



AUMC WITNESS

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

Annandale United Methodist Church
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Rev. Eduardo Carrillo
Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver
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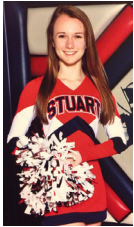
Vol. 12 No. 5



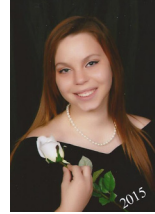
We are a Stephen Ministry Church

May 19, 2015

Congratulations to the high school graduates from AUMC!



Katherine Ackley will graduate from JEB Stuart High School with the IB Diploma. At Stuart, she was a member of the varsity swim and softball teams, co-captain of the varsity cheerleading team, a member of the advanced orchestra for four years, and a member of the National Honor Society. At AUMC, Katherine participated in the youth mission trips since 2011. This fall she will attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to study biomedical engineering on a four-year, full ride NROTC Scholarship.



Veronica Hartley will graduate from Oak Hill Academy, where she participated in the Equestrian Team, Youth Praise Band, and community mission projects. Veronica plans to attend Ferrum College to study Russian and to major in Art Therapy. Veronica was baptized and confirmed at AUMC and participated as an acolyte and in a Youth Mission Trip to Mississippi.



Jack Curtin



Caitlin Odom will graduate from Annandale High School and will attend George Mason University in the fall to pursue Music Education.



Drew Davis will graduate from Robinson Secondary School and will attend the University of Georgia where he plans to major in either computer science or management information systems. While at AUMC, Drew attended VBS, Sunday School, and starred as Winthrop in the AUMC production of Music Man. Recently he has been assisting with audio/visual during worship services.



Peter Scheible will graduate from Edison High School, where he recently was the lead in "Annie Get Your Gun". At AUMC, he has participated in choir, youth choir, GRID, and Sunday School. Peter will attend Old Dominion University with interests in math education, music, and theater.



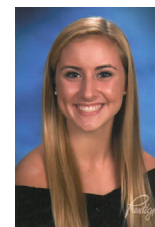
Brenna Schields will graduate from Annandale High School as a candidate for the International Baccalaureate diploma. She is a member of the Art Honors Society and has been active in Girl Scouts (Silver Award), Ramp, Poe meals, and Heritage Campus sandwich-making. In the fall, she'll start at Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA, and plans to major in Zoology.

Religion vs. Spirituality or #WhyIGoToChurch

By Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver

For the past several weeks, we have offered a sermon series on the reasons people don't attend church. This past Sunday, I gave a sermon responding to those who say, "I'm spiritual, but I'm not religious." Those who make this claim tend to have many of the objections to the church that we have discussed in this sermon series. They contend that organized religion with its rules and doctrines, can be alienating, inhospitable, hypocritical, and even (perhaps, therefore) irrelevant to contemporary society. In response to these claims, I would like to unpack this distinction between religion and spirituality, and in doing so, explain why I still believe that the church can be a place of grace, hope, and love.

(Cont. on page 2)



Bailey Senyitko will graduate from Falls Church High School with an AP Diploma. Her school activities included four-year tri-sport athlete (field hockey, swim/dive, lacrosse), member of National Honor Society and DECA. She will attend Mississippi State University in the fall and major in Animal and Dairy Sciences. Her AUMC activities included children and youth music ministries, youth band, Ramp, Mississippi Summer Mission Trips, VBS, Acolyte, Lay Reader, Sound of Music, Music Man, Joseph, and Wiz of Oz musicals.

Congratulations to the college graduates from AUMC!



Alex Cavanagh majored in Accounting at Virginia Tech and earned a B.S. degree. In September, he begins work at an international accounting firm with offices in McLean. While at Tech, Alex played Club Soccer and held leadership positions in his Fraternity (Phi Gamma Delta), the Student Budget Board, and the Interfraternity Executive Council.



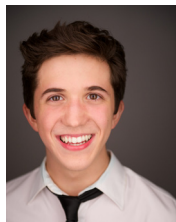
Montgomery "Monte" McCarthy graduated from Virginia Tech University with a Bachelor's Degree in Applied Economics, Environmental Planning and Management and a minor in Geography. He was active in Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship and intramural sports. He plans to attend Graduate school at VA Tech in the fall. He is currently seeking summer internship/employment.



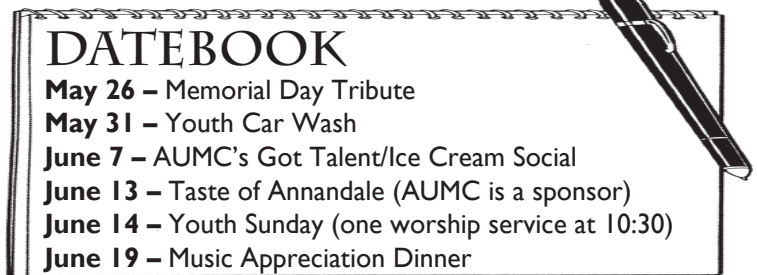
Shane Doty graduated from South Alabama University in December 2014 with a B.A. in Psychology and a Minor in History. While at South Alabama University he played Division I Football for the Jaguars in the Sun Belt on a five-year scholarship. Shane currently works for Computer Technology Solutions in Mobile, AL. Shane graduated in 2009 from Annandale HS and spent one year post graduate at Fork Union prior to going to South Alabama. Shane's goal is to be a High School Football Coach.



Jaclyn Sarah Mohlmann graduated from Shenandoah University with a Master's degree in Business Administration. During grad school, she fulfilled her junior and senior NCAA eligibility in Track and Field, was named Indoor and Outdoor Track Athlete of the Year, and cumulatively holds 13 individual Shenandoah University track and field records. Jaclyn grew up and was baptized in the Immanuel (Heritage Drive) congregation.



Benjamin Odom recently graduated from Syracuse University with a BFA in Musical Theater. He has moved to New York City to pursue his acting career.



DATEBOOK
May 26 – Memorial Day Tribute
May 31 – Youth Car Wash
June 7 – AUMC's Got Talent/Ice Cream Social
June 13 – Taste of Annandale (AUMC is a sponsor)
June 14 – Youth Sunday (one worship service at 10:30)
June 19 – Music Appreciation Dinner

(Religion vs. Spirituality, cont. from page 1)

1. Religion is a set of beliefs and practices that unite into a single moral community all those who adhere to them. (Durkheim)
As a former student of Comparative Religion, I have been intrigued by the problem of defining religion. There are philosophical, sociological, anthropological, and other cross-disciplinary approaches to capturing the diversity of religious expressions into a single definition. Emile Durkheim's definition is helpful for this discussion. Indeed the five major world religions (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism) seem to each have at the very least a set of beliefs and practices that unites adherents into a moral community. While world religions differ in important ways, they share certain features in common: sacred texts (Bible, Quran, Rg Veda), different names for and beliefs about a higher power (theologies), comparative ethics, and various rituals and traditions that reflect their respective beliefs.

2. Spirituality is the experience of the sacred and the search for meaning in life.
Spirituality, by contrast is broader than religion. Spirituality may include any experience of the sacred or search for meaning in life. Many people experience the sacred in nature, in music, in creative pursuits, through spiritual teachers, or through serving others. Spirituality can be experienced outside of organized religion, but it can also be experienced within religious traditions. All of the major world religions seek an experience of the sacred through rituals, forms of meditation, prayer, or worship, and beliefs about the divine. Indeed, many people initiate their search for meaning through a religious tradition.

3. Religious rules without spirituality can appear dogmatic, judgmental, and alienating.
There is a common thread that ran throughout our series on why people don't come to church. The root problem seems to be that sometimes in our effort to uphold our tenets, we forget about people. We forget that our beliefs and practices are not an end of themselves, but are a means for us to connect with God and with our community of faith. If our religion disconnects others from God and from the faith community, then the church is no longer an experience of the sacred but a place of alienation. Indeed, the Hebrew prophets lament those who worship but neglect mercy and justice for those in need. Similarly, Jesus' many disputes with the Pharisees focused on those who follow rules without caring for the community. Quoting the prophet Isaiah, Jesus says, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.'
4. Christianity at its best offers both religion and spirituality through the love of Jesus Christ.
Love is at the heart of Christian spirituality. Quoting the Hebrew Shema, Jesus says that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. Jesus adds that the second greatest commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself. All of the law and prophets depend on these. Indeed all beliefs and practices, doctrines and traditions should be rooted in love.

(Cont. on page 3)



Flags and Honor at AUMC – American Legion Memorial Day Ceremony, Monday, May 25

On Monday, May 25, American Legion Post 1976 and Annandale United Methodist Church will jointly sponsor and perform their annual Memorial Day tribute. At the heart of the event is the ceremonial dedication of an American flag on the gravesites of the 35 veterans interred in AUMC Cemetery. Those attending and desirous of participating are called to gather at the cemetery flagpole at 8:50 a.m.

Although bearing similarities in setting, ceremony, and memorial with the autumn observance of Veterans Day, Memorial Day is distinguished by serving as the solemn acknowledgement and singular calendar expression of a nation's eternal gratitude for the ultimate in military sacrifice - the death in battle of American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. The raising of the stars and stripes on the gravesites of AUMC's interred Veterans is how local Legion members, church members, and other community people bestow the deepest and most grateful recognition and honor they can summon to those who gave their very lives so that we can live as free people in a free country.

The verdant sublimity of the season makes Memorial Day not just an occasion for recognition and remembrance but also an ideal time for people to experience the stone graven dignity, graceful natural beauty, and historical richness of AUMC Cemetery which serves as the final earthy resting places of many members of our church's founding families. If you have any questions about the Memorial Day Tribute or AUMC Cemetery contact Mike Moser at mmoser@annandale-umc.org or 703-591-1210.

Military Veterans Interred in Annandale United Methodist Church Cemetery

- James Benjamin Bladen**, U.S. Air Force, Site 36C, passed 2006
- Betty M. Bullock**, U.S. Navy, Site UG20A, passed 2007
- Howard B. Bullock**, U.S. Army Site UG20B, passed 2013
- Edward Blocksom Bunch**, U.S. Army, Site 77A, passed 1972
- William Chapman**, U.S. Navy, Site 76A, passed 2007
- Aubrey Chason**, U.S. Army, Site 28A, passed 2009
- Henry C. Cock**, Army, (Confederate) Site OS12, passed 1910
- Dale Farringer**, U.S. Navy, Site 57E, passed 1993
- Philip Gibson**, U.S. Army AF, Site 7C, passed 2004
- Theodore P. Gleiter**, U.S. Navy, Site 71A, passed 2009
- F. Dean Hannah**, U.S. Navy, Site 53A, passed 1996
- George Hartley**, U.S. Army, Site UG15B, passed 2006
- George W. Hill, Sr.**, U.S. Army, Site 34A, passed 2011
- John A. Jackson**, U.S. Army, Site 62A, passed 2011
- Edward Kysar**, U.S. Army, Site 69A, passed 2004
- Maurice Lacy**, U.S. Army, Site 60D, passed 2003
- Margaret Ann LaPlante**, U.S. Army, Site UG13B, passed 2013
- Charles Lynch Jr.**, U.S. Air Force, Site 44F, passed 2004
- Charles Lynch Sr.**, U.S. Navy, Site 44 E, passed 1988
- Sam Lynch, U.S. Army**, Site 76D, passed 1981
- Ralph May, U.S. Army**, Site UG12A, passed 2004
- Sanford W. Merryman**, U.S. Navy, Site 33D, passed 1996
- Amy Mikel, U.S. Army**, Site 73B, passed 2005
- Russell Mikel, U.S. Army**, Site 73A, passed 2002
- Malcolm R. Moore**, U.S. Navy, Site 43 E, passed 2008
- John D. Newton**, U.S. Army, Site UG11A, passed 1997
- Jack Pierce**, U.S. Navy, Site 54A, passed 2004
- Donald L. Plucknett**, U.S. Army, Site 8A, passed 2007
- Gene C. Trent**, U.S. Army, Site 79F, passed 2013
- Elhanan W. Wakefield**, U.S. Army, Site OS 4, passed 1920
- Lowell Wakefield**, U.S. Army, Site OSI, passed 1978
- John C. Webb**, U.S. Army, Site 13C passed 2000
- Shelton T. White**, U.S. Army, Site 30E passed 1994
- George H. Williams**, Army (Confederate), Site OS64, passed 1929
- Wasena F. Wright, Jr.**, U.S. Army, Site 42E, passed 2003
- John Joseph Zych, U.S. Army**, Site 66C, passed 1989

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(Religion vs. Spirituality, cont. from page 2)

I have participated in many different Christian traditions - from my Methodist background and many years of Catholic education to interdenominational campus ministries. These various Christian traditions have at least one thing in common. They are all imperfect. They are comprised of imperfect people who get it wrong sometimes. Nevertheless, they still offer the opportunity to experience the sacred, to search for meaning in the context of a community who, like me, seeks to love God with all heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love neighbors as oneself. The church provides a place for someone like me, who also gets it wrong sometimes, to receive God's grace and to extend grace to others.

Blessings,
Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver

As we prepare to celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the church, share your reflections with the hashtag #WhyIGoToChurch.

CIRCLE NEWS

DEBORAH: Mon., June 8, 7:30 p.m.,
AUMC Rm 210.

LYDIA will break for the summer and re-start in Sept.

MARTHA: Mon., June 22, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall at the Heritage Dr. Campus. Prog.: Betsy Clevenger. Dev. Betsy Clevenger. Light refreshments will be served.

M&M's: Sat., June 20, 8 a.m. at the home of Pat Sherfey.

SARAH ELIZABETH: Sun., June 14, AUMC Rm 209.

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

MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tues., May 26	SPRC	7 p.m.	Room 210
Tues, June 2	Trustees	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Wed., June 3	Stephen Ministry	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Tues., June 9	Finance Committee	7 p.m.	Room 210
Tues., June 9	Missions Committee	7 p.m.	Room 302
Tues., June 16	Church Council	7:15 p.m.	Room 302
Tues., June 23	SPRC	7 p.m.	Room 210

Support the youth! Drive to the Ramp Car Wash during both Sunday services on May 31 (back parking lot); help the youth pay for their summer mission trip! During the week you can also purchase an AUMC magnet for your car by making a suggested donation of \$5; just drop by the church office. All proceeds go to youth programs.

AUMC WITNESS

(USPS 046-900)

Send address changes to:

Annandale United Methodist Church

6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003-3458

Published monthly.

Periodicals Postage Paid at

Annandale, VA 22003

Young Adults will meet for lunch and discussion May 24, June 14 and 28 at 12:30 p.m. in room 210. Light lunch will be provided. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Rev. Eduardo Carrillo, ecarrillo@annandale-umc.org.

Talent Show and Ice Cream Social:

AUMC's Got Talent, Sunday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary and Wright Hall. Come for a great night of fun and fellowship! Last year's event was a huge success and we're confident that this year's talent will be even better. If you sing, play an instrument, dance, act, juggle, or whatever, come and be a part of this great evening for the whole Annandale church family! Contact Pat Vaughn at pvaughn@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330. Signups are needed by Wednesday, June 3.

Wednesday Night Together

fellowship dinner will be June 10 in Wright Hall. Dinner begins at 5:45 p.m., program at 6:30 p.m. The menu will be green salad, oven BBQ chicken, potato salad, and corn bread, strawberry shortcakes for dessert. The program will be the Many Missions of AUMC. Register for dinner on the pew pad, by emailing Joyce Kitzmiller: jkitzmiller@annandale-umc.org or by calling 703-256-8330. The price is \$8 per person, \$3 for children under 9, and \$25 per family maximum.

The Annandale Book Lovers will meet June 21 at 7 p.m. in the Parlor to discuss *Freakonomics* by Steven Levitt. All are welcome.

Volunteer as shepherds and center leaders for "God's Camp – Discovering Faith" Vacation Bible School, July 20-24, 9 a.m. to noon. Contact bstewart@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330.

Go on the ASP mission trip to Brenton, WVA, with the Appalachian Service Project (ASP), Oct. 5-11. Cost for a 7-day trip is \$450, or a shorter trip is \$300. Email clarkejh1@gmail.com.

WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, May 24

Door greeters: 8:10 a.m. J. Maxwell, K. Redden;
9:30 a.m. D. Ruhter; 10:30 a.m. W. Ward

Welcome Desk: 8:30 a.m. L. Miller, V. Cannon,
11 a.m. M. Cavanagh

Fellowship hour: Finance Committee

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. S. Kenski, S. Naugle, D. Pemberton, S. Fleming (c)
11 a.m. C. Jones, C. Jones, G. Rothman, P. Adams (c)

Sunday, May 31

Door greeters: 8:10 a.m. S. Fleming, R. Hampton;
9:30 a.m. B. Otto; 10:30 a.m. D. Johnson

Welcome Desk: 8:30 a.m. J. Brooks, 11 a.m. K. Neitzey

Fellowship hour: Staff Parish Relations Committee

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. S. Chase, J. Clarke, R. Gordon, E. McKenney (c)
11 a.m. R. Gallagher, A. Grier, C. Perdue, P. Shockley (c)

Sunday, June 7

Door greeters: 8:10 a.m. J. Vance, S. Naugle;
9:30 a.m. M. Pearson; 10:30 a.m. W. Ward

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. A. Cogswell, R. Roberts, G. Sherfey,
P. Sherfey (c)

11 a.m. W. Annan, P. Straub, R. Gordon, P. Adams (c)

Single Service Sunday, June 14

Door greeters: E. Wilson, C. Cox; D. Ruhter; D. Johnson
Ushers: J. Clarke, S. Naugle, D. Pemberton, S. Fleming, A. Bretzfelder, L. Bretzfelder, C. Perdue, P. Shockley

Sunday, June 21

Door greeters: 8:10 a.m. R. Hampton, W. Lord;
9:30 a.m. B. Otto; 10:30 a.m. W. Ward

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. J. Haymaker, S. Kenski, G. Sherfey, P. Sherfey (c)

11 a.m. W. Annan, S. Fleming, P. Straub, R. Witkowski (c)

NEXT DEADLINE:

Friday, June 12 is the deadline for the June 23 Witness which covers June 28 and July 5, 12, and 19.