

# AUMC WITNESS

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

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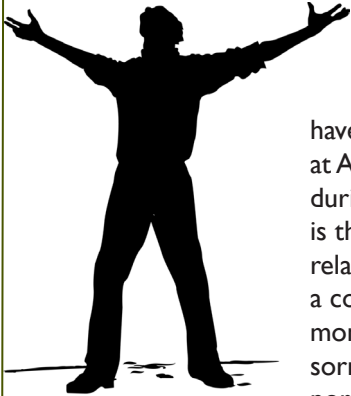


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*We are a Stephen Ministry Church*

April 23, 2013



## Name That Sermon!

One of the great gifts I have experienced during my time at Annandale that I was bereft of during my days as a Superintendent is the joy of being in an intimate relationship with the people of a community of faith; to share in moments of great joy and deep sorrow; to know the ethos, the norms and the stories of the

congregation that gathers faithfully on a weekly basis to worship God. While I enjoyed preaching and sharing with the many congregations I was blessed to supervise, the messages I prepared had to be more general in nature because of the lack of intimate connection. I could not speak to their situations because of that lack of connection.

As you might imagine, there is great joy in preparing a message to share with the community of faith called Annandale United Methodist every week. I enjoy the process of reading, studying, reflecting; trying to shape the message in such a way as to communicate an ancient story in contemporary but faithful ways. It is also a thing of great trepidation, seeking to find something engaging every week. A wise mentor called it "The relentless return of the Sabbath."

Your clergy and worship leaders, as they gather every week, seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, wrestling with the question, "What do our people need to hear?" We use the lectionary – that regular and prescribed set of readings that the church at large reads together during the liturgical seasons of the Christian calendar. But it occurred to us at the table, "Why don't we ask what the people want to hear?"

The generative idea is that many come to services each week with deep questions about the Scriptures and how the Holy story intersects with our modern day experiences. It is also true that many have questions about issues of faith that they have not been able to have answered in satisfying ways. It is with that in mind that we will shortly be engaging a series

of sermons based on your suggestions. That series, "Name That Sermon," will run from May 5 through June 30. We have already had many suggestions; some amusing, some astounding. Whatever the case, we continue to solicit your thoughts and ideas for sharing with our worshipping community. We look forward to hearing from you!

Dr. Clarence Brown

## RACE AWAY HUNGER FOOD DRIVE FOR RISING HOPE

Their pantry is empty. Their cupboards are bare. Rising Hope needs our help... AUMC to the rescue! On Sunday, May 5, AUMC is launching a Food Drive for Rising Hope to RACE AWAY HUNGER. Everyone can play! You can be a Soupy Shark, or Beany Bear. How about a Pasta Parrot or a Meaty Monkey? Want to collect canned vegetables? Join the Veggie Vipers. And let's not forget the Fruity Flamingos and the Tomato Tigers! Come to church on Sunday, April 28, and choose your team! You will receive an official team button and an information flyer. And don't forget to check out the Racetrack! Our food friends are racing their engines. They are getting ready to make tracks for the hungry! Don't be left behind! / Don't get lapped! / Don't miss the action/fun!



Collections for the Rising Hope Food Drive will begin on Sunday May 5, and continue through Sunday, May 19. Items are to be placed in the appropriate Team Bin, located near the Racetrack. Food dropped off during the week should be taken to the church office. Every 50 items equals one lap around the track. Special prize to the winning team! How far can we go to Race Away Hunger? Mark your calendars - the Race is about to begin!

## This Issue of the Witness:

Page 2: Clarence's Clergy Corner  
Circle News  
Datebook

Page 3: News in Brief  
Hospitality REDUX

Page 4: Ministry Meetings  
Lectionary Texts  
Weekly Volunteers  
Dinner Form



## I Thank My God

Grace and peace in the name of our Savior!

As one studies the letters of the New Testament, one begins to gain a certain familiarity with epistolary style, form and function. There is the letter's beginning, usually identifying the letter's sender, recipient, greeting and a thanksgiving. Paul, the acknowledged author of many of the letters, makes effusive use of the latter part, commending those nascent Christian communities for their faith, their love, their embrace of the Gospel, and their efforts to emulate the things that Paul had modeled for them during his missionary visits.

I resonate and connect with Paul's deeply felt thanksgiving, for I am thankful to God for extending to me the grace of serving with the wonderful community of faith known as Annandale United Methodist. Although I do try to express it publicly in as many ways as I am able, those efforts pale in the presence of the ways that you live out your faith in our community and in the world.

Once again I have lifted the challenge of raising our vision in reaching out to God's world. You have once again responded with extravagant generosity, meeting and exceeding our mission goal of \$60,000. This means we CAN provide safe space for at risk children in Brazil; this means we CAN provide a place of study and preparation for rising clergy leadership in Mozambique; this means we CAN continue to feed hungry children at Poe Middle School; this means we CAN build shelter for children in Haiti; this means we CAN package thousands of meals for children around the world; this means we CAN provide home and hearth for a homeless person in Fairfax County. In a day and time when many wring their hands and say they can't, you have explicitly said, WE CAN.

I say to you, in the words of the apostle, "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:3-6)." Jesus said to his disciples – and to us – that we are to let our light shine, that others might see our good works and give glory to God in heaven. I ain't gonna wait! I'm praising God for you RIGHT NOW!

Yours for a Vital Witness to Christ,

*Clarence*

## CIRCLE NEWS

As always, new members and guests are welcome at all circle meetings!

**DEBORAH:** Mon., May 13, 7:30 p.m., AUMC Rm. 210. Prog.: Carol Irons will continue the book study of *More Bad Girls of the Bible: Bathsheba*. Hostess: Rosa Rosal. Dev.: Lottie Brown.

**LYDIA:** Thurs., May 9, 11:30 a.m. at "Clydes". We will meet for a Spring Luncheon and will then break until September.

**M&M's :** Sat., May 18, 8 a.m., at the home of Pat Sherfey. Hostess: Maribeth Day. Dev.: Sally Bizer.

**MARTHA:** Mon., May 22, 7 p.m., Immanuel Fellowship Hall. Prog.: Betsy Clevenger will continue the book study of women of the Bible and please bring items for Kits for Conference. Light refreshments served.

**MIRIAM:** Thurs., May 9, 9:30 a.m., AUMC Rm. 210. Prog.: Members are asked to make and bring a craft for the potential of selling at the Fall Bazaar with decision to be made on the winning craft. Hostess: Jane Mettauer.

**PHOEBE:** Tues., May 28, 7:30 p.m. at "Dog Fish Head Ale" restaurant (Seven Corners).

## DATEBOOK

**Thursdays, April 25 and May 2, 5 – 7 p.m.** food distribution, Immanuel Campus

**Saturday, April 27,** Christmas in April (Rebuilding Together), contact John Clarke, 703-642-3836 or 703-606-6464 (cell) or email clarkejhl@gmail.com.

**Saturday, April 27, 2 p.m.,** concert by Wanda Warren at The Hermitage.

**Friday, May 3, 7-9 p.m.,** New Member Class taught by Rev. Dr. Clarence Brown.

**Saturday, May 4,** Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

**Saturday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.,** David Chavez Doctoral Recital

**Wednesday, May 8, 5:45 p.m.,** Wednesday Night Together fellowship dinner

# NEWS IN BRIEF

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**Haiti Mission Blog:** Nine volunteers from Annandale United Methodist Church have been on a mission trip to Haiti from April 12 - 20. They helped to rebuild parts of the Caribbean country hit by a 2010 earthquake causing widespread loss of life and property. To read about their experiences, check out their blog, linked to the AUMC web site [www.annandale-umc.org](http://www.annandale-umc.org).

**Family Fun Day at Kings Dominion** for Virginia United Methodists is scheduled for Saturday, May 4. Price is \$29.99 per person on that day for United Methodists. Purchase your ticket online by going to <http://KingsDominion.com/VAUMC> and entering User Name: KDUMC04 Password: KDUMC04. The Methodist discount may also be used Saturdays, May 4, 11, and 18, and also Memorial Day weekend, May 25, 26, and 27.

## Hospitality Intake/Outreach REDUX

Part 2

By Richard Robinson

The mission of AUMC, “to make Disciples of Christ for the transformation of the World,” has a nice sound, but how can we achieve it?

I’m glad you asked! The answer is, “one smile at a time; one handshake at a time; one meal at a time; one mission trip at a time.”

For many, Sunday morning worship is routine: rushing to get kids to Sunday School, doing church business, promoting an activity, etc.; but to seekers or newcomers, our hospitality, smile, and handshake might just be what they need to start their journey to discipleship. For example, inviting a friend to participate in “Stop Hunger Now” transforms not only the anonymous person halfway around the world who gets fed, it transforms our friend and us at the same time. As we engage more community groups to participate in “Stop Hunger Now” at AUMC, we begin to transform Annandale.

You can help expand AUMC’s Outreach/Hospitality redux and continue your own discipleship journey by volunteering to serve as parking lot greeters, Welcome Desk helpers, ushers, “connect” members, and members of the refreshment committee.

Parking lot greeters are an important “first contact” for newcomers and can take a more active role by helping visitors find open parking spots, and directing regular members to further away spots.

Welcome Desk helpers greet newcomers as they come in; to expand our hospitality we will ask newcomers to return to the Welcome Desk/Coffee Café area after worship services, when they will be more receptive to making connections. While ministry committee members are key to this activity, we

**Keep informed:** Have you visited the AUMC website recently? Ministry and program updates are posted to the website weekly along with event information. Did you miss last week’s sermon or want to hear a sermon again, from last month or last week, for example? Audio recordings of sermons are posted on the AUMC website: [www.annandale-umc.org](http://www.annandale-umc.org), click on “Discover AUMC” at the top of the page and then click on “sermons” in the drop-down list. Do you want to make a donation? You can do that online, with one click on the home page. Are you looking for the date of the next meeting of the Church council, or are you looking for the time and location of the Thursday Bible Study Group? Check out the AUMC Events calendar on the home page. Or, if you are looking for a schedule of upcoming Special Events, such as WNT dinners, Friday playgroup and upcoming music programs, click on the Special Events calendar on the home page of the web site. Did you know that AUMC has an “official” Facebook page? Recent posts have included photos of the 3rd grade Bible presentation and Easter activities.

**Furniture Donations Needed:** The Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) collects and distributes gently used furniture for needy families in the community. Items needed include: (mattresses/box springs – all sizes except King size), kitchen and dining tables and chairs, sofas (not sleeper sofas), living room chairs, coffee tables, end tables, and lamps. For more information and to arrange pickup, call 703-256-9513.

**Calling College Grads:** An upcoming issue of the Witness will highlight AUMC’s 2013 college and high school graduates. Please send the following information: name of student, degree, name of college/university, and any other information you would like to share, such as parents’ names, and the graduate’s future plans (graduate school, new job, etc.). Please email to [bgordon@annandale-umc.org](mailto:bgordon@annandale-umc.org).

will also recruit and train “connect” members, those with the spiritual gift of welcoming, to be particularly intentional about making a connection with a newcomer and helping them to find a small group or ministry area.

Ushers play an important role in welcoming newcomers, and they will be encouraged to be more active in making newcomers feel at home by escorting them to a seat and introducing them to regular members near them.

Finally, we hope to recruit a dedicated “refreshment committee.” This group will take responsibility for providing basic refreshments during fellowship hours which will free up ministry committee members to connect with newcomers assembled near the Welcome Desk/Coffee Café after worship.

Watch for future announcements about recruitment and training for these important welcoming activities. There is a place for everyone to serve. Your smile, your handshake, your words of welcome might be the beginning of someone’s discipleship; and it will begin your transformation!



## MINISTRY MEETINGS

|              |                  |           |          |
|--------------|------------------|-----------|----------|
| Wed., May 1  | Stephen Ministry | 7:30 p.m. | Room 303 |
| Tues., May 7 | Trustees         | 7:30 p.m. | Room 303 |

## LECTIONARY TEXTS

**April 28, Fifth Sunday of Easter:** Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148 (UMH 754 or 137), Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

**May 5, Sixth Sunday of Easter:** Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67 (UMH 791); Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29

## AUMC WITNESS

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## WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

### Sunday, April 28

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

**Greeters:** Funeral Ministry

**Fellowship hosts:** Deborah/Miriam Circles

**Ushers:** 8:30 a.m. R. Roberts, G. Sherfey, P. Sherfey,  
E. McKenney (c)  
11 a.m. E. Carrillo, R. Gallagher, G. Sherwood,  
P. Snitzer (c)

### Sunday, May 5

**Outreach greeters** 8:30 a.m. E.Wilson/C. Cox,  
9:30 a.m. M. Pearson, 10:30 a.m. D. Johnson

**Greeters:** In His Steps Class

**Fellowship hosts:** Issues in Christianity

## Volunteer Drivers needed by Rising Hope:

A driver is needed from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Wednesday mornings to deliver groceries to about 20 people who are home bound due to illness or old age. A van is available or the volunteers can use their own vehicle. For more information, contact Sarah Heckman, Rising Hope United Methodist Missions Church, 8220 Russell Rd., Alexandria, VA, 703-360-1976, sheckman@risinghopeumc.org.

**Visit the AUMC Facebook page** and tell us what you think! A link to the Facebook page is on the bottom of the AUMC homepage.

## Guess Who's Coming to Dinner – May 4

**All are invited** to host or attend dinner on May 4 in AUMC members' homes. Don't miss this opportunity to meet people from the church that you have not had a chance to meet, or to catch up with friends you haven't seen for awhile.

### Hosts:

- host the dinner at your home
- provide an entrée and beverage
- specify number of people you can accommodate
- indicate any of your food allergies
- envelopes will be mailed to you during the week of April 28 with the number of guests to expect

### Guests

- bring a side-dish and/or dessert for the number of people expected to attend dinner
- indicate food allergies
- dinner host/address/dinner time and dish serving number envelope will be mailed to you the week of April 28.

**Everyone is encouraged to sign up as a host or guest no later than April 28.** Fill out the form below and put it in the offering plate or return it to the church office. Or you may contact Linda Hobson at 703 642-8623 or kraavings@cox.net to sign-up or with questions. Limited sign-up will be available between services in the atrium.

### HOST GUEST (circle one)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday Service you attend: 8:30 \_\_\_ 11 \_\_\_

(Host): How many guests can you accommodate? \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Guest Arrival: \_\_\_\_\_

(Guest): # Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Dish to Share: \_\_\_\_\_

## NEXT DEADLINE

Friday, April 26 is the deadline for the May 7 Witness which covers May 12 and 19