



# The Cranford Connection

*The Newsletter of Cranford United Methodist Church  
November/December/January 2010-2011*

## **From the Pastor**

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There is a cool breeze in the air early mornings and late evenings. It reminds us of God's handiwork in God's creation. It reminds us of fall time, and for others it reminds us of God's great faithfulness. I am always excited to see the four seasons of the year. One of my favorite hymns of the church is "*Great is thy Faithfulness.*" The second verse in this hymn reminds us of a faithful God. "Summer and winter and spring time and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love." This verse also reminds us that God's creation is faithful to God.

Just Think! If God's creations can be faithful to God; then what about us. What are we faithful to? Are we Faithful to God? Are we faithful to our careers? Are we faithful to our churches? Are we faithful to our families? I raise these few questions to make us aware of our responsibility to God. The question list can continue on and on.

I continue to remain excited about this time of year; I am constantly being strengthened in my

faith. God's faithfulness will never run out. It will always continue as we look around, and as we accept and believe in our hearts.



This year 2010 will come to an end in a few months. The seasons will come to an end. The days and nights will come to an end. However, God's faithfulness will not come to an end. God was faithful in the beginning of time, and God's faithfulness will remain throughout our life time.

Keep the Faith! Pastor Hill

#### **Celebration of Worship**

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

Cranford UMC Web Site: [cranfordumc.org](http://cranfordumc.org)

## UMW

**Linda Stocks**

The UMW has been very busy this fall. We started the fall off with the Alexandria District Spiritual Life Retreat at Franconia UMC with a theme on “Turning Prayer Inside Out”. There was a very good turnout for this retreat. We next busied ourselves with our first ever Apple Festival on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Coming up next is the Officer Training Day to be held at St. Paul UMC in Woodbridge. We are honored to have Rev. Denise Honeycutt who was most recently the Virginia Conference director of missions. She is now the pastor of St. Matthews UMC in Falls Church. We are so blessed to have Denise in our district. We invite all women to this district event even if you are not currently in UMW. It will be worth your time to hear Denise speak about missions. Denise always puts passion into mission work.

Our next big event will be the Woodbridge Sub-district Advent Breakfast which will be held at Cranford UMC on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00 am. This is a wonderful time of fellowship and entertainment with the other UM Women from our neighboring churches. We would love to have the Cranford women attend even if not officially in UMW. I think you will find it very uplifting.

Our next UMW meeting will be on Saturday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. Please come out to join us for fellowship, spiritual uplifting and education for missions with women, children, and youth.



**UMW Upcoming Events**

**November 20th at 10 AM  
UMW Meeting**

**December 4th from 9-11 AM  
Sub-district Advent Breakfast  
at Cranford UMC**



Please order your Cranford UMC Polo Shirt today. Order forms may be obtained on our website at [cranfordumc.org](http://cranfordumc.org) or call the office at 703-339-5382.

## Trustee's

**Delores Kisendaffer**

Thanks goes to the following for their help on sprucing up the church for the 110th Anniversary:

Peggy and Owen Johnson, Catherine Wright, Tracy Wertz,  
Janet Carper, Pastor Hill, William Bowie and myself.

We seemed to perform miracles in a short time.

Exterior of the church was washed and painted where needed. The back steps also got a coat of paint. The grass was cut and trimmed as usual thanks Owen. Flowers were set out. The Gutters were cleaned and washed. Wood and stumps were removed from cemetery property. Dirt was hauled away and spread around the church property where it was needed.

Interior of the church: Windows and blinds washed. Curtains were installed to doors and windows. New thresholds were installed in the Lewis Hall entrance and front door entrance. Pastor's pictures were re-mounted, placed in new frames and hung on the wall. Every room was cleaned and polished.

Corner of the church property (Old Colchester and Gunston Road): Trees and stumps were removed and the grass was cut to make more parking spaces for church events. Thanks to all who cleaned and worked on this project.

Men's bathroom: The wallpaper was removed, walls and woodwork was painted.

Two new comfort height toilets were installed by Karl Wertz in the Women's and Men's bathroom. (Donated by Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.) Thanks

Parsonage: A new hot water heater was installed. Leak in downstairs bathroom ceiling was repaired. Owen Johnson replaced and painted the ceiling.

Thanks to Mary Frances Petitt for the new sign she had installed at the corner of the cemetery.

**Pumpkin Roll Bake Sale: We will host our Annual Pumpkin Roll Bake Sale November 22-24, 2010. Orders will be taken no later than November 20th. A donation of \$15.00 per pumpkin roll is requested.**

## Trustee's Upcoming Event



November 13th at 9 AM—Church Clean-up

November 16th at 7:30 PM—Trustee's Meeting

November 22-24—Making & Baking Pumpkin Rolls

## Treasurer's Report

**Steve Heller**

The 2011 budget in the amount of \$179,483 was presented and approved by the Administrative Council at the October 12 meeting. The budget takes into account the salary recommendations of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, 2010 year to date expenses, plus projected costs.

Conference and District Apportionments were set by the VA Conference at \$32,520 - 18.12% of the budget.

Total Pastoral and Staff budget is \$100,219 - 55.84% of the budget.

Administrative Expense budget is \$16,144 - 8.99% of the budget.

Building & Grounds budget is \$23,475 - 13.08% of the budget.

Departments & Committees budget is \$5,625 - 3.13% of the budget

Conference delegate expenses was set at \$1,500



To cover our 2011 budget, we need an average collection of \$3,452 each week.

Thanks to everyone's continuing support of Cranford, we are doing much better than we were last year at this time. Our year to date budget expenses is \$133,039.31 and our year to date income is \$132,700.00.

With the end of the year approaching, remember that only contributions received at the church or postmarked by December 31 can be included on your 2010 giving statement. This is an IRS regulation. If you would like your giving statements emailed to you, let Carole Clark know ([ctclark2@aol.com](mailto:ctclark2@aol.com)) and make sure she has you're current email address.



**February/March/April Newsletter Articles are due no later than  
January 15, 2010.**

**LCAC****Linda Stocks**

Please help LCAC make Thanksgiving special for a needy family. The baskets should be in a sturdy cardboard box or plastic tub, feed a family of 4 and include:

**Thanksgiving Food Basket**

- 2 cans each: corn, green beans and carrots
- 2 cans of fruit
- 1 large can sweet potatoes
- 1 small bag of brown sugar
- 1 box single serving oatmeal
- 2 cans tuna fish
- 1 small bottle oil
- 1 container poultry seasoning
- 2 cans of evaporated milk
- 1 box brownie mix

\$20.00 food card to purchase meat (preferably Bloom or Shopper's)



Thanksgiving food donations should be delivered to the Moose Lodge, 9612 Fernedge Lane, Lorton (off Richmond Highway) on Sunday, November 21, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**December Holiday Outreach**

For the Holidays, we are doing things a little differently this year. Due to the ever increasing number of families LCAC is serving for the December Holiday Outreach, and the limitation of space at the Moose Lodge, LCAC is requesting food gift cards in the amount of \$20 in lieu of food to distribute to our families.

**Drop off date: Saturday, December 18, 2010**

**Drop off time: 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Deliver all gift cards, toys and small gifts to: The Moose Lodge**



## Hazelwood

## Donald Corbett

I am sure I have said it before, but one of the few advantages of being on the road so much, is the opportunity it affords to take much more time for quiet reflection and prayer. This particular trip began on the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend. Teresa, knowing I would miss Monday's Thanksgiving dinner, dispensed with tradition and organized a family gathering for Saturday lunch. We had a house full – some eighteen in all – including our daughter Heather who had journeyed from Sacramento to spend a few days with us. How thankful I was to be surrounded by kith and kin, sharing in the bounties of the harvest. Sadly the time came when I had to bid farewell and leave for the airport – it hurt most to give Heather a last hug, knowing I wouldn't see her again for perhaps another year. We both had tears in our eyes as we said our good-byes.

As I write this, I am in Madrid, having just completed a week's worth of meetings in Lisbon. This morning, after a typical European breakfast of cold meats and cheese, I headed out to explore my surroundings. A few hours and several kilometres of walking later, I found a nice place for lunch then made my way back to the hotel. I sat down at my laptop and after a few minutes my mind began to focus on how blessed it is to have a loving God who has provided me with a loving family, and how thankful I am to be able to openly express my love for God, my family and my friends.

I cannot explain it, but sometimes during a worship service – and particularly during certain hymns – tears will start to flow. Am I the only person to whom this happens?

During a recent service, we experienced a different approach to taking communion; one that made it an almost one-on-one experience with Jesus. As I waited in line, praying while the music played in the background, the enormity of what was occurring simply overwhelmed my composure and I started to cry – huge warm tears were flowing down my face (as they are now).

I felt no sense of embarrassment, for I knew these were neither tears of sadness, nor tears of pain. They were tears of thanksgiving and joy! Thank you, Jesus. Thank you for saving me.

But how did he save me and you?

“He died for our sins”, we say – almost by rote. Think about it – God sent his Son, Jesus, to give his life and – in His resurrection – conquer death so we might live! To me, that is nothing short of overwhelming!

There is a wonderful hymn that articulates this truth so clearly for me, that I can scarcely make it through the first verse. It is not one of the oldies, but rather a relatively new piece written in 1995, by Stuart Townend and it is called, “How Deep the Father's Love for Us.” Please, take a few moments and prayerfully read it aloud.



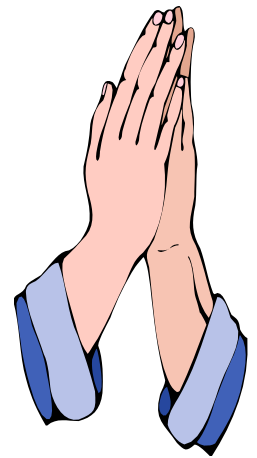
## Hazelwood—Continued

**Donald Corbett**

*How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure  
That he should give his only son, to make a wretch his treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turned his face away  
As wounds which mar the chosen one, bring many sons to glory*

*Behold the man upon a cross, my sin upon his shoulders  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers  
It was my sin that held him there until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life; I know that it is finished*

*I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no power, no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ; his death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart: his wounds have paid my ransom*

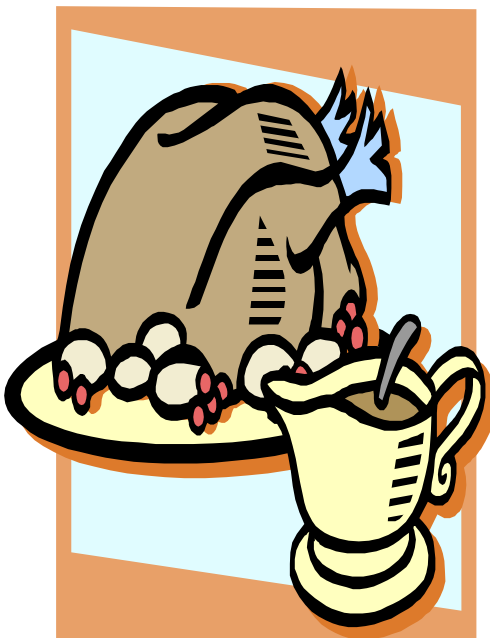


*“Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.” Acts 13:38 (NIV)*

His wounds have paid our ransom. Through Jesus, the forgiveness of our sins is proclaimed to each of us. We can't earn forgiveness through works; we can't buy it in any way – we can only accept it as a gift offered to us by a deeply loving Father. A father who is always there for us and from whom there need never be parting tears – only tears of joy and thanksgiving.

God Bless,

Don



Please join us for our Special  
Holiday Services:

Sunday, November 21st at 11 AM—  
Pre-Thanksgiving Service followed by  
our Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner

Friday, December 24th at 7:30 PM—  
Christmas Eve Service



# Cranford United Methodist Church

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Lorenzo Hill, Pastor

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## NOVEMBER 2010

### NOVEMBER 6 (Saturday)

9 AM - UMM Meeting

6 PM - Meeting with CANA

### NOVEMBER 7 (Sunday)

7 PM - Charge Conf. @ Washington Farm UMC

### NOVEMBER 9 (Tuesday)

1 PM - Witness Group Meeting

7:30 PM - Administrative Council Meeting

### NOVEMBER 13 (Saturday)

9 AM - Church Clean-Up

### NOVEMBER 16 (Tuesday)

7:30 PM - Trustee's Meeting

### NOVEMBER 20 (Saturday)

10 AM - UMW Meeting

### NOVEMBER 21 (Sunday)

11 AM - Pre-Thanksgiving Service

### NOVEMBER 23 (Tuesday)

1 PM - Witness Group Meeting

5:30-7:30 PM - Small Group Volunteer @ LCAC

### NOVEMBER 28 (Sunday)

United Methodist Student Day

# Upcoming Events

## DECEMBER 2010

### DECEMBER 4 (Saturday)

9 AM - UMM Meeting

9 AM - Parsonage Clean-up

### DECEMBER 5 (Sunday)

UMW Off site Luncheon

### DECEMBER 7 (Tuesday)

1 PM - Witnessing Group Meeting

### DECEMBER 14 (Tuesday)

7:30 PM - Administrative Council Meeting

### DECEMBER 24 (Friday)

7:30 PM - Christmas Eve Service

### DECEMBER 28 (Tuesday)

5:30-7:30 PM - Small Group Volunteer @  
LCAC

## JANUARY 2011

### JANUARY 11 (Tuesday)

1 PM - Witnessing Group Meeting

7:30 PM - Administrative Council Meeting