AUMC will partner with others to provide the children with dinner once a week.



Recruitment is underway for four teams of four to five people who would be willing to service this need, and hopefully enlist the help of other area churches. The teams would be responsible for providing dinner for 150 children once a month on Wednesdays, 4:30 – 5 p.m. There are warming facilities on-site, but the food would be prepared ahead and brought to Poe. Volunteers will be responsible for preparing a menu, shopping for ingredients, cooking and serving the food, and cleaning up. There are funds to cover the cost of food. If you are interested in this “close to home” mission project, please contact Molly Wilmarth, molly.wilmarth@yahoo.com or Betsy Clevenger, 703-425-6424.

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Giving and Receiving Gifts

Grace and peace in the name of our Savior!

As of this writing, we have only twelve shopping days until Christmas. I don't know about you, but as I advance in age, it gets more and more difficult to arrive at a decision about what to give the people in my life. At this stage, they have all the widgets, ties and underwear that they need. Still, I am motivated to give.

Similarly, I have great difficulty arriving at what I would respond when persons ask me what I would like (although that BMW 5 still comes to mind... :-). There is, however, one arena in which I have no problem in sharing, and that is the gift that we all have received from God; the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Moreover, it is the gift that keeps on giving. Upon his resurrection and ascension, Jesus bequeathed to us the Holy Spirit and the empowerment to serve our neighbors. We do this through worship and mission, but we also do it through helping the church administratively do what it must to carry out our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

While there are too many to name, I would like to take time out to thank God for the gifts given by Song Yi, Jerry Beyer and Pete Shockley on the Finance Committee; Scott Fleming and Amanda Witkowski on Staff Parish, Alice Snitzer, Jeanne Guidi and Derek Brown on Trustees; and Elizabeth Moss,

Debbie Strickland and Carol Burns on Lay Leadership. All of these have served selflessly, and given above and beyond so that we might be a place that invites, nurtures, equips and sends forth passionate disciples who love God, love neighbor and serve God's world. I am deeply thankful for their commitment. I hope you will take a moment and thank them as well.

They are gifts to me and the church; gifts they willingly give to God. What will you give this year?

Merry Christmas!

Yours for a Vital Witness to Christ,

Clarence

DATEBOOK

Thursday, Dec. 20, 5-7 p.m.: food distribution at Immanuel campus, 7901 Heritage Drive. Call Betsy Clevenger, 703-425-6424, for details.

Sunday, Dec. 23, 7 p.m.: Love Feast at Immanuel Campus.

Monday, Dec. 24, 4, 7 and 11 p.m.: Christmas Eve worship services at Annandale campus.

Sunday, Dec. 30, 10:30 a.m.: one worship service followed by lunch and fellowship at Annandale campus. Sunday school at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, Jan. 3, 5-7 p.m.: food distribution at Immanuel campus. Contact Betsy Clevenger, 703-425-6424 for details.

Sunday, Jan. 6, 10:30 a.m.: one worship service (Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.) at Annandale campus.

Sunday, Jan. 6, 8:30 – noon: ACCA food drive. Bring non-perishable food for ACCA pantry.

Sunday, Jan. 6, 6:30 p.m.: A Brethren Epiphany Concert. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives! is the title of the new sermon series about the Disciples, which will begin in January. More information to come!

Thank You Dr. Shin: After more than 17 years of dedicated and distinguished service as Annandale UMC's Korean Pastor, Dr. Paul Shin has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31. Dr. Shin has been a tremendous gift to AUMC as he has shared his love of Jesus with the Korean congregation. He has also been a steady presence at Evergreen House. He will be greatly missed! Expressions of thanks and appreciation for Dr. Shin's many contributions may be made with a cash "love gift" to Dr. Shin. Place gift in an envelope labeled "love gift for Dr. Shin" in the worship offering plate by Dec. 23 or send to the church office by Dec. 30.

Disaster Response Team Responds: AUMC's Disaster Response Team (affectionately known as DiRT) was called to serve and has responded with two team deployments to aid in Hurricane Sandy relief efforts. Mark Bradley led the first team in November and Steve Reynolds led the second team the first week of December. Both teams were deployed at the request of the Greater New Jersey Conference Director to serve in the Atlantic City/Ocean City region. This region was hit pretty hard from Sandy with flooding, roofing and siding repairs needed. If you would like to help in our team's efforts, please consider making a donation to AUMC with "Disaster Response" in the memo section. All contributions are tax deductible and 100% will go to the relief effort.

Christmas Pageant Thanks: The pageant is a long standing tradition here at AUMC and it takes lots of people to make it possible. Thank you, everyone who volunteered to help with the Christmas Pageant. Your gift of time and talent given so generously helps each child do their best as they bring the Christmas story to life. Many thanks to Nancy Bonanno and Mary Peters who served in the role as co-directors. Also, a special debt of gratitude to Marianna Conroy who pulls it all together in her role as producer. Finally, we are grateful to the children who took part in the pageant and helped send us on our way as we journey together toward Bethlehem.

Year-End Reminders: All gifts to be credited for 2012 tax purposes must be received in the church office by 11:30 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 31 or postmarked by Dec. 31. If you are responsible for expense vouchers for your work area, vouchers must be submitted on or before Wednesday, Dec. 19.



One Service, Lunch and Fellowship are planned for Sunday, Dec. 30, at the Annandale campus. One worship service will be held at 10:30 a.m. (Sunday School classes will meet at 9:30 a.m.). Everyone is invited to lunch, no reservation needed. Come share in fellowship and a bowl of soup or chili after the worship service with the AUMC family. There will be gluten-free and vegetarian options, salad, and desserts. The young adults are raising funds for the future mission trips of AUMC. There's no cost or cover; donations will be appreciated.

End of Year Party: The Ogoni People of the Washington Metropolitan area are having their End of Year Party on Saturday, Dec. 22, 2 p.m. in Wright Hall. Everyone is invited to join the party, which will feature children's play, singing, and dancing as well as refreshments and fun activities. The party is hosted by the Nkesi family, members of AUMC. The Ogoni are one of the many indigenous people in the region of southeast Nigeria.

A Christmas Love Feast will be held at the Immanuel campus on Sunday, Dec. 23, 7 p.m. This will be an inspiring multicultural service involving both campuses of AUMC, the New Light Korean UMC, Iglesia Adventista de Annandale, (Seventh Day Adventist) and St. Francis Korean Episcopal Church, celebrating a Moravian tradition that was adopted by John Wesley. The service will include lighted candles and a simple meal, as participants come together to testify to the spirit of unity and good will among all people.

MINISTRY MEETINGS

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|----------------|------------------|-----------|----------|
| Tues., Dec. 18 | Church Council | 7:15 p.m. | Room 302 |
| Wed., Jan. 2 | Stephen Ministry | 7 p.m. | Room 303 |

LECTIONARY TEXTS

Dec. 23, Fourth Sunday of Advent: Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:47-55 (UMH 199), Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve: Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96 (UMH 815), Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20

Dec. 30, First Sunday After Christmas Day: I Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148 (UMH 861); Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

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(USPS 046-900)

Send address changes to:

Annandale United Methodist Church

6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003-3458

Published biweekly.

Periodicals Postage Paid at
Annandale, VA 22003

WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

We Need You! Adults and/or children are greatly needed to serve as ushers, acolytes, and crucifers for Sunday morning worship. If you are interested, please contact Joyce Kitzmiller, jkitzmiller@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330.

Sunday, Dec. 23

Outreach greeters: 8:30 a.m. S. Fleming 9:30 a.m., D. Ruhter,
10:30 a.m. D. Johnson

Greeters: Exploring Faith in Life

Fellowship hosts: In His Steps Class

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. R. Roberts, G. Sherfey, P. Sherfey, B. Brown (c)
11 a.m. B. Gordon, J. Thomas, R. Gordon, P. Adams (c)

Sunday, Dec. 30

Outreach greeters J. Vance/B. Brown, A. Witkowski, W. Ward

Greeters: Issues in Christianity

Fellowship hosts: KAIROS Prison Ministry

Ushers: S. Fleming, B. Pethal, P. Pethal, E. McKenney,
C. Perdue, E. Ramsey, G. Sherwood, P. Shockley

NEXT DEADLINE

Friday, Dec. 21 is the deadline for the Jan. 2 Witness which covers Jan. 6 and 13

Stay in Touch:

- Find us on Facebook!

- Visit our website, www.annandale-umc.org

- Sign up for a weekly email about AUMC services and events or get The Witness emailed to you by contacting Dottie Rogerson, drogerson@annandale-umc.org!

A Personal Care Aide Training Program

is being offered at Arlington United Methodist Church Tuesdays and Saturdays beginning in February. The class costs \$250 plus textbooks, CPR training and the nurse kit. For more information contact Ana Maria Lopez at 703-979-7527 or AnaMariaL869@gmail.com.

Take a bit of Christmas cheer to our homebound or shut-in members. Pick up a poinsettia plant after the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 23, to deliver before New Year's Day. Take a card pre-addressed to shut-in members, and sign your name next to the recipient's name on the clipboard list in the Atrium. Thanks for your help!

St. Nick's Workshop Thanks: A great time was had by all Saturday, Dec. 7 at St. Nick's Workshop. Children and families enjoyed a delicious lunch, made Christmas crafts, decorated cookies, took pictures with Santa, hear stories of the season and shopped for loved ones. Many thanks to Nancy Sherman, Joni Laurence, Francine Cannon, the AUMC youth elves, and all the other helpers who made this a special day for our little ones!

Tell Us What You Think:

Please take a few minutes to complete the short AUMC Communications Survey available on the AUMC web site www.annandale-umc.org. Paper copies are also available in the Atrium and the church office. What is your go-to source for information about AUMC programs and activities? What programs are of the most interest to you? Do you prefer your information electronically or on paper?

These are some of the questions on the Survey. Your feedback is important as we work to improve AUMC communications.