



The Cranford Connection

*The Newsletter of Cranford United Methodist Church
May/June/July 2011*

From the Pastor

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A Word From The Pastor

We are in the midst of celebrating Easter, and the Sundays after Easter. We should enter this time in a sense of worship and in a sense of witness. The Psalmist reminds us, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him, bless his name!" (Psalm 100:4). This psalm does not mention the kingship of God, but it does remind us that God is to be worshipped, and that when we enter into God's presence we are to worship God. I was wondering why we go to church, and our purpose for going to church. Personally! I go to praise and to worship God. God is done so much in our lives, and we should never forget it.

We should give thanks to God for Jesus Christ. Jesus came to restore us back into a right relationship with God. We are to witness the good news that Jesus died and was resurrected back to life. Jesus gives us all eternal life, and has canceled our debt to sins. So, as we celebrate Easter and the Easter Season, we will continue to witness as the church of Jesus Christ, and to make disciples for the church. Just

Think! You might have the opportunity to witness to the person, who could be the one to save millions of people. It is time for us to worship and to witness God to those in the church, as well as to those who are un-churched. There was a time when I was considered "Un-churched." I did not confess Jesus as Lord. I have now changed and I would like to see others come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. This will not happen, if we do not praise God and to give witness to others.

I think that at Cranford, we worship and witness God in many ways. We worship God through our worship attendance, and through our gifts that we offer God through our prayers, our service, our talents, and through our financial support. We continue to witness by supporting outside missions in our community and abroad. We do a good job in doing this. (continued on page 2)

Celebration of Worship

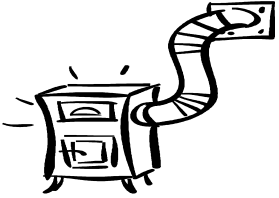
9:15 AM Sunday School, 11:00 AM Worship Service and 12:30 PM Fellowship

Cranford UMC Web Site: cranfordumc.org

From the Pastor—continued

However, I want us to be more intentional about reaching the un-churched. We can do this through our worship and our praise. I am only able to praise and to witness God through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is my prayer that we all allow God's spirit to overshadow us, and to make us better worshippers, and better witness. Keep the Faith! Pastor Hill

Treasurer's Report Steve Heller



The winter appears to be behind us. Our fuel deliveries over the 2010/2011 winter totaled 3,212 gallons, 20 gallons more than the 2009/2010 winter. Due to the rising cost of oil, our cost this winter was \$10,490 vs. \$8,667 last winter.

For the first quarter of 2011, we collected \$49,339.28 and spent \$49,262.41. We are holding our own however this does not help us to put much aside for a rainy day. We continue to pay 100% of our district and conference disciplinary obligation, along with a little extra for missions and disaster relief.

As the summer months approach and you go away on vacation, remember that our monthly bills will continue. If you are unable to attend church, please remember Cranford by sending in your weekly donation.

The first quarter giving statements are at the church for pick up on Sunday. To save postage they will not be mailed unless requested. To receive your statement via email, contact Carole Clark (ctclark2@aol.com).

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICE HOURS

take effect on **Sunday, July 3rd**
through **Sunday, September 4th**
and church begins at **10 AM.**



August/September/October Newsletter Articles are due no later than
July 17, 2011.

United Methodist Women

Linda Stocks

Welcome to spring from the UM women. We have been working at raising mission funds for women, children and youth. Two of the women attended a Prayer and Self Denial program at Good Shepherd UMC in Dale City where they learned about the job of a Deaconess in the UM Church. Donna Talak also attended a program on Human Trafficking at Sydenstricker UMC. Human Trafficking is a social action project of the unit this year along with immigration issues and domestic violence. It is very eye opening to see how much these issues are right in our back yard and not just in another country.

March brought us a great day and a great crowd to the Ham & Oyster dinner. We send out our heartfelt thanks to all those in the congregation who came out to help with the dinner. Many women, children, and youth will benefit from the money raised. A special thanks to Henry Koontz for his assistance in setting up a safe way to fry oysters in the outdoors.

On April 16th, Donna presented a program to the unit about the UMC deaconess. On April 30th, two of the women will be attending the Alexandria District UMW Mini Missions at Annandale UMC for a study on the Gospel of John presented by Rev. Clarence Brown who is an outstanding speaker and teacher.

May brings in the Virginia Conference UMW Spiritual Life Retreat at VUMAC. This year the theme is "Blessed to be a Blessing". The event is May 13 – 15th. There is a registration form on the UMW bulletin board if anyone is interested in attending.

May 28th brings the Annual Strawberry Festival. We will be serving lunch, have a bake sale, desserts, and a drawing for a Strawberry Basket filled with goodies. This is another fund raiser for UMW mission projects. Come out and join us.

June brings us to a time for graduations. We are so happy to be sharing in Ilda Suzana Guambe's graduation from Africa University. We are all so proud of both Ilda and Naftal for getting a college education so they can serve the people of Mozambique with better skills. Look in the bulletin soon for a letter from Naftal and Ilda.

For anyone who enjoys reading and learning the hot book on the UMW reading program this year is "The Road to Lost Innocence". This is a book by a young woman who was sold into slavery, escaped and now is an activist for Human Trafficking. It is a short quick read. It is both sad and uplifting in that there is HOPE for all those still being sold into slavery today. At least half of the unit has read this book already. Please feel free to read any of the UMW books in the blue room. Let us know you read a book and we can count you on our reading program for most books read this year.

Please consider joining the United Methodist Women where our focus is on missions to women, children and youth.



UMW Upcoming Events

May 28th—11 AM-3 PM—Annual Strawberry Festival

June 18th—10 AM—UMW Meeting

Trustee's

Henry Koontz

It has been busy for the Trustee's the last couple of months. It started out with the replacement of the toilet in the master bath at the parsonage. Thanks to Karl Wertz and Ferguson for the Kohler toilet.

The Trustee's assisted the administrative council with the voting of whether to extend to Cana the continued use of Cranford facilities. We are in the process of writing the new memo of agreement. Anyone wishing to have input on the agreement should attend the Trustee's meeting on May 17th at 7:30 PM.

I want to thank everyone that helped on the parsonage clean up. From raking the yard, pulling vines and weeds, cleaning out the flower and shrub beds, putting down new mulch, spreading lime over the whole yard, spreading fertilizer on the yard, aerating the back yard, and finally spreading straw over the newly seeded areas.

On the church clean up day the outside weather did not cooperate. I wish to thank everyone that stopped by. I am planning on making a new date for church clean up, after the new grass that was planted along the road has taken hold so it can be raked. The church yard has also been limed and fertilized. Some flower beds have been weeded and mulched and new mulch in bags behind the church awaits the others.

Finally, I wish to thank everyone that helped, donated items, and brought their children to our Easter Egg Hunt. Without each and every one of you, the Easter Egg Hunt would not continue to grow and be a joy to some child's young heart.

Other projects are still being worked on as we hope to improve the outward as well as the inward appearance of our place of worship. God Bless you all.

Trustee's Upcoming Events



From the Secretary, Nurture & Membership

Tracy Wertz, Peggy Johnson & Maryann Gibson

The church secretary is in the process of creating a new, desperately needed, church directory. In order to do this, we really need for everyone to update their information. This will also help the nurture committee keep in touch with you. They send cards for illness, thank you and sympathy. Please fill out the form on page 7 and mail it to the church or place it in the basket outside the church office.

CRANFORD UMC VBS REGISTRATION FORM

Child Information and Emergency Care Permission

June 27-July 1, 9am-12noon

Please fill out a separate form for each child



Child's Name _____ Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____ Home Church _____

Phone Numbers Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Age Information Date of birth _____ Age _____ Last school grade completed _____

Name of Family Physician _____ Phone _____

Allergies/Medical Information/Other (Allergies to Food, Medicine, Bees, etc or Conditions):

Current Medication(s): _____

"In the event of an emergency, Cranford UMC has my permission to obtain Emergency Services."

Emergency Contacts:

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Dismissal Information:

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS each day

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian **Date**

Other Information (church use only)

Group: _____

Are parents helping with VBS? **Yes**

No (if yes, where?) _____

INFORMATION UPDATE FOR THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Prefix: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Work Phone #: _____ Home Phone #: _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Birthday: _____

E-mail: _____ Prefix: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Work Phone #: _____ Home Phone #: _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Birthday: _____

E-mail: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Family E-mail: _____

Children: @ home

Child 1 Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Extra Information: _____

Child 2 Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Extra Information: _____

Child 3 Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Extra Information: _____

Child 4 Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Extra Information: _____

*If you prefer not to have any of the information (example: your work or cell phone numbers) above printed in the directory, please note it below.

Cranford United Methodist Church

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Lorton, VA 22199
703/339-5382
E-mail: cranfordumc@verizon.net
Website: www.cranfordumc.net
Lorenzo Hill, Pastor

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Lorton, VA

Permit No. 11

Dated Material

Return Service Requested

Upcoming Events

MAY 2011

MAY 7 (Saturday)

9 AM – UMM Meeting

MAY 10 (Tuesday)

7:30 PM – Administrative Council Meeting

May 17 (Tuesday)

7:30 PM – Trustee's Meeting

MAY 28 (Saturday)

11 AM-3 PM – Strawberry Festival

JUNE 2011

JUNE 4 (Saturday)

9 AM – UMM Meeting

JUNE 14 (Tuesday)

7:30 PM – Administrative Council Meeting

JUNE 15-18

(Wednesday-Saturday)

Annual Conference

JUNE 18 (Saturday)

10 AM – UMW Meeting

JUNE 19 (Sunday)

Dad's & Grad's Sunday

JUNE 27-JULY 1 (Monday-Friday)

9 AM-12 PM – Vacation Bible School

JULY 2011

JULY 3 (Sunday)

Summer Worship Hours Begin

10 AM – Worship Service

JULY 19 (Tuesday)

7:30 PM – Trustee's Meeting

