



The Cranford Connection

*The Newsletter of Cranford United Methodist Church
November/December/January 2011-2012*

From the Pastor

A Word From The Pastor

When does ministry begin or where does ministry end? We all know that ministry begins at home, and we should spread it abroad. We enter into worship each Sunday and we leave to share the good news with other. In 1 Peter 4: 10, says, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (NIV). This scripture reminds us of our duties of being accountable, faithful witness of the good news and we are all call to do ministry.

The Virginia Annual Conference is talking about church vitality more these days, and each local church is to become a vital church. We are going to have to become more accountable in reaching out more to the UN churched people, as well as reaching out to the communities that we live in. The churches in the Virginia conference is to begin each month keeping records of new members, profession of faith, and other vital statics. This will help us to become more accountable as a church and we can see what we are doing as a church.

We have to become more faithful in our witness. The early church witness the good news and the church grew. They witness the power and the

resurrection of Jesus Christ. They had more opposition than we have today. So! What is our excuse? I believe that if we would witness the good news more our churches will grow.

We all have the responsibility of being in ministry both lay and clergy. It is not just one single person responsibility. The ministry begins from the pews to the pulpit. We can no longer point fingers about why the church is not growing. It is all of our responsibilities.

It should be our intentions that as we approach the Advent and Christmas season that we continue to invite people to our church and to witness the good news of Jesus Christ. I hope that we become more accountable, witness the good news and be in ministry with each other. Keep the Faith! Pastor Hill

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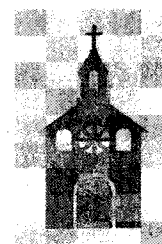
Celebration of Worship Schedule

9:30 Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship Service and

12:30 PM Fellowship

Cranford UMC Web Site: cranfordumc.org



Treasurer's Report

Steve Heller

The proposed 2012 budget was presented and approved by the Administrative Council at the September 13 meeting. The \$182,490 budget reflects an increase of \$3,000. It takes into account the salary recommendations of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, 2011 year to date expenses and projected 2012 expenses.

Total Pastoral and Staff budget is \$101,727

VA Conference and District Apportionments were raised to \$34,454

Building & Grounds budget is \$25,225

Administrative Expense budget is \$14,334

Departments & Committees budget is \$5,550

Conference delegate budget was set at \$1,200

To cover our 2012 budget, we will need an average collection of \$3,443 each Sunday.


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 2011 giving statement. This is an IRS regulation. If you would like your giving statements emailed to you, let Carole Clark know (ctclark2@aol.com) and make sure she has you're current email address.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving (we have a lot to be thankful for), Have a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. Hope to see everyone in 2012.



UMW Upcoming Events

November 19th—10:00 AM—UMW Meeting
December 3rd—10:00 AM—Advent Breakfast
at St. Paul's UMC
December - UMW Christmas Luncheon



February/March/April Newsletter Articles are due no later than
March 25, 2012.

Trustee's Report

Henry Koontz

The Trustee's are in the process of getting estimates for rebuilding the brick steps into the sanctuary. The steps would be built deeper, made handicap accessible and new handrails will be installed.

We are still in the process of getting estimates on the kitchen remodel. We will update you with any future decisions.

The Ham and Oyster Dinner was a huge success. We were able to raise \$1,611 towards the kitchen renovation. The Trustees would like to thank everyone who helped and donated desserts to make the dinner such a huge success.

Owen Johnson and I finished repairs to the Church sign. We also built a raised brick flower bed by the front door and Delores Kisendaffer planted flowers inside the bed. A new ladder was purchased for the church. The dimmer switch for the sanctuary lights was replaced. An annual fire extinguisher inspection was performed.

The furnaces at the church and the parsonage were cleaned and necessary repairs were performed. Limestone, grass seed and mulch were spread over the grounds of the church and the parsonage.

I repaired the dryer, repaired the refrigerator and cleaned the carpets at the parsonage.

Trustee's Upcoming Events

November 12th—9 AM—Parsonage Yard Clean-up

November 15th—7:30 PM—Trustee's Meeting

November 19th—9 AM—Church Yard Clean-up

November 17th—9 to 11 AM—Breakfast with Santa



Holiday Worship Services

Tracy Wertz

Please join us for our Pre-Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 20th at 11 AM. We will have our annual pot luck dinner following the Service. A sign up sheet has been placed on the bulletin board.

Please join us as we begin our Celebration of Advent and Christmas as follows:

First Sunday of Advent: Sunday, November 27th at 11 AM

Second Sunday of Advent: Sunday, December 4th at 11 AM

Third Sunday of Advent: Sunday, December 11th at 11 AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Cantata:

Sunday, December 18th at 11 AM

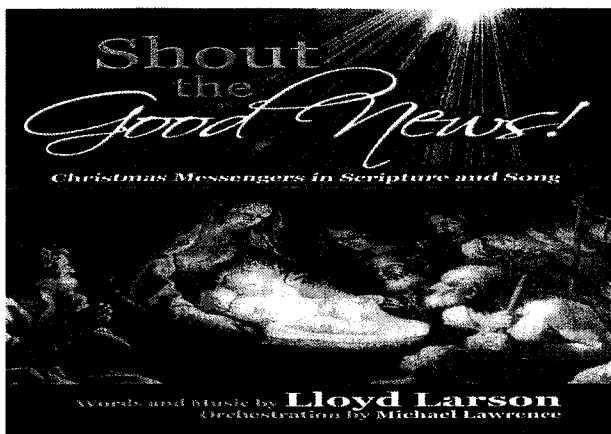
Christmas Eve Service: Saturday, December 24th at 7:30 PM

Christmas Service: Sunday, December 25th at 11 AM



“Christmas Cantata”

Gayle Lennon



“Shout the Good News!”

Christmas Messengers in Scripture and Song

Our Cranford Chancel Choir will be presenting this Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 18th at the 11:00 a.m. church service. We will hear the foretelling promises of prophets, observe angelic proclamations, see the wonder of God's plan, accompany first witnesses of the miracle birth to a humble stable. It is a timeless story filled with wonder and joy, mystery and majesty!

Holiday Happenings at Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC)

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKET FOR NOVEMBER (THANKSGIVING)

The menu items below are not the traditional American Thanksgiving provisions because LCAC serves clients representing diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. We are requesting a donation of a \$20 grocery store gift card to be included (preferably for Bloom or Shoppers). The food should be packed in either a **sturdy** cardboard box or plastic container and the food card value must be noted on the card itself. If you wish to donate multiple food cards, please make sure that each card's value is \$20. Please deliver to the Moose Lodge on Sunday, November 20th, 11 AM to 3 PM.



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|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 box oatmeal | 1 small bag of sugar |
| 2 cans of fruit | 1 small bottle oil |
| 3 cans tuna fish | 1 container black pepper seasoning |
| 1 box brownie mix | 2 cans of evaporated milk |
| 1 box Graham Crackers | 1 plastic container pasta sauce |
| 1 box whole wheat crackers | 1 small container Nutella |
| 1 can/package coffee | 1 bottle liquid dish detergent |
| 1 box pasta noodles, preferably whole wheat | |
| 2 boxes soup (e.g. sweet potato, pumpkin, corn chowder, butternut squash) | |
| 2 cans each: corn, green beans and peas (low sodium if possible) | |
| \$20.00 food card to purchase meat (preferably Bloom or Shopper's) | |

DECEMBER HOLIDAY FOOD BASKET



Due to the increasing number of families LCAC is serving, and the limitation of space to accept food and gifts, this year LCAC is requesting **food gift cards in lieu of food** for our December outreach. Please make sure that each food gift card value is \$20. These cards will be distributed to the families with their gifts so they may purchase their own holiday meal. Two (2) food gift cards totaling \$40 will provide meat and food for a family of five or less, and three (3) food gift cards totaling \$60 will provide meat and food for larger families. **Please deliver all food cards for LCAC to the Moose Lodge, 9612 Fernedge Lane on Saturday, December 17th from 11 AM to 3 PM.**

Holiday Happenings at LCAC-Continued

REMEMBER THE CHILDREN, TEENS & SENIORS IN DECEMBER

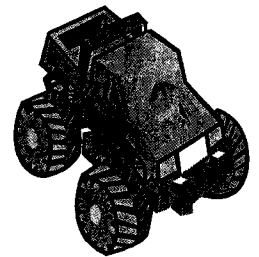
Cranford will put up the Angel Tree in Lewis Hall on November 25th. We have requested twenty tags from LCAC. We will request more as they are needed. Please give a gift to a child, teen or senior citizen. Each child (infant – age 12) and teen (age 13-18) has two gift tags representing gifts that have been specifically requested by the children. Our senior citizen's would also appreciate receiving a gift. Picking up a gift certificate to a local store or shopping mall is thoughtful, quick and ensures our teens/seniors have something for the holiday. Additional gift ideas:

- Gift certificates: Best Buy, Wal-Mart, Target, Old Navy, Kohl's, Potomac Mill Mall, etc.
- Preschool aged learning toys, anything to encourage learning A,B,C's, colors, numbers or shapes
- Board games (e.g., Life, Monopoly, Risk, Scrabble, Battleship, Cranium, Trouble, Candyland, Shoots n Ladders etc.)
- DVD's or CD's (age appropriate) No mature themes/language
- Handheld electronic games (Solitaire, soccer, football; no Nintendo DS games)
- Items for teen girls (body lotions, gels, nail polish kits, hair accessories, makeup, jewelry {ring, bracelet, necklace}, perfume, craft kits, picture frames, journal accessories, photo albums, novels, watches)
- Items for teen boys (cologne, sports equipment {football, basketball, soccer, helmets, pads, etc.}, novels, watches)
- Seniors: Coffee mugs, throw blanket, cross stitch/embroidery kits, tea/coffee/hot chocolate, large print novels, classical music CD/inexpensive CD player, playing cards, assorted birthday/anniversary/get well cards, postage stamps
- Baby dolls, doll accessories (any race)
- Trucks, action figures, remote control cars
- Arts and crafts;
- Inexpensive CD players



*Please remember:

- No mature theme, parental guidance/explicit content CD's or DVD's.
- Include batteries for those items which call for batteries.
- All items must be new and unwrapped.
- If items are meant to stay together please secure accordingly.
- Write the dollar amount of the gift certificate on the envelope.



VOLUNTEER, VOLUNTEER, VOLUNTEER

The staff at LCAC could not assemble such a major distribution of food and gifts without the help of others. Please check your calendar to determine your availability for **Sunday, November 20**, and **Saturday/Sunday, December 17/18**. There are many opportunities within each shift (set up, accepting donations, sorting food, checking bags, moving excess food, etc.). To volunteer your time, please visit our web-site and click on the 'how to help' link and then the 1-time opportunity link and follow the instructions provided. This link will direct you to all the necessary information on the shifts and allow you to register for either or both of the opportunities. Please note youth may not volunteer for either distribution shift (November 20/December 18) nor the 10:30 am Sunday December 18th shift. You may also e-mail me at Kathy@lortonaction.org for additional information or to register.

Cranford United Methodist Church

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

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Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 2011 UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 8 (Tuesday)

7:30 PM - Administrative Council
Calendar Planning Meeting

NOVEMBER 12 (Saturday)

9 AM - Parsonage Yard Clean Up

NOVEMBER 15 (Tuesday)

7:30 PM - Trustee's Meeting

NOVEMBER 19 (Saturday)

9 AM - Church Yard Clean Up

10 AM - UMW Meeting

NOVEMBER 20 (Sunday)

10 AM - Thanksgiving Service

11 AM - Thanksgiving Pot-Luck

NOVEMBER 25 (Friday)

Hanging of the Greens

DECEMBER 2011 UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 3 (Saturday)

9 AM - UMM Meeting

Advent Breakfast

DECEMBER 13 (Tuesday)

7:30 PM - Administrative Council Meeting

DECEMBER 17 (Saturday)

9-11 AM - Breakfast with visit from Santa

DECEMBER 18 (Sunday)

11 AM - Cantata

DECEMBER 24 (Saturday)

7:30 PM - Christmas Eve Service

DECEMBER 25 (Sunday)

Christmas Day Service

JANUARY 2012 UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 7 (Saturday)

9 AM - UMM Meeting

9:30 AM to Noon - District Clergy
Association Meeting at Floris UMC
in Herndon

JANUARY 10 (Tuesday)

7:30 PM - Administrative Council Meeting

JANUARY 17 (Tuesday)

7:30 PM - Trustee's Meeting

JANUARY 21 (Saturday)

10 AM - UMW Meeting

JANUARY 22 (Sunday)

February/March/April 2012
Newsletter Deadline

JANUARY 28 (Saturday)

UMW Executive Committee Meeting
at Silverbrook UMC