



AUMC WITNESS

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

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We are a Stephen Ministry Church

April 9, 2013

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ding Mission Trip to Haiti

Annandale United Methodist Church is sending a team of nine volunteers, led by AUMC's Mark Bradley, to Haiti, April 12 - 20, to help rebuild parts of the Caribbean country hit by a 2010 earthquake causing widespread devastation. A second team of volunteers from several churches, coordinated by Bradley, will serve in Haiti April 19-27. Both teams will work in a small community called Olivier, near the large town of Petit Goave, and located about 2 ½ hours west of Haiti's capital city of Port-Au-Prince. The main focus is to rebuild the town's Methodist Church that was damaged by the earthquake. The team will stay at the Methodist Church's guest house in the same town. Some of the mission team's medical personnel may be able to serve in the local Methodist clinic for a couple of days.

Funds for this year's mission trip were raised as part of the 2012 Lenten Mission project. Lenten Mission funds raised this year will go to the next mission trip. The funds for Haiti will go even further due to a dollar for dollar matching grant from the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) has been active in Haiti for over 30 years, addressing needs in education, health and housing. More information about the Haiti initiative is available on the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission website at http://umvimhaiti.org/Home_Page.php.

Donations for this mission are still welcome! Please make checks payable to AUMC and "Haiti Mission" in the note line.

Hospitality Intake/ Outreach REDUX

Redux: adjective, "brought back, resurgent."

For several months, I have assisted Rev. Brown with the "Brownies with Brown" new member class. My role has been to learn why new members chose AUMC and how they can better connect to our ministry. Invariably, they say they were drawn to AUMC because we are friendly and welcoming. That is gratifying to hear, but it's time we brought more intentionality to it!

Many remember the "Sharing the Bread of Life" program created by Rev. Buddy Wright over 20 years ago. It outlined procedures for greeters, a Welcome Desk, bread team, and a name tag team, among others. Perhaps most memorable was the "Fellowship Friends" program, which gave new members someone to support them through their initiation into AUMC.

I often hear stories that begin, "When I joined AUMC, I had a Fellowship Friend..." and end with "Why don't we do that anymore?" One answer is a lack of leaders and volunteers. Another is that a lot has changed in 20 years, and the program just doesn't work.

Rev. Wright performed baptisms and received new members at the same times each month, so the Fellowship Friend coordinator had a month to find volunteers. Our subsequent pastors have received new members as soon as they were ready, which meant we were fortunate if we learned on Thursday evening that a member was being received that Sunday, leaving it nearly impossible to find volunteers in time.

Rev. Brown and I have been developing a new outreach/hospitality plan. It will continue to utilize greeters, the Welcome Desk, and ushers to make newcomers feel at ease. We will also begin to entice visitors to gather following the worship service, so that we can obtain contact information and connect them with members.

In a future issue of *The Witness*, I'll describe our need for volunteers—YOU. We have focused on four areas—greeters, welcome desk, ushers, and after-worship connectors (Rev. Brown calls these "attack members!"). We are also planning training sessions. Please prayerfully consider what role you will volunteer for that will continue and strengthen AUMC as a warm, welcoming community.

--Richard Robinson

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Holy Hospitality

On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia,

a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

—Acts 16:13-15

In the passage above, we read about how Paul, Silas, and Timothy were supposed to find a meeting place to refresh their spirits. Thankfully they found it through Lydia who provided a place to rest. Their assumptions were surpassed, their needs were met, and while this was happening there was transformation. Not only were the guests renewed, but Lydia's entire household experienced conversion.

I don't know if this has happened to you, but when you suppose something, you believe something to be true. You make assumptions, hypothesize as to what will happen, and act accordingly.

When I attended Ferrum College, located in Franklin County, I learned that everywhere you went you were supposed to greet people. Even if you didn't know them, it was the courteous thing to do. In this rural environment where the next neighbor could be a mile away, one was supposed to create community at the shop, at the gas station, and even at the post office.



I encountered culture shock, however, when I moved to Washington, D.C. One of the first times I jumped on the Metro, I started my usual greeting to people: "Good morning, how are you?" But then I received a lot of weird looks. After that experience I decided

DATEBOOK

Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m. – noon, UMW Spring Tea, "Come See What's Blooming", Wright Hall. Contact Erin McKenney, 703-403-1742 or Joni Laurence, 703-307-2941. All are welcome.

Friday- Saturday, April 19-20, UMM Spiritual Retreat. Contact Gary Fitzgibbon gary@garyfitzgibbon.com or call 703-963-8707.

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

Seminar/Kaleidoscope will meet on April 14 at 9:50 a.m. in room 300. Dr. Jack Underhill will summarize and comment on the book, *When God Talks Back: Understanding the American Evangelical Relationship with God*, by anthropologist Tanya Luhrmann. She spent years participating in the prayer life of Vineyard, an evangelical church. Evangelicals are counted as the largest church cluster in American religion. The book seeks to understand how the congregation experiences a personal relationship with God.

not to greet people, and adapted to the customs of Metro riding by putting on my headphones and listening to music, barely interacting with others unless necessary.

My mistake was not that I assumed every place would greet me with such warmth like the people of Franklin County. Rather, I stopped greeting people and joined the "supposed" courteous way of an urban community.

This month we are focusing on being more hospitable to our neighbors, to the stranger among us. Any visitor who comes into the church is entering with their own suppositions about faith, community, and hospitality.

How can we be a church that extends radical hospitality and exceeds expectations? How can we be more than just a place of warmth, but a church that invites others to encounter the grace of God as a community?

Like Lydia, it is my hope that we will be used by the Holy Spirit to offer holy hospitality to our neighbors and visitors in such a transformative way that lives are changed—our own and others.

Eduardo
Eduardo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Spring registration for the Academy of Discipleship is underway. Visit the Academy web site, academyofdiscipleship.com or contact cjohnsonoliver@annandale-umc.org. For details and conversation visit the new blog at www.academyofdiscipleship.com/blog. Copies of the Spring catalog are available in the Atrium and the church office.

Pat Sawhney will present a recital at Immanuel on Sunday, April 21, at 4 p.m., including sacred music, show tunes, and old favorites. Rev. Young Choi will provide piano pieces and accompany. A freewill offering will be taken to benefit the food ministry. Light refreshments will be available.

4 U 2 Bible Study, led weekly by Rev. Clarence Brown, will resume Thursday, April 11, 7 p.m. in room 210.

What is God Calling AUMC to Do and to Be? Sign up today for an in-home meeting for April so you can participate in the Discernment 2013: REFRESH conversation and help to evaluate AUMC's mission and programs to identify where we need to REFRESH. Signup sheets are in the Atrium or call the church office, 703-256-8330. Note: the April discernment meetings are separate, but related to, the May 4 "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" in-home dinners. Please plan to attend both an April and May in-home meeting.

Name that sermon! Have a pressing religious question? Curious what our pastors think about your favorite topic? Now's YOUR chance to determine the subject of our sermons! Email your thoughts to office@annandale-umc.org with "Name That Sermon series" in the subject line, and our pastors will use YOUR ideas as the subjects of the sermon series later this spring!

Volunteers are needed for Christmas in April (Rebuilding Together), scheduled for April 27, for a half or full day. If you are interested in working or "fixing a treat for the workers", contact John Clarke, 703-642-3836 or 703-606-6464 (cell) or email clarkejhl@gmail.com.

Time for Kairos Prayers and Cookies: The Kairos Prison Ministry Team is preparing to share God's love and cookies with the men at the Greensville Correctional Center in Jarratt, VA, April 25 – 28. You are invited to sign the Prayer Chain (in the Atrium) and to help the Annandale Team bake 1,000 dozen cookies using approved cookie recipes. Cash donations are also welcome! Make checks payable to AUMC, designated for Kairos Cookies, by April 14. Place cookies in the kitchen freezer by April 21 and label them "Kairos Cookies." For more information call Bill Iwig at 301-365-7532.

Camp Highroad Camp Out registration deadline is April 10. Everyone is invited to help clean up and repair the camp near Middleburg, VA from May 17-19. Contact Mark Bradley, Bradleyfam@aol.com or the church office for details.

The Lenten Mission fund drive continues! Please continue to make LMP offerings through April 14, by check to AUMC Missions or online at www.annandale-umc.org. The funds will help others through six projects: Poe Middle School, Stop Hunger Now, Camp Highroad, Haiti, Brazil and Mozambique. Please consider giving if you have not already.

AUMC will host the "Longing for Spring" Workshop for clergy and laity, sponsored by the District, on April 17. The clergy event is 9 a.m.-3:15 p.m.; the laity is from 7-9 p.m.

Attention ALL CURRENT and BEGINNING Acolytes and Crucifers! A mandatory meeting and training for ALL acolytes/crucifers and parents on Sunday, April 14 from 9:40-10:10 a.m. in the sanctuary. Please RSVP by e-mail to Pat Vaughn at pvaughn@annandale-umc.org.

Volunteer Drivers needed by Rising Hope 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. The driver must be under age 70 (due to insurance restrictions) and be capable of doing some light lifting. For more information, contact Sarah Heckman, Rising Hope United Methodist Missions Church, 8220 Russell Rd., Alexandria, VA, 703-360-1976, sheckman@risinghopeumc.org.

The Annandale UMC Foundation Provides

The Annandale United Methodist Church has brought people to Christ and served its community and the world for more than 150 years. Members and friends support our ministry program through gifts to the annual operating fund or designated special funds, such as Capital Campaign gifts. The Annandale United Methodist Church Foundation, Inc., was established in 2000 as a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization to receive and administer gifts to the church to help meet the church's future ministry, mission, and outreach needs – both near- and long-term. Gifts of cash or securities to the Annandale UMC Foundation are appreciated at any time. But often, gifts to the Foundation involve bequests, life insurance, and life income plans, arranged with a financial advisor or attorney.

The Annandale UMC Foundation Board of Directors has established a set of five funds within the Foundation that allows the donor to specify the general purpose of their gift. These five funds are: 1) Education Fund; 2) Missions Fund; 3) Discipleship Fund; 4) Facilities Fund; and 5) Worship Fund. Your gift can be specified for inclusion in any of the funds or in any combination of funds. This structure allows the donor to fund a variety of future Annandale UMC ministry programs without developing any special instructions to cover any contingencies.

We have greatly benefited from the faith and vision of the Annandale saints who have gone before us. The Annandale UMC Foundation provides us an opportunity to be seeds of the future for those who succeed us. If you have any questions about the AUMC Foundation, contact Bill Iwig, President of the AUMC Foundation Board of Directors, at 301-365-7532.

an Opportunity for You

MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tues., April 16	Church Council	7:15 p.m.	Room 302
Tues., April 23	SPRC	7 p.m.	Room 210

LECTIONARY TEXTS

April 14, Third Sunday of Easter: Acts 9:1-6 (7-20), Psalm 30 (UMH 762), Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19

April 21, Fourth Sunday of Easter: Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137), Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30

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Annandale United Methodist Church

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WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, April 14

Outreach greeters 8:30 a.m. R. Hampton, 9:30 B. Brown,
10:30 a.m. D. Johnson

Greeters: Caring Ministries

Fellowship hosts: Deborah/Miriam Circles

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. S. Chase, J. Clarke, S. Groves, B. Brown (c)
11 a.m. C. Jones, C. Jones, R. Witkowski, P. Adams (c)

Sunday, April 21

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

Greeters: Communion Stewards

Fellowship hosts: Education Committee

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. A. Cogswell, S. Fleming, E. Sackey, S. Nkesi (c)
11 a.m. S. Fleming, G. Rothman, J. Thomas,
R. Gordon (c)

Help needed with food distribution at

Immanuel on Thursdays, 5 – 7 p.m. For details, call Betsy Clevenger, 703-425-6424.

Wanda Warren (soprano) and Young Choi (piano) will be in concert at the Hermitage of Northern Virginia, 5000 Fairbanks Ave, Alexandria at 2 p.m., Saturday, April 27. This presentation is for the Hermitage inhabitants but is open to all.

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. Fill out the form below and put it in the offering plate or return it to the church office. You may also contact Linda Hobson at 703 642-8623 or kraavings@cox.net to sign-up or with any questions. Limited sign-up will also 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: _____

Host/Guest reservations must be made no later than Sunday, April 28, to Linda Hobson, kraavings@cox.net or 703-642-8623.

NEXT DEADLINE

Friday, April 12 is the deadline for the April 23 Witness which covers April 28 and May 5