



AUMC WITNESS

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

Annandale United Methodist Church
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Vol. 9 No. 1



We are a *Stephen Ministry Church*

January 3, 2012



Divine Sonship. The early church focused on the passage in the Gospel of John found at 1:1 – 2:11, wherein the Word which became flesh is also identified as the life and light of the world. As we begin our year in earnest, it is important for us to continue to pay attention to the teaching that accompanies the liturgical movement of the seasons. We, like our forebears in faith, are to carry that life and light into a dark and hurting world searching for enlightenment and meaning. In that sense, may the joy of Christmas lead us immediately into the transformative moment of perhaps a more important day: Epiphany!

Yours for a Vital Witness to Christ,

Clarence

The Most Important Day

Grace and peace in the name of our Savior! Let me be among the many to wish each of you a peaceful and faith filled new year. I am excited about what God has in store for us as a community of faith.

As you may know, these days bring to a conclusion the season of Advent / Christmas, and move us forward into Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord. While we celebrate joyously at Christmas, given our mature understanding of what God has done in the incarnation, perhaps Epiphany might bring us even greater joy and appreciation.

Epiphany derives from a Greek term meaning “to appear,” or “manifestation,” as is appropriate for the birth of Christ. It is in the succeeding narratives, however, that the story begins to tell us more fully what this appearance means to us. The Magi bring their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrr, as befit a king; Jesus’ baptism evokes and invites the voice of God to affirm the



HEIFER INTERNATIONAL
“Living Gift Market”
collected \$6512.00 in donations!!

The Heifer International “Living Gift Market” raised \$6,512.00. The 4th grade class set a goal of \$5,000 and exceeded it thanks to your generosity. Combined with the children’s offering our total donation is \$6,721.66.

This special Advent mission project offers families around the world a way to feed themselves and to become self reliant. Thanks to our 4th grade class and teaching team for all their effort.

We appreciate the support of our church family.

We are blessed to be a blessing!



THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED....

See, I am making all things new.

- Revelation 21:5

Dear Friends,

I have mixed feelings about New Year's Resolutions. I have also had mixed results. Perhaps the two are related.

For many, New Year's resolutions are a do or die, all or nothing proposition. Many people set unrealistic expectations, fail to meet them within weeks, and then wait months or even a year before trying again.

Popular resolutions include the following: lose weight, manage debt/finances better, get fit, eat right, quit smoking, read the bible daily, and many others. These are all important goals, but perhaps we should remove the pressure of expectation from the New Year, and see these goals in the context of an ongoing spiritual journey.

In our ongoing journey, God promises to make "all things new." This promise is not limited by timing, circumstances, or geography. It is a universal promise to all believers. Paul says, "if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Cor. 5:17)

Endowed with this promise, we can see every day as an opportunity to begin anew on our journeys toward becoming the people we would like to become. Every day, I have the opportunity to eat better, to exercise more, to parent better, to practice better stewardship, and to rededicate myself to bible study and prayer. The prophet reminds us that "the steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Although God's mercy is new every morning, we do not take advantage of this and put our goals off until tomorrow. Indeed, tomorrow is not promised. Instead, we have the assurance that if we didn't get things right yesterday, today brings the opportunity to try again.

Rather than make resolutions, I prefer to set goals for the year. I consider where I want to be on my journey one year from now, and I consider how I might get there over time. I may even develop an acronym or a catchy theme as a reminder. But I also remind myself to take things one day at a time and experience daily God's new mercies.

This New Year, perhaps we should resolve not to make a resolution. Perhaps we should endeavor to journey together toward Christian perfection and experience God's new mercies each day.

Now that's a resolution we can all keep.

New Year Blessings,

Cynthia



Camp Highroad Winter Camp 2012!!



WHO: All 3rd — 8th graders

WHAT: A weekend of fellowship and fun in God's creation—including great indoor and outdoor activities such as a hayride, grass boarding, a bonfire, a movie, games, challenge course, crafts, scavenger hunt, and more!

WHEN: Saturday, Jan. 14th – Monday, Jan. 16th, 2012

WHERE: Pine Lodge at Camp Highroad

COST: \$170.00 per camper

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR CAMP:

Go to www.camphighroad.org/index.php/summer-camp/winter-camp/ and register online or print out the registration form and mail/fax it in.

Hurry! Spaces are limited!

If you have any questions, please contact Josh Johns, Highroad Naturalist (540)-687-6262 or naturalist@camphighroad.org

NOTE FROM FINANCE OFFICE:

If you are using the pew envelopes, please put your full name on the envelope.



OUR CHURCH *family*

Thank You

Dear AUMC,

Merry Christmas and much success in the New Year.

Thank you so much for my Thanksgiving Basket and what a big surprise.

I wish I could come to Annandale sometime but I don't drive anymore.

This church was a blessing to me for many years, I still look forward to the AUMC Witness. Thanks for sending it.

In Christ's Love,

Craig Snyder

EARTH AND SPIRIT MEETING THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2012

Did you know that our Methodist Conference has a Missionary to raise awareness about the connection between faith and Creation Care? Our missionary is Rev. Pat Watkins, and he will visit our Earth and Spirit meeting, Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012. Join us for a discussion of the status of Creation Care at 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Information needed? Contact John Dodge 703-941-7533 or jedodge3@verizon.net

SEMINAR/KALEIDOSCOPE. On January 8 at 9:50 a.m. in room 300, Jack Underhill will do his annual summary of the "State of America in 2011: a Time of National Struggle for Recovery". The focus is on the status of minorities and the poor, education, unemployment and economic growth, and other topics related to the health of the nation. He draws upon a whole range of national publications for this presentation.

JANUARY 15 - THE ANNANDALE BOOK LOVERS



will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor. We will be discussing *Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder. For February 19 we will be reading *The Story of a Beautiful Girl* by Rachel Simon.

UMW NUTS STILL AVAILABLE!

The holidays are over and we thank all of you who purchased our nuts which gives us funds for our mission projects. You need to help us by buying a few bags for your freezer in order to have a supply all year. We'll keep selling until they are gone. See you at fellowship hours and we thank you again! Evie 256-2905.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT TOGETHER RESUMES ON JANUARY 11, 2012.

Dinner begins at 5:45 pm. Presentation begins at 6:30 p.m. Price for dinner: \$7.00 per adult/\$3.00 per child/\$20 maximum per family. You may order your meals on the pew pad or call the church office no later than noon on the preceding Monday.



AUMC now offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader!

Flowers on the Altar

If you would like to place flowers on the altar in memory or honor of a loved one, please circle the date(s) you wish and return the form below along with a check, made payable to AUMC. Cost: \$25 per arrangement. Flowers are not placed on the altar on the first Sunday of each month, communion Sunday. Easter Sunday and the Sunday before Christmas have special flowers.

January	8	15	22	29
February	12	19	26	
March	11	18	25	
April		15	22	29
May	13	20	27	
June	10	17	24	
July	8	15	22	29
August	12	19	26	
September	9	16	23	30
October	14	21	28	
November	11	18	25	
December	9	16		30

Name of Donor: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory of In Honor of (*check one*)

I/we wish to leave the flowers for distribution to shut-ins or those in the hospital. YES ___ NO ___

MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tues., Jan. 10	Finance	7:00 p.m.	Room 210
Tues., Jan. 10	Missions	7:00 p.m.	Room 302
Tues., Jan. 10	Caring Ministries	7:30 p.m.	Room 303

LECTIONARY TEXTS

January 8, 2012, First Sunday after the Epiphany: Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29 (UMH 761), Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11

January 15, 2012, Second Sunday after the Epiphany:
I Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20), Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (UMH 854),
I Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51

AUMC WITNESS

(USPS 046-900)

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Annandale United Methodist Church

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WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Outreach Greeters: 8:30 R. Hampton; 9:30 B. Brown; 10:30

L. McConville, E. Moss

Greeters: Communion Stewards

Fellowship Hour Hosts: Caring Ministries

Welcome Center: 8:30 TBD; 9:25 TBD 10:30 TBD

Acolytes: 8:30 TBD; 11:00 TBD

Crucifers: 8:30 TBD; 11:00 TBD

Ushers: 8:30 T. Lank, B. Pethal, P. Pethal, E. McKenney (C); 11:00 B. Gordon, C. Perdue, G. Sherwood, P. Shockley (C)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

Outreach Greeters: 8:30 S. Fleming/R. Smith; 9:30 D. Ruhter; 10:30 D. Johnson

Greeters: Education Committee

Fellowship Hour Hosts: Deborah/Miriam Circles

Welcome Center: 8:30 TBD; 9:30 TBD; 10:30 TBD

Acolytes: 8:30 TBD; 11:00 TBD

Crucifers: 8:30 TBD; 11:00 TBD

Ushers: 8:30 J. Clarke, S. Groves, R. Roberts, B. Brown; (C); 11:00 C. Perdue, E. Carrillo, G. Rothman, R. Witkowski, P. Snitzer (C)

NEXT DEADLINE Fri. Jan 6 is the deadline for the Jan. 17 Witness which covers Jan. 22 and 29

Forward by Faith

FBF Financial Campaign Update. We are approaching the final three weeks of our extended campaign. We need to receive \$19,200 this month to retire our bank loan on January 31, 2012. We thank the congregation for contributions to date. We need to keep pledge contributions flowing and all other contribution received will be appreciated.

LET US MAKE THIS HAPPEN
The Bridge team



IN HIS STEPS ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

will start a new study "A Life Worthy of the Gospel" on January 8 in Room 302. The study is from the Wesley Ministry Network and includes six video lessons by Dr. Sondra Wheeler of Wesley Seminary. Dr. Wheeler focuses on the formation of Christian character, citing helpful examples both from scripture and from church history. Is Christianity more about *believing* or about *doing*? Come learn with us what it means to lead "a life worthy of the Gospel."

MANY SUPPORT GROUPS AT AUMC

AUMC has many support groups that meet here on a regular basis. Through these groups people experience love through fellowship and small groups, producing personal wholeness, a sense of belonging, and significant interdependent relationships. These groups include AA, AI-Anon, Emotions Anonymous, and Alzheimer's Support. For information, go to the AUMC Event Calendar on the web page or call the church office 703-256-8330.

Have a happy, healthy and safe New Year!

If you would like to be notified when we have funerals for AUMC members, please send an email to drogerson@annandale-umc.org or call the church office, 703-256-8330. An email will be sent when the arrangements are final.