



# 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

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## Spiritual Skiing and a Life in HD

A few weeks ago the students of The Grid, the youth ministry of Annandale United Methodist Church, departed for their annual ski trip. However, this trip would not be anything like other ski trips. As students began arriving to the church awaiting their departure, the excitement and anticipation was evident. They loaded the vehicles and headed west...never to return the same.

Did you know that so many people "live" life each day with no consideration for what God's plan and purpose is for their life? They live a life that is dead. Even though they may be physically alive by enjoying time with family, friends and entertainment, their soul is lifeless and empty. Over the weekend, the students learned about the difference between a life like the one described above, Life in SD (Standard Definition), and a Life in Full HD (High Definition). In Romans 8 we see Paul talking about this conflict between living in the "flesh" and living in the "spirit." It was in this chapter that each student and adult spent time individually studying the word and

wrestling with the decision to live in SD or HD.

On Saturday we all hit the slopes. It was absolutely perfect weather for skiing and tubing! We could see the flurries of snow as we were swooping down hill after hill. Have you ever been skiing? There is something about seeing not only God's magnificent creation, but also this masterpiece covered in white fluffy snow. It really puts an individual in awe!

After a day on the slopes we headed back to the house for more time together and time with God. Saturday night we heard about what the Spirit does and how it is like a remote control. The Spirit leads us to something, but doesn't control the action. We were faced with the decision to either live a life for God where the Spirit leads us, or to live for ourselves and remain in control. We continued to learn that just because we decide to live a life in HD doesn't mean that it grants us all the details. We still hurt, get sick, feel lonely, and have questions. However, we choose to Pray...Trust...Obey...and Follow.

We ended the weekend reflecting on what is holding us back from living a life in FULL HD. See, the difference between a life in HD and a life in FULL HD is that a life in FULL HD holds nothing back. These

people are so determined that nothing will stand in their way and nothing will turn them away from pursuing God and His purpose for their life. Romans 8:38 shares that absolutely nothing will ever separate us from the love of God.

We want to say thank you to all of our supporters who helped make this trip possible. Thank you to all the adults who went on the trip who helped challenge and care for us. Thank you to our wonderful church family for your prayers and continual support. Thank you to our amazing God who deserves everything we are and everything we have.

This weekend will go down in our lives as a weekend that challenged us to grow. We grew in our relationships with our friends and adults. We grew in our relationship with God. We grew in our understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ and pursuing a Life in Full HD!



### This Issue of the Witness:

Page 2: Clarence's Clergy Corner  
News in Brief  
Datebook

Page 3: News in Brief  
Ministry Opportunities

Page 4: Ministry Meetings  
Lectionary Texts  
Weekly Volunteers  
Brazil Mission Trip



## Our Journey Through Lent

Grace and peace in the name of our Savior!

Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22 and John 12. If you are wondering what those texts have in common, they are collectively the starting point in the Gospels that we have come to know as the stories of Christ's Passion. While technically the term passion stems from the Greek word for suffering, it is in truth the story of God's great love for us. Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22 and John 12. These texts invite us to journey again with Jesus to Calvary.

Along the way, we will make several stops. Of course, we will make note of the plot twists in the story of salvation: Jesus' prediction of his death and resurrection and the disbelieving disciples; the conspiracy of the religious establishment; the anointing with costly perfume; the Last Supper and prediction of betrayal; the Garden of Gethsemane and the slumbering disciples; the identifying kiss and the cowardice and denial on the part of his friends; the mockery of justice followed by horrific scourging; the wounding journey and the old rugged cross.

We invite you to make note of those during our Lenten offerings: our Shrove Tuesday supper; our Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and, above all, our Easter Sunday services all are designed to help us reconnect with the depth and breadth of God's amazing love for us.

Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22 and John 12. I invite you to be present to the drama of salvation, as we together are again empowered to witness to the risen Christ.

Yours for a vital witness to Christ,

*Clarence*  
Clarence

**Lenten Study 2013** is underway but it's not too late to participate! Visit the Lenten Study table in Wright Hall before/after Sunday worship to learn more and to purchase the book *The Jesus I Never Knew* by Philip Yancey.

**AUMC's New Member Class** will meet on Friday, March 1, 7-9 p.m., in room 210. The class is called "Brownie Evenings with Brown" and will be taught by Rev. Dr. Clarence Brown, Jr. It is a time of exploration and discernment of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ at Annandale UMC. Topics will range from Wesleyan Theology to United Methodism 101; from Stewardship to Spiritual Gifts. Pre-registration is not necessary. For more information, call 703-256-8330.

### DATEBOOK

**Feb. 16, 8:45 a.m. - noon:** Stop Hunger Now meal packaging event

**Feb. 17, 7 p.m.:** The Annandale Book Lovers will meet in the parlor to discuss *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett.

**Feb. 20, :** Wednesday Night Together, 5:45 p.m. dinner and 6:30 communion

**Feb. 21:** AUMC Weekday Preschool (9:30 a.m.) and Early Learning Program (10:30 a.m.) open houses

**Feb. 21:** United Methodist Men's dinner

**Feb. 24 - Mar. 24, 4-6 p.m.:** Parenting with Love and Logic classes

**Feb. 27:** AUMC Weekday Preschool (9:30 a.m.) and Early Learning Program (10:30 a.m.) open houses

**March 1, 7-9 p.m.:** Brownie Evenings with Brown (the AUMC new member class)

**March 13:** Wednesday Night Together, 5:45 p.m. dinner and 6:30 communion

# NEWS IN BRIEF

**Wednesday Night Together** is scheduled for Feb. 20. Dinner reservations are due by noon on Tuesday, Feb. 19, and can be made on the pew pad or by contacting Joyce Kitzmiller, [jkitzmiller@annandale-umc.org](mailto:jkitzmiller@annandale-umc.org) or 703-256-8330. The menu will be beef stew, biscuits, salad and cherry cheesecake bars. 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. Dinner begins at 5:45 p.m. The next WNT dinner will be March 13.

**AUMC's United Methodist Men** are having a dinner on Thursday, Feb. 21. To volunteer to help or RSVP, contact Gary FitzGibbon at [gary@garyfitzgibbon.com](mailto:gary@garyfitzgibbon.com) or 703-963-8707.

**Open Houses:** The AUMC Weekday Preschool and Early Learning Program are hosting Open Houses for prospective families on Thursday, Feb. 21 and Wednesday, Feb. 27. The WPS session begins at 9:30 a.m. and the ELP at 10:30 a.m. Each Open House includes an information session and a tour of the program. Interested parents should come to the WPS/ELP office, room 122. AUMC members are provided priority registration for both programs from Feb. 26 through March 4. For more information, call 703-256-1100.

**ACCA's furniture ministry** (which delivers donated furniture to needy families) needs volunteers! AUMC's dates to assist from 8 a.m. to 12 noon are Saturdays, Feb. 16, April 6, May 18 and July 13. If interested, call Peter Taylor, 703-477-3903.

**Brown Bag Lunch makers needed** Thursdays through March, 12 noon at Immanuel campus. The lunches are for the Bailey's Homeless Shelter. Help is also needed with food distribution every Thursday, 5 – 7 p.m. For more information, call Betsy Clevenger, 703-425-6424.

**A Mozambique Mission Team** (VIM construction/ leadership development) will travel to Cambine, Mozambique July 26 through Aug. 11. For details, contact Molly Wilmarth, [molly.wilmarth@yahoo.com](mailto:molly.wilmarth@yahoo.com); Erin McKenney, [hoopsfan1@verizon.net](mailto:hoopsfan1@verizon.net); or Mark Bradley, [Bradleyfam@aol.com](mailto:Bradleyfam@aol.com).

**Help reduce postage and paper costs** by signing up to receive the Witness newsletter via email every two weeks instead of by U.S. mail. Please send an email to Dottie Rogerson, [drogerson@annandale-umc.org](mailto:drogerson@annandale-umc.org), to request your name be added to the email distribution list. Note: AUMC does NOT share its email distribution list with outside organizations.

**Parenting with Love and Logic** classes for parents of young children will be held on Sundays, Feb. 24 - March 24, 4-6 p.m., in room 210 and will be taught by Maribeth Day, Executive Director of AUMC Weekday Children's Programs. Program cost is \$25/person; \$35/couple and child care is \$15 per family. For registration and other information call 703-256-5244 or email [mday@annandale-umc.org](mailto:mday@annandale-umc.org). Registration forms are also available in the church office.



## Ministry Opportunities

**Stop Hunger Now:** Join us for a meal packaging event on **Saturday, Feb. 16, from 8:45 a.m. to noon.** Stop Hunger Now is an organization that has perfected a way to make 25 cent meals and deliver them to impoverished people across 75 countries, as well as giving food to help with disaster relief. For these meals to reach their recipients, we need YOU to help pack them. Saturday morning, join us in Wright Hall to make an assembly line to help stop hunger worldwide. Cash donations are also welcome and needed; bring or mail them to the church office.

**The Baileys Meals on Wheels program** needs two or three more drivers to continue to make deliveries to our elderly shut-ins. Pick-up food at the Baileys Crossroads Community Shelter (3525 Moncure Ave.), and take to two or three homes. The time commitment is usually less than an hour. Call Mary Lee Di Spirito at 703-256-9513 or email [ddmld@verizon.net](mailto:ddmld@verizon.net).



## MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tues., Feb. 19 Church Council 7:15 p.m. Room 302

## LECTIONARY TEXTS

**Feb. 17, First Sunday in Lent:** Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 (*UMH 810*); Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

**Feb. 24, Second Sunday in Lent:** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27 (*UMH 758*); Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

### **AUMC WITNESS**

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## WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

### **Sunday, Feb. 17**

**Greeters:** Phoebe/Lydia Circles

**Fellowship hosts:** Mary and Martha Circle

**Ushers:** 8:30 a.m. S. Chase, J. Clarke, S. Groves, S. Nkesi (c)

11 a.m. S. Fleming, R. Gallagher, G. Rothman,  
R. Gordon (c)

### **Sunday, Feb. 24**

**Greeters:** Trustee Committee

**Fellowship hosts:** United Methodist Men

**Ushers:** 8:30 a.m. D. Pemberton, G. Sherfey, P. Sherfey,  
E. McKenney (c)

11 a.m. C. Perdue, G. Sherwood, P. Adams,  
P. Snitzer (c)

## Brazil Mission Trip:

For the last seven years, AUMC has sent a mission team to Brazil as part of the Sombra e Agua Fresca Projeto ("Shade and Fresh Water Project"). Our teams have traveled to Sao Paulo, Fortaleza, Manaus, and Boa Vista. This year's team will travel to Belo Horizonte.

The Shade and Fresh Water Project is designed to create places for children with shade and fresh water. In Brazil, the children go to school year-round, but only for about four hours per day. As a result there are long periods of time where children are unsupervised. Issues like child prostitution and gangs have increased, exacerbating the need for supervision of the children.

The Methodist churches in Brazil created the Shade and Fresh Water Project to address these social issues, while also providing Christian education. Many of the construction projects involve building a classroom or daycare center at the church for the children to go to when they are in school where they receive supervision, Christian education, and a meal.

This year, AUMC's Mission Team's task is to add a second floor to an existing classroom building. The funds raised will pay construction materials and supplies. The team will be going from May 20-June 2. If you are interested in joining the team, contact Erin McKenney (hoopsfan1@verizon.net) at 703-403-1742 or Ryan Witkowski (witkowskir@gmail.com) at 703-635-6062.

## **NEXT DEADLINE**

Friday, Feb. 15 is the deadline for the Feb. 26  
Witness which covers March 3 and 10