



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

July 21, 2015

AWESOME AUGUST

Don't miss the fun and fellowship! Stay connected with church members (and friends), meet new people, and participate in local mission projects.

+ A single worship service will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday in August. Get to know folks who attend the other worship service that you attend! Dress casual and/or wear an AUMC t-shirt. Sunday School will meet at 9:30 a.m.

AUMC T-shirts will be sold for \$10 each after worship services and in the church office.

+ Sunday, Aug. 2, BBQ Lunch (\$5) at AUMC and Promised Land Quartet Concert in Sanctuary, both immediately following the worship service. Bring your friends! Make a reservation on the pew pad on Sunday or call 703-256-8330. Reservations are not required, but helpful for planning.

+ Sunday, Aug. 9, Take Me out to the Ballgame! AUMC has a block of tickets for the Washington Nationals vs. Colorado Rockies game at 1:35 p.m. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased between worship services and in the church office with check or cash – until sold out.

+ Sunday, Aug. 16, Let's Go to the Park for a picnic lunch immediately after the worship service (about 12 noon) plus a church-wide softball game. The picnic will be held at Annandale Community Park, 4030 Hummer Road (near the Hidden Oaks Nature Center). Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. If your name ends in A-M, you are asked to bring a side dish or salad; if your name ends in N-Z, you are asked to bring a dessert. Bring your own beverage. Limited seating will be available, so bring a lawn chair or blanket. If you want to play softball, email bgordon@annandale-umc.org so we will bring enough equipment. Teams will be formed the day of the picnic.

+ Sunday, Aug. 23, Movie Night Under the Stars, Wright Hall. Movie begins at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be sold to benefit AUMC Missions.

+ Sunday, Aug. 30, Day of Service: STOP HUNGER NOW meal packaging event at AUMC, immediately following worship in Wright Hall (About 12 noon). Lunch will be provided (\$5 donation requested). The Youth will hold a bake sale.

For information on all events and activities, visit www.annandale-umc.org, visit the church office, or call 703-256-8330 or email bgordon@annandale-umc.org.

+ School Supplies Drive: During Awesome August, help local children get a strong start on the next school year! Bring the following items (new) to the collection box in the atrium: crayons, markers, glue sticks, scissors, notebook paper, folders, other basic supplies. These will be distributed to families in need.

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Five Commitments



Grace and peace in the name of our Savior! AS I write this, summer is in full swing. The temperature is high; school is out; vacations are engaged; grills are fired up. Good times are in the making.

Summer is a time when church attendance usually goes down. There are just so many other activities that demand our priority attention.

I would remind us, however, that

our spiritual life should remain a top priority, and that our commitment should be as unwavering in July as in December and April.

A close colleague has offered the following as food for thought during the summer solstice. They are five commitments which are transformative. They are:

Worship – the book of Hebrews exhorts that community to “...not forsake the assembling of yourselves together as some have begun to do.” (10:25) Just as with other spiritual disciplines, coming to worship requires attention and commitment. And we don’t do it out of form or fashion. We do it because we wish to be touched by God in a way that only happens in worship. During the summer “drift,” we sometimes lose that vital connection that shapes, forms, and empowers us to live in Godly ways.

Grow – the second of our three word motto: “Connect, Grow, Serve,” reminds us of the need to continue ever upward and onward in our quest to become more Christ-like. We are reminded in Matthew 28 that we are to make disciples, teaching them to obey all things the Master taught. The only way to do so is to deepen the reservoir of spirituality we gain by engaging the teaching ministry of the church, connecting with others in small groups, and learning what it means to live in Christian community.

Serve – as we are nurtured and grow, we engage the Wesleyan admonition to “...do good to all...” (General Rules of the Methodist Societies). We are to care for and serve our neighbors. We do this in mission in this community, the country, and around the world. Even now a team is leaving to serve the underprivileged children in Brazil. Further, as we seek to bring Christ to others in need, we find that we experience Christ in them, and so find mission a transformative experience.

Share – each of the Gospels, in their own way, commissions each disciple of Jesus Christ to share their faith, the good news that they have experienced deeply and personally. “Go ye therefore,” says Matthew; “Go into all the world,” says Mark; “Proclaim repentance and forgiveness,” says Luke; “As the Father has sent me, so I send you,” says John. We are called and commissioned to share the transformative difference God in Christ can make in a person’s life, in our lives. This is done not overbearingly, but step by step in love; honoring the story of the other, and inviting them into

Christian community.

Give – in 2 Corinthians 9, Paul encourages the Corinthian community to join the wider Christian community in contributing to the needs of the saints in Jerusalem, pointing to the churches in Macedonia who – despite their poverty – gave generously. I confess that it took me a loooooong time to discover the true joy in giving, so I know what it takes to enjoin the journey to proportional giving and eventually to tithing. Giving is both a Biblical expectation and an ecclesiastical necessity. Giving undergirds the ministry of the church in many ways: it supports the maintenance of the facility so that we may continue to worship, serve, and offer hospitality to the surrounding community; it supports the staffing that buttresses the ministry of the laity of the church; and it extends our witness to the community and the world. But most of all, it proclaims our joy and trust in a God who has given to us richly.

Each of these commitments evidence our growth in grace and love of God. I pray that you find them worthy of your consideration during this summer months and beyond.

Yours for a Vital Witness to Christ,

Clarence
Clarence

CONNECT

Have you been attending AUMC but haven't joined? Contact Dottie Rogerson, 703-256-8330 or drogerson@annandale-umc.org, for membership details.

New Member Class: Brownies with Brown, will meet on July 26, in room 212C. The class, taught by Rev. Dr. Clarence Brown, Jr., 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. The class will not meet in August and will resume Sept. 27.

Young Adults will meet July 26, 12:30 p.m. in Room 210 (lunch provided). During August they will not meet but will resume Sept. 13 and 27.

DATEBOOK

- July 27-31** – Youth Week
- Aug 2** – BBQ lunch and concert
- Aug 9** – AUMC at Nats’ Game
- Aug 16** – Picnic in the park
- Aug 23** – Singalong and Movies
- Aug 30** – Stop Hunger Now

SERVE

Help the Youth! AUMC car magnets are available for \$5 as a fund raiser for AUMC's youth activities. (Please pay by check or exact change.) Buy magnets in the church office on weekdays. The Youth appreciate your support!

Feed the hungry: Help make 800 sandwiches and pack 80 bags every Thursday at 3 p.m. through the summer at the Heritage Drive campus, 7901 Heritage Drive., to help feed kids who normally eat free lunch during the school year. From 5 – 7 p.m. every Thursday help distribute food to neighbors in need at Heritage campus. Contact Betsy Clevenger, 703-425-6424, for more info. Both stand up and sit down tasks available.

Fall food service at Poe: Looking for volunteers to serve evening meals to children at Poe Middle School beginning in September. The commitment would be prepping, serving or going shopping one Tuesday per month. If interested, contact Sheila Kyer, 703-981-6080 or Sheila.Kyer@dbhds.virginia.gov.

Hablas español? Spanish speakers are needed to assist on Thursdays at the food distribution site at the Heritage Drive campus. Many families who visit the site are Spanish speakers and need someone who can translate and explain the process or help fill out forms. If you can give an hour or two on some Thursdays from 5:30 – 7 p.m. please call Betsy Clevenger at 703-425-6424.

Summer 2015 - All God's Children Camp. A week-long overnight summer camp sponsored by the Virginia UMC for children (ages 7 – 12) with incarcerated parents. The Virginia Conference welcomes prayers and donations of any amount; \$400 sends a kid to camp. You may place your check, made out to AUMC with All God's Children Camp in the memo, in the collection plate. In a recent AGCC reunion, two former counselors from AUMC learned that a young man they knew is now entering college. Surely, AUMC involvement with this program does make a difference in these children's lives. Contact: Rick and Jan Rosenberger, 703-371-5811.

Thank you to those who made Commitments to "The Spirit is Moving" Campaign. As of July 15, the total amount pledged is \$207,952. This amount, plus previous gifts of \$60,745, is a significant start towards our \$300,000 goal to support much-needed improvements to the heating and air-conditioning ventilation system. If you have not made a commitment, please prayerfully consider doing so by using a commitment card in the pew racks or contacting Garry Bell, gbell@annandale-umc.org or 703-256-8330. Make checks payable to Annandale UMC with "HVAC" on the memo line and designating the gift for "HVAC" on your giving envelope. E-giving donations through the Online Giving button on the AUMC website should also specify "HVAC". Thank you for helping Annandale UMC to serve our congregation and the community in a safe and comfortable environment.

Feeding our neighbors in need: Sunday, Aug. 2, is collection Sunday to help re-stock the ACCA food pantry. Sunday, Sept. 20, is collection Sunday for the Heritage food site. Bring non-perishable food to the Atrium on those Sundays.

Don't Need It? We'll Take It!

Recycle: AUMC's Earth and Spirit Bible Class has placed boxes on a table in the hallway outside Wright Hall to collect specific items for recycling: tape dispensers and cores (Scotch tape reels); and specific personal care items: mouthwash bottles and caps, deodorant containers and caps, toothpaste tubes and caps, floss containers, and toothbrushes. It is important that all items are clean before left in the collection boxes! A private company "upcycles" the items collected for other uses. There is potential for a small donation to AUMC if the amount of items collected is substantial.

Reuse plastic grocery bags by donating them to the food distribution site on the Heritage Campus. Place clean, dry, plastic grocery bags in the Heritage Campus box under the coat rack or bring to the office.

Support Annandale United Methodist Preschool Programs by saving box tops, and labels. Bring in "Box Tops for Education" labels from General Mills products and "Labels for Education" from Campbell's Soup products, and deposit in the marked box by door #2. If you shop at Safeway, and have a Safeway rewards card, log on to www.escrip.com, go to "sign up", register your Safeway card, and select the AUMC Preschool Group ID #149029884. If you shop at Harris Teeter, and have a Harris Teeter savings card, give the cashier the AUMC Preschool Code #1481 during checkout and AUMC Preschool will receive a percentage of your Harris Teeter brand purchases. All of these programs award customer loyalty by providing funds to the Preschool. AUMC's Child Development Center is also registered with Harris Teeter and the CDC code is #5814.

Help families in need by donating the following (bring to marked boxes under the coat rack): sheets and towels (any size), cooking utensils, and children's clothing for Shelter House; clean plastic grocery bags for the Heritage Food Distribution site; children's clothing for the Children's Clothing Closet, Heritage Campus.

Help children by donating the following: new school supplies (crayons, markers, glue sticks, scissors, paper) and boxes/bags of dry cereal for Safe Haven, ACCA and Heritage food site for the Vacation Bible School Mission Project: Tending the FIRE (Food Is Really Essential!). Boxes are in the atrium.

MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tues., July 28	SPRC	7 p.m.	Room 210
Tues, August 4	Trustees	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Wed., August 5	Stephen Ministry	7:30 p.m.	Room 303
Tues., August 11	Finance Committee	7 p.m.	Room 210
Tues., August 11	Missions Committee	7 p.m.	Room 302
Tues., August 18	Church Council	7:15 p.m.	Room 302

AUMC is offering **yard and lawn equipment** we no longer need for sale at reduced prices. Items for sale include a riding mower, rotary mowers, grass trimmers, and manual implements such as shovels, spades, and rakes. For details, call Cemetery Manager Mike Moser at 703-591-1210 or email mmoser@annandale-umc.org.

AUMC WITNESS

(USPS 046-900)

Send address changes to:

Annandale United Methodist Church

6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003-3458

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GROW

Everyone is welcome to attend Centering Prayer, 9:30 a.m. Mondays in room 308. If you are seeking a meaningful way to begin the week in a quiet place away from the busy pace of life and to spend more time with God, Centering Prayer may serve your needs. This time includes a practice of silence in which we open the mind and heart to God's transforming work. All are welcome from those with experience to those new to the practice. We support one another and discuss a short piece of spiritual wisdom.

Devotional booklets, Upper Room Readers, are available from AUMC and are located in the brochure racks by the front door. To help off-set the costs, those who take the Readers are requested to contribute \$5. Checks should be made payable to AUMC with "Upper Room Reader" in the note line.

The Annandale Book Lovers will meet on Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Parlor to discuss *The Shoemaker's Wife* by Adriania Trigiani. On Sept. 20, the group will meet to discuss *In the Heart of the Sea* by Nathaniel Philbrick. Everyone is welcome!

WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, July 26

Door greeters: 8:10 a.m. J. Maxwell, K. Redden, S. Naugle;

9:30 a.m. M. Pearson; 10:30 a.m. W. Ward

Welcome Desk: 8:30 a.m. J. Lord, 11 a.m. A. Lohr

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. J. Clarke, D. Pemberton, R. Gordon,

S. Fleming (c)

11 a.m. A. Bretzfelder, L. Bretzfelder, C. Perdue,

P. Shockley(c)

Single Service Sunday, August 2

Door greeters: R. Hampton, W. Lord, D. Ruhter, D. Johnson

Welcome Desk: A. Gribben

Ushers: S. Kenski, R. Gallagher, J. Thomas, R. Gordon (c)

Single Service Sunday, August 9

Door greeters: J. Beyer, E. Wilson, B. Otto, W. Ward

Welcome Desk: K. Nietzey

Ushers: P. Thomas, W. Annan, S. Fleming, P. Adams (c)

Single Service Sunday, August 16

Door greeters: J. Vance, C. Cox, M. Pearson, D. Johnson

Welcome Desk: A. Gribben

Ushers: A. Cogswell, A. Bretzfelder, L. Bretzfelder,
P. Snitzer (c)

NEXT DEADLINE:

Friday, August 7 is the deadline for the August 18 Witness which covers August 23 and 30, and September 6, 13, and 20.