



AUMC WITNESS

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

Annandale United Methodist Church
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 We are a Stephen Ministry Church

October 23, 2012

All Saints Day

Grace and peace in the name of our Savior!

On Sunday, Nov. 4, we will once again celebrate All Saints Sunday. While many look forward to the event, others are not quite familiar with the tradition.

What is All Saints Day? It is when the Catholic Church and some Protestant churches commemorate every saint, known and unknown. The eve of All Saints is known as All Hallows Eve, or Halloween. It is on Nov. 1. The Greek word for "Saint" in the New Testament is "hagiois" and it refers to ALL believers in Jesus Christ. In the Bible, the word does NOT mean a departed person who was extraordinarily holy in life. All Christians, if they truly express a faith in Jesus Christ, are called "saints" in the Bible (see Ephesians 1:1-2).

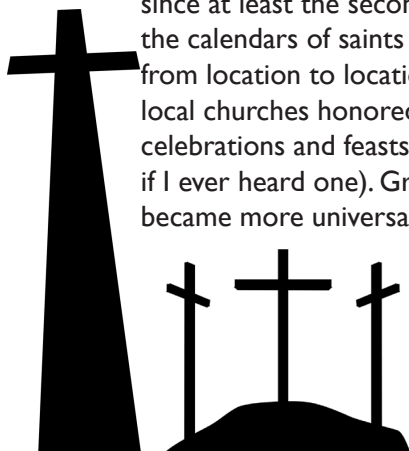
The whole concept of All Saints Day is tied in with the concept of the Communion of Saints. This is the belief that all of God's people, on heaven and earth, are connected in a communion. In other words, Catholic and many other Christian traditions believe that the saints of God are just as alive as you and I. Because of our common communion with and through Jesus Christ, our prayers are joined with the heavenly community of Christians.

Christians have been honoring their saints and martyrs since at least the second century AD. Initially the calendars of saints and martyrs varied from location to location, and many times local churches honored local saints with celebrations and feasts (a Methodist tradition if I ever heard one). Gradually feast days became more universal. Scholars observe that the first reference to a general feast celebrating all saints occurs in St. Ephrem the Syrian (d.

AD 373). St. John Chrysostom (d. AD 407) assigned a day to the feast, the first Sunday after Pentecost, where in the Eastern Churches the feast is celebrated to this day. In the West, this date was probably originally used, and then the feast was moved to May 13. The current observance (Nov. 1) probably originates from the time of Pope Gregory III (d. AD 741), and was likely first observed on Nov. 1 in Germany.

The vigil of the Feast (the eve) has grown up in the English speaking countries as a festival in itself, All Hallows Eve, or Halloween. While many consider Halloween pagan (and in many instances the celebrations are for many), as far as the Church is concerned the date is simply the eve of the feast of All Saints. Many customs of Halloween reflect the Christian belief that on the feast's vigils we mock evil, because as Christians, it has no real power over us. However, for some Halloween is used for evil purposes, in which many Christians dabble unknowingly. Various customs have developed related to Halloween. In the Middle Ages, poor people in the community begged for "soul cakes," and upon receiving these doughnuts, they would agree to pray for departed souls. This is the root of our modern day "trick-or-treat." The custom of masks and costumes developed to mock evil and perhaps confuse the evil spirits by dressing as one of their own. Some Christians visit cemeteries on Halloween, not to practice evil, but to commemorate departed relatives and friends, with picnics and the last flowers of the year. I encourage you during this time to think of the saints you know, and have known, and join us in worship as we give thanks to God for their witness and service.

By Dr. Clarence Brown





A Great Cloud of Witnesses

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...

let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us."

- Hebrews 12:1

Dear Friends,

At pivotal moments in my life, I have felt the presence of departed loved ones in meaningful ways. When I first heard the call to ordained ministry, I felt the presence of four generations of clergy before me. When I was close to giving birth to Danielle, I felt the spirit of my paternal grandmother, who had my father on almost the same day I had Danielle. Recently, when Danielle started a new school, she had a dream in which my recently departed maternal grandmother encouraged her to "make your parents proud of you in school." Moreover, over the past year, as I have begun researching and writing a biography of my grandfather, I have felt his presence along the way.

Sunday, Nov. 4, is All Saints Sunday. It is a day that we set aside to honor members of our church who have gone home to their eternal rest. For some it is a day of sadness, for others it is a day of remembering, but for all of us it is a way of acknowledging that we are part of something larger than ourselves, a "communion of the saints" that includes the church visible and the church invisible; the church militant and the church triumphant.

Other religious traditions have more formal ways of recognizing departed saints. African and some other indigenous religions employ ancestor veneration to recognize the presence of ancestors in communal life. Roman Catholics have a sanctification process whereby certain individuals become recognized as "Saints" in the life of the church.

As Protestants, we believe in the priesthood of all believers. In other words, we believe that all believers are saints [literally: holy people] set apart to do God's will. Our departed loved ones, though they have left this life, have not left our presence. These saints form around us a great cloud of witnesses, praying for us and cheering us on as we run the race before us.

Some of the departed saints of Annandale have left tangible reminders of their presence: the Little White Church, the cemetery, Wright Hall, Hughes Hall, and

"We are part of something larger than ourselves, a 'communion of the saints' that includes the church visible and the church invisible; the church militant and the church triumphant."

the many memorials around the church. Other saints in our lives are tangibly remembered: grandmother's necklace, grandfather's bible, little Billy's laugh, or Sarah's smile. These reminders encourage us that though our time here is finite, we can leave an eternal dose of love and grace in the lives of those we love.

On All Saints Sunday, let us feel the presence of the great cloud of witnesses, let us remember that we are a part of the communion of the saints, and let us be encouraged to follow their example and run with perseverance the race that is set before us knowing that we will all meet again someday.

Blessings.

Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver

DATEBOOK

Every Thursday, 5-7 p.m., food distribution at Immanuel campus Fellowship Hall. Call Betsy Clevenger, 703-425-6464 for details.

Thursday, Oct. 25, 7 p.m. Methodist Men Steak Cookout in Wright Hall

Friday, Oct. 26, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Immigrant Advocates Summit in the sanctuary and Wright Hall

Saturday, Oct. 27, 10 a.m., Annandale Parade

Sunday, Oct. 28, 3-5 p.m., Fall Fun Festival for children and families including Trunk or Treat for children, refreshments for sale by Young Adults (proceeds for mission scholarship), food collection for ACCA

Sundays, Oct. 28 and Nov. 4, ACCA food drive

NEWS IN BRIEF

Small Group Leaders Needed for Advent Study

2012: Adult classes and small groups are invited to participate in Advent Study 2012 – *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem* by Adam Hamilton. Join this spiritual and biblical journey from the annunciation of Mary to the manger in Bethlehem with a book, DVD filmed on location, and small group discussion. Advent Study 2012 begins on Nov. 25. To start or enroll a small group in the Advent Study, contact cjohnsonoliver@annandale-umc.org and molly.wilmarth@yahoo.com.

We Love Our Pastors! October is Pastor Appreciation month and AUMC is blessed to have four wonderful pastors! Why not take a moment to show them how much they mean to you. Here are some suggested ways: 1) Send a letter, write a poem or a prayer; 2) Ask for their prayer needs and then pray for them regularly; 3) Be openly responsive to their preaching and teaching; 4) Say Thank You to them personally for all they do for our church community. By showing your appreciation, our Pastors will be empowered and our church will be better for it, too.

Charge Conference meets Nov. 15: The Annual Charge Conference will be held at AUMC on Thursday, Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m. The Church Council members are the voting members at the conference, but all members are welcome to attend.



Ministry Opportunities

Helpers are needed for the Christmas Craft Bazaar on Nov. 10. Assistance is needed on Friday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 7 - 9 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 10, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Volunteer tasks include: posting signs, taping the floor, escorting crafters to their spaces, delivering food, greeting visitors, setting up and taking down tables, as well as posting yard signs. If you can assist, please email Cyra Doty at radu94@aol.com or call at 703-354-5330.

Baby Bonnet Ministry Needs Handkerchiefs and Volunteers: Babies baptized at Annandale United Methodist Church receive a special memento provided by the Baby Bonnet Ministry. Led by Gail Pemberton, volunteers sew special baby bonnets using women's cloth handkerchiefs. Donations of women's cloth handkerchiefs (white only and no smaller than 10 1/2" or larger than 12") are welcome and can be brought to the church office. The handkerchiefs should be clean and can include embroidery and lace. Volunteers are invited to join the Baby Bonnet Ministry! It's easy and fun.

Nominate a Veteran: Decorate A Vet is seeking nominations of veterans who can use support. The organization is sprucing up and decorating the outside of Veterans' homes for the holidays. Please nominate Veterans, caregivers and Veterans' families that would benefit from Decorate A Vet via the Facebook page. For more information visit <http://www.DecorateAVet.org> or <http://www.facebook.com/Decorate.A.Vet>.

Cold weather is coming: A collection is underway for mostly men's winter coats, sweatshirts, stocking caps, jeans, socks, underwear, and waterproof gloves. Women's winter clothing will be taken, but most of the homeless are men. Items should be clean without holes. Label each item with gender (men or women) and size. Place donated clothes in the boxes under the coat racks before Nov. 9. The clothing will be distributed to homeless people in Washington, DC. For more information or to volunteer, contact Dan Evans at 571-334-6223 or danevans@frontiernet.net.

Food Drive: AUMC's Children's Ministry is collecting donations for the ACCA Food Pantry every Sunday this month. Bring donations of canned/boxed food and place in the collection boxes in the Atrium.

The ACCA Child Development Center needs pants for 2- to 4-year-old children. Drop off donations at the Center, 7200 Columbia Pike. The website is: www.accacdc.org.

Do you participate in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)? Please consider making a payroll deduction pledge to local UMC-sponsored ministries: ESLIM: #60490 (English as a Second Language and Immigrant Ministries); JUST NEIGHBORS: #98417 (Immigrant Legal Services and Support); UCMNV: #73218 (United College Ministries of Northern Virginia); Wesley Housing #60939 (Low cost housing and homelessness issues and awareness).



MINISTRY MEETINGS

Wed., Oct. 24	Children's Council	7 p.m.	Room 203
Tues., Nov. 5	Trustees	7:30 p.m.	Room 303

LECTIONARY TEXTS

Oct. 28, 22nd Sunday after Pentecost: Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8
Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 10:46-52

Nov. 4, All Saints Sunday: Isaiah 25:6-9, Psalm 24, Revelation 21:1-6a,
and John 11:32-44 OR Ruth 1:1-18, Psalm 146, Hebrews 9:11-14, and
Mark 12:28-34

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Annandale United Methodist Church

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WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, Oct. 28

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

Greeters: Education Committee

Fellowship hosts: Finance Committee

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. J. Clarke, S. Groves, B. Brown, E. McKenney (c)
11 a.m. G. Sherwood, J. Thomas, R. Witkowski, P. Snitzer (c)

Sunday, Nov. 4

Outreach greeters 8:30 a.m. J. Vance/B. Brown, 9:30 A. Witkowski
10:30 a.m. – L. McConville/E. Moss

Greeters: In His Steps Class

Fellowship hosts: Funeral Ministry

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. S. Chase, B. Pethal, P. Pethal, K. Sabo (c)
11 a.m. S. Fleming, C. Perdue, P. Adams, R. Gordan (c)

NEXT DEADLINE

Friday, Oct. 26 is the deadline for the Nov. 6
Witness which covers Nov. 11 and 18

Food AND FRIENDS

A baby shower is planned for Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver and her husband, Davis, on Sunday, Nov. 11, 2 p.m., in Wright Hall. Everyone is invited! More details to come....



The next Wednesday Night

Together is scheduled for Nov. 7.

Reservations can be made on the pew pad or by contacting Joyce Kitzmiller, jkitzmiller@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330. The program will be presented by TJ Knowland and the youth: "The Missions and Ministry of the Grid". The menu will be chicken casserole, salad, rolls and pumpkin fluff with ginger snaps for dessert. Cost is \$7 per person, \$3 per child, or \$20 per family maximum, payable in cash or check at the door; make checks payable to AUMC. Carry-Out meals will be available for \$10. Mark your calendars for WNT on Dec. 5, 12 and 19 when the program will be advent worship.

Honoring our Veterans: A Veterans Day Observance will be held at AUMC Cemetery on Sunday, Nov. 11 at 9 a.m. Annandale American Legion Post 1976 will make a Veterans Day ceremonial tribute to veterans buried in the AUMC Cemetery.

Help Needed to Locate Lost Lambs 2012

Please contact the church office at 703-256-8330 if you have **an exact current and correct address** for the following people:

John Boyd III	Brandon Lorey
Tamara D'Amico	Kelli Lorey
Velmar Davis	Ron Lyerly
Campbell Drew	Raymond Scott Lynch
Richard Erickson	Tracy Marciniak
Alan Freitag	Susan Moore
Robin Freitag	Lilybeth Palpallatoc
Rebecca Glover	Omar Palpallatoc
Mercy Gooding	Creta Payne
Kathi Green	Hyun Nam Philapy
Florence Gyamfi	Steven Philapy
Laura Jackson	Joyce Piacine
Laurie Johnson	Denise Russell
Mark Johnson	John Russell
Nelo Jolomba	John Arthur Sandwen
Olga Jolomba	Lee Sandwen
Toni Boger Keys	Leah Sebetic
Belinda King	Laverne Velmar
Linda Lauffer	Kenneth Warrick