

AUMC WITNESS

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

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

Ministers:
Rev. Dr. Clarence R. Brown, Jr.
Rev. Eduardo Carrillo
Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver



Vol. 10 No. 5



We are a Stephen Ministry Church

February 26, 2013

Lenten Missions Projects

We are a congregation that lives our love of God through service to those in need, whether they are in our neighborhood or on distant shores. Acting on AUMC's overall mission to Love God, Love Neighbor and Serve the World, we support our local community and the world through service, prayer, financial support and fellowship. Our mission outreach is structured to ensure that everyone, young and old alike, can participate.

AUMC's Mission Committee has identified six 2013 Lenten Mission Projects and set a fundraising goal of \$60,000. They are:

Camp Highroad

Camp Highroad is a Christian Adventure Camp operated by the United Methodist Church to provide year-round group retreats, camping, team building, outdoor education, Christian summer and winter camps, and special events in a natural setting. The weekend of May 17-19 has been designated for cleanup and repair work at the camp. Supplies purchased with our Lenten Mission funds will assist with a variety of projects at the camp. To register for this weekend, please email Mark Bradley at Bradleyfam@aol.com by March 31.

Meals for Poe Middle Schoolers And Other Local Food Programs

AUMC's weekly meals ministry at Poe Middle School is much needed: 85% of the students at Poe qualify for free lunch, and some are listed as homeless. AUMC has committed to providing a hot meal every Wednesday for the rest of 2013. Our Lenten offering will cover the costs of running this ministry (some of the \$12,000 for this Lenten Mission project may be used to help defray the costs of the weekly Immanuel distribution food program). To volunteer, contact Molly Wilmarth 703-474-3281 or molly.wilmarth@yahoo.com.

Stop Hunger Now

Stop Hunger Now aims to end hunger by packaging and distributing meals all over the world. The organization has perfected a low cost (25 cents per meal), highly nutritious meal of dehydrated rice and soy that can be easily shipped and stored. The meals are shipped worldwide to respond to food crises and to provide school meals critical to enabling children to get an education. The Lenten Mission goal is to raise \$10,000 for this project.

Mozambique

AUMC's 2013 Mozambique Lenten Mission Project continues a shared vision with the Cambine Mission Compound and the German Methodist Church for a new Men's Dormitory. This project is an investment in the future leadership of Mozambique. Whether or not these young men become pastors, they will return to their communities schooled in Christian values and nurtured in the faith. Our Lenten offering will be added to last years' funds to help complete this project, including construction materials and local labor. The team will travel to Cambine, July 26 - Aug. 11. If you are interested, contact Molly Wilmarth (molly.wilmarth@yahoo.com) 703-474-3281 or Erin McKenney (hoopsfan1@verizon.net) 703-403-1742.

Brazil

AUMC's 2013 mission team to Brazil will go to a new location: Belo Horizonte. Our task is to add a second floor to a classroom building in support of the Shade and Fresh Water program. The funds raised will pay for the purchase of supplies for the building expansion. 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.

Haiti

The Rebuilding Haiti Lenten Mission Project will continue AUMC's long-standing efforts to help the people in the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere as they continue to recover from the recent earthquake and hurricanes. With the \$5,000 targeted for Haiti and a dollar for dollar matching grant from UMCOR, supplies will be purchased to help a mission team rebuild churches, schools and clinics.

This Issue of the Witness:

Page 2: Eduardo's Clergy Corner
Circle News
Datebook

Page 3: News in Brief
Chances for Children

Page 4: Ministry Meetings
Lectionary Texts
Weekly Volunteers
Discernment 2013



Luke 13:6-9:

The Fig Tree

We are almost at the halfway point of Lent. How are you feeling? I hope that whatever you have committed your mind and soul to abstain from, you are still strong and not giving into temptation. The

scripture I came across in our lectionary, the readings we use as a resource each Sunday, has the story of a fig tree that applies well to our Lenten journey.

After some research, I was pleasantly surprised to find that a fig tree does not yield fruit until the second or third year. It is not until the tree is strong enough that we can see and taste its fruit.

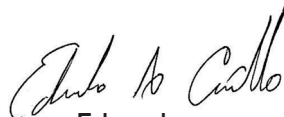
Can you imagine having to wait for a fig tree to grow? Besides waiting for it to produce a fig, you have to care for the tree. It is not a plant-it-and-forget-it kind of deal. You have to make sure there is enough light, water, and rich soil. You literally have to put your back into it. You diligently log in hours of work each week and at the end of the day you have no reward! Preposterous!

I believe this is what happens to a lot of us during Lent. We restrain ourselves and we make sure we don't eat the chocolate covered doughnut with sprinkles on it, you know the kind. Or maybe you are abstaining from overspending. (Who needs a 81" TV?) Perhaps you are dedicating a little more time with God every day.

If you're anything like me, by now these practices have become tiresome and temptation has become more appealing. Your calendar is perhaps even more full now that you have added a spiritual discipline to your life during this Lenten season. Are you tired and ready to throw this spiritual practice out the window? Is watering your spirit and caring for it becoming a burdensome chore rather than a gratifying faith experience?

My friends, we are the fig tree. We have our good days and our bad days. Just like that tree, you keep on watering and tending your soul but you cannot see any fruit. You have put in some long hours and have expended energy trying to avoid temptation. And you have to wonder whether it's all worth it.

Take heart! You will yield fruit when you are attentive, caring, and maturing spiritually. Do not give up. Tend to your spirit and care for your practice this Lent. The fruits of God are always worth the wait.


Eduardo

Camp Highroad "Giving Back" Campout will be May 17-19. This is an opportunity for families, groups and individuals to help clean up and repair the facilities and grounds at Camp Highroad. Supplies will be purchased with donations for the Lenten Mission Projects. Lodging reservations are due by March 31. Contact Joyce Kitzmiller in the church office, jkitzmiller@annandale-umc.org or call 703-256-8330. For details, contact Mark Bradley, Bradleyfam@aol.com.

CIRCLE NEWS

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

DEBORAH: Mon., Mar. 17, 7:30 p.m., AUMC Rm. 210. Prog.: Start of book study of *More Bad Girls of the Bible*. Hostess: Liz Walker. Dev.: Carol Irons.

FRIENDSHIP: Tues., Mar. 19, 12:30 p.m. Location to be determined – Call Wanda Warren. Prog.: The history and study of hymns and singing of the hymns.

LYDIA: Thurs., Mar. 14, 10 a.m., AUMC Rm. 209. Prog.: Immanuel Campus Outreach and planning for Spring Tea.

M&M's : Sat., Mar. 16, 8 a.m., at the home of Pat Sherfey. Hostess: Kay Croucher. Dev.: Janet Petty.

MARTHA: Mon., Mar. 25, 7:30 p.m., Immanuel Fellowship Hall. Prog.: Betsy Clevenger will continue the study of the Women of the Bible. Dev.: Betsy Clevenger.

MIRIAM: On March 14, at 9:30 am, in the Conference Room, Miriam Circle will prepare materials to be used for the children's Easter craft and make plans for the Spring Tea. Hostess: Louise Golobic.

PHOEBE: Tues., Mar. 26, 7:30 p.m., at Maggiano's – Tyson's.

DATEBOOK

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

Wednesdays through March 27, 6:30 p.m.:
Lenten Communion service

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 3: ACCA food drive

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

March 16: Easter Festival

NEWS IN BRIEF

Congratulations and thank you to AUMC members Bill Iwig and Taye Nadi who were presented the Scotty Walters Award during worship on Feb. 10. This award was created more than 20 years ago by the Trustees Committee to honor Scotty Walters, the AUMC property manager at that time, for his hard work and dedication. Nadi, who is the current AUMC Property manager, and Iwig were commended for their years of dedicated service to the AUMC campus.

AUMC's New Member Class will meet on Friday, March 1, 7-9 p.m., in room 210. The class, "Brownie Evenings with Brown", is taught by Rev. Dr. Clarence Brown, Jr. The class explores what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ at AUMC, from Wesleyan Theology to United Methodism 101. Pre-registration is unnecessary. For details, call 703-256-8330.

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 purchase the book.

Wednesday Night Together is March 13. Dinner is at 5:45 p.m. and Lenten Communion is at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are due by noon on March 11 on the attendance pad in the pew or by contacting Joyce Kitzmiller, jkitzmiller@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330. The menu will be chicken enchiladas, Mexican rice, sweet corn pudding and pineapple Tres Leches cake. Cost is \$7 per person, \$3 per child, \$20 per family, or \$10 per carry-out meal, payable in cash or check to AUMC.

Day Trip, March 14, at 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., to the National Society U.S. Daughters of 1812. Bus leaves from AUMC to visit this historic mansion and museum. Lunch with the group nearby. For details, call the Shepherd's Center Office at 703-941-1419 or via email at shepherdscas@vacoxmail.com.

ACCA's furniture ministry needs volunteers to deliver furniture to needy families from 8 a.m. to noon on April 6, May 18 and July 13. For details, 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

Lost and found: if you left dishes or pans in the Wright Hall kitchen, please pick them up as soon as possible. There is also a lost and found in the church office that has a few coats, hats and other clothing, and is open from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Items left for over two weeks will be donated.

Giving Statements: To save on paper, printing and postage, AUMC will distribute Giving Statements on a quarterly basis, in January, April, July and October. If you wish to receive a statement prior to those months, contact Garry Bell at gbell@annandale-umc.org or call 703-256-8330.

Chances for Children

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

Easter Festival: Saturday, March 16, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon, including activities and crafts for children of all ages, the Legend of the Easter Egg, an Easter Egg Hunt (bring a basket to collect the eggs) and a Challenge Egg Hunt for 3rd-4th graders. Helpers are needed! Contact Becki to help bstewart@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330.

Purple Cocoons: Have you noticed the purple cocoons around the church? The children's Sunday School classes created a beautiful Easter surprise for all of us. As we prepare our hearts during the season of Lent, we wait for the revelation of the Easter morning transformation. Be ready to enjoy the surprise on Easter joy.

Sacraments Class, fulfilling the promise of Baptism, meets Sundays during the 11 a.m. worship service, and is designed especially for children 3rd grade and above. Topics: baptism on March 3 and 10 and the Apostle's Creed and Lord's Prayer on April 21. Children may join the class any Sunday and registration is required. Forms are available at the 3rd floor in the Parent Resource Area and on the website www.annandale-umc.org.

Calling all Easter Bunnies! We need filled Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt (March 16). To donate Easter eggs, pick up a bag of empty plastic Easter eggs from the third floor, fill them with candy or stickers, and return the filled eggs to the church office by March 10.

Early Registration: AUMC members are provided priority registration for the AUMC Weekday Preschool and the Early Learning Program from Feb. 26 through March 4. For more information, call 703-256-1100.

Child Safety and Internet Safety for Families will be the topic on Sunday, March 3, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. during Parents and Promises, a class for parents of young children. A guest speaker from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children will address child safety and internet safety for families. The class will meet in room 300. For more information contact Becki Stewart, bstewart@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330.

Parenting with Love and Logic classes for parents of young children will be held on Sundays through 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. Registration forms are also available in the church office.

MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tues., March 5	Trustees	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Wed., March 6	Stephen Ministry	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Tues., March 12	Finance	7 p.m.	Room 210
	Missions	7 p.m.	Room 302

LECTIONARY TEXTS

March 3, Third Sunday in Lent: Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8 (UMH 788),
1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

March 10, Fourth Sunday in Lent: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32 (UMH
766); 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

AUMC WITNESS

(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

Sunday, March 3

Outreach greeters 8:30 a.m. R. Hampton, 9:30 B. Brown,
10:30 a.m. L. McConville/E. Moss

Greeters: United Methodist Men

Fellowship hosts: Witness/Missions Committee

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. J. Clarke, A. Cogswell, R. Roberts, K. Sabo (c)
11 a.m. E. Carrillo, B. Gordon, P. Straub, R. Gordon (c)

Sunday, March 10

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

Greeters: Kairos Prison Ministry

Fellowship hosts: Youth

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. S. Chase, G. Sherfey, P. Sherfey, S. Nkesi (c)
11 a.m. R. Gallagher, C. Perdue, G. Sherwood,
P. Adams (c)

Discernment 2013: REFRESH

It's time for REFRESH! It has been over three years since Annandale United Methodist Church embarked on a journey of discerning God's calling for us and incorporating the results into our goals and ministries. We discerned that God is calling us to grow in grace through continued learning / worship opportunities and to share our faith through fellowship / relational opportunities. We are particularly called to share our faith with young adults.

The two goals are to:

- Provide chances for spiritual growth and social connection for the current congregation that result in a closer relationship with Jesus Christ, each other, and passionate discipleship in the areas of worship, spiritual programming, and social events.
- Create opportunities for spiritual growth and social connection for the younger generation so they are inspired to attend AUMC, participate in our events, and progress along their spiritual journey.

AUMC program changes implementing these goals included: the creation of a Young Adult Council and the intentional placement of young adults in positions of administrative responsibility.

Our discernment and implementation of God's Plan is never-ending. As we all know, change is constant! Our congregation demographics are changing. AUMC has expanded to encompass the Immanuel Campus and its members. Therefore, this spring AUMC is embarking on an update to the 2010 effort, to REFRESH our view of what God intends for AUMC.

The Discernment REFRESH will involve an updated survey to assess our neighbor's view and expectations of AUMC; a survey of AUMC members conducted during church services on **March 3** to obtain a current perspective of congregational views; home meetings with AUMC members conducted in **April**; a "Guess Who is Coming to Dinner" event on **March 4**; and analysis of accumulated data. We will then have a congregational meeting to help incorporate process results into upcoming AUMC programs and missions.

How can you help to make this a successful process as we move forward? I am glad you asked! First, pray for success as we move forward with the REFRESH. Second, complete the Congregational Survey on March 3. We will engage different platforms for those who cannot attend on that date. Third, agree to be a host or attend the discernment home meetings or Guess Who is Coming to Dinner events. Finally, participate in AUMC programs to help achieve God's goals through AUMC as set out in the defined AUMC goals and program implementation. With your help we can truly be God's disciples!

-Rick Hampton

NEXT DEADLINE

Friday, March 1 is the deadline for the March 12 Witness which covers March 17 and 24