Roll Out Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer...

By Pastor Gene Thomas

Let us not give up meeting together. Some are in the habit of doing this. Instead, let us cheer each other up with words of hope. Let us do it all the more as you see the day coming when Christ will return. ~ Hebrews 10:25 (NIRV)

Don’t you love this lively, summer song made popular by Nat King Cole? Every time I hear it, I’m ready to go into summer mode (remember, I’m a child of the fifties and sixties when we had REAL music!). These last few weeks of warm, summer-like weather have whetted my appetite for more. Indeed, I love summer; it makes me think of family vacations, walks on the beach, fishing outings, home made ice cream, warm summer nights, and a more relaxed pace. I recall summers of long ago when I spent my (continued page 3)
Welcome New Members!

Clarendon is growing by leaps and bounds! In the last four months, we have welcomed eight new adult members plus their seven little ones to our family. Here are a few bios for some of our new members. More on others later...

Johanna Baker, with her two sons, Calder (5) and Beckcom (3) has a long history with CUMC, since her great-grandfather was one of the first ministers in the church. She is engaged to Dave Peterson who is moving to the area.

Terry Bingham, with his three children Hunter, Sienna, and Ray, is already familiar with the music program since his teacher and mentor, Denny Edelbrock, is a long-time friend and colleague in the Army Band.

We also welcome Matt and Jessica Owens, and 6-month old daughter, Millie. Jessica has been in the area since graduating from Wake Forest in 2003 and working in attorney recruiting, but she now stays home with Millie. Matt moved to the area 12 years ago to attend law school at Georgetown after graduating from Tulane. Matt is a corporate attorney with Arnold & Porter LLP. They live in Westover and look forward to getting to know everyone at CUMC.

Paul Moon (not pictured) lives in Lyon Park and was raised in Irvine, CA, spent some time in St. Louis for grad school, then moved to Washington to work for the Federal government as a telecommunications attorney. After that day job, he keeps busy with pursuits in documentary filmmaking and the performing arts. Paul knew from the moment he set foot in the sanctuary that CUMC is a community of grace, and he looks forward to years of fellowship in worship.

Ian MacTavish was born and reared in Arlington. He graduated from the Virginia Commonwealth University with a degree in Forensic Science in 2008 and just started working at Trevigen, a biotechnology company, in Gaithersburg. He is transferring his membership from Arlington Forest UMC.

Jen Potts has lived in Arlington and has been attending Clarendon UMC for the past two years after relocating from Clairton, PA. Jen graduated from Penn State with a B.S in Marketing and is a Marketing Manager for Custom Briefings in Reston. She continues to be the driving force of the CUMC Compass Ministry for Young professionals in the DC area.

Compass Summer Fun

The Compass group has exciting summer events planned and we hope any adults between the ages of 18-29 will join us! On Wednesday, July 28th we will watch the Nats take on the Atlanta Braves at Nationals Park. Meet us outside of the Center Field Gates at 6:30pm. On Saturday, August 28th we will head to the new Go Ape! ropes course/obstacle course in Rockville, MD for a day of fun adventures. Throughout the course of the summer we will also be in partnership with churches in the Arlington/Alexandria Bi-District community meeting every other Thursday night at 7pm for a book study of Adam Hamilton's Confronting the Controversies: Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues. For details on any of our events, please contact compassCUMC@gmail.com or jpotts86@gmail.com.
(continued from page 1) days lying in the grass gazing at cloud formations, the whole world silent except for the hum of flying insects. Time seemed to stand still. Summers at ‘the Beach’ are the best; we don’t have to ‘go on vacation’ to have one. We are blessed with many opportunities to rest, enjoy, and refresh ourselves.

Maybe summer is so inviting to me right now because we have just come off the busiest season of the church year: the Season of Lent, climaxing with Easter, and culminating with the joyful celebration of Pentecost. We’ve hit the high points of the Christian year, and Christmas is still six months away, so now we can relax, right?

Well, not quite. By all means, we need to slow down and enjoy this wonderful summer season, a gift from God. However, we still need to be in God’s House and hear God’s Word – even during the gloriously lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer!

Our schedule at Clarendon will be the same for the summer months with worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., and Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

I do pray and hope that you all have a great summer, and that if you take some time away…it might be a good time filled with relaxing moments and fun… but never too far from God.

Love and prayers,
Pastor Gene
The Outreach Committee organizes and supervises the church’s local, national, and international missions. We can only fulfill these missions with your help. You are invited to give your time, talents, gifts, prayers, and service to one project or many. During the summer we will meet Sunday, July 11 at 7:00 p.m. and Friday, August 13 at 12:30 p.m.

We lost a valuable member of our committee when Warren Kane passed away following a brief illness in May. Warren served as our Crop Walk chairman and regularly delivered cereal and canned and dry goods collected at our church to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC.) Warren’s loving service at Clarendon was only a small part of a life dedicated to helping the hungry, the poor, and the disadvantaged. We will miss Warren’s smile and his willingness to get involved. In remembrance, this year we propose to call Clarendon’s Crop Walk Team “Warren’s Walkers” and invite all able-bodied people to join the team or give money to support one of our walkers.

Would you like to fill the gap left by Warren Kane? We need a Crop Walk chairman and someone to regularly deliver the food collected to AFAC. We also need a Coordinator for Meals-on-Wheels.

AFAC - The Good News Class will be bagging groceries at AFAC on Friday, July 2nd at 5:30 p.m. In past months the Class has been filling 500 bags at a time. If you’re in town and would like to help on this holiday weekend, please contact Gloria Ruddick at 703-379-1019.

AFAC Grocery Distribution – On Saturday, August 7th CUMC will distribute groceries at AFAC from 9 to 11 am. Can you help? Contact Laura Bishop, 703-841-1970.

Diaper Day, Sunday, July 11 - GRACE Ministries is in constant need of disposable diapers. Can you “change” this situation? GRACE Ministries is a faith-based outreach program that addresses the most pressing material and spiritual needs of low-income immigrants living in Northern Virginia. Please bring packages of diapers, any size, to church on July 11. Can’t be caught buying diapers? You can write a check to CUMC, with “Diapers” in the memo line or place your spare “change” in the diaper envelopes you’ll find in the church pews.

All God’s Children Camps – Do you remember the joy of going to summer camp? You can give the child of an incarcerated parent the same opportunity. The first camp is Aug 1-6 at Camp Highroad in Middleburg followed by one in central Virginia and another on the eastern shore. This is an annual ministry of the Virginia Conference and you can help by mentoring a camper, providing supplies, praying for the campers, or giving money toward scholarships, which are $350 per camper. To help with scholarships, make checks payable to CUMC and write Camper Scholarship on the memo line. For more details see the Outreach bulletin boards or www.vaumc.org/agcc

Noël Swearingen noro78@verizon.net, Gloria Ruddick gloruddick@hotmail.com; Outreach co-chairs.
Stewardship

As members of Clarendon United Methodist Church, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?

Serving is a core principle of being a steward. Serving implies that one is acting on behalf of, in partnership with, or in the best interest of another. Serving requires humbleness. As Christians, we are called to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ.

We are called to serve and to be a steward of God, who was, is, and forever shall be the only one who can claim, “I am.” (Exodus 3:14)

Our commitment to be loyal to the church and uphold it by our service further reflects our commitment to follow the example of Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Matthew 20:28)

Dear God, Help all Christians to remember that they are serving you in whatever job they have. Help us to show your love today to everyone we meet. Amen.

Stewardship Committee Chairs: Craig Rowland and Gayle Kelley, gkelley@arlington.k12.va.us; Members: Cecil Corry, Trudy Ensign, Stacey Pine, Judy Yolles, Robert Stamps

CUMC Finance Report

Thanks to the continuing and past generosity of our members, CUMC offers diverse ministries and opportunities to participate in the spiritual life of the Church. CUMC’s principal source of income is the giving of our parishioners. Our annual budget for Calendar Year 2010 calls for expenses of $582,517 and income of $559,330, which would leave us with an annual deficit of $23,617. CUMC has run annual deficits for several consecutive years. As of May 31, CUMC has a year-to-date deficit of $7,679. CUMC could be on track to end the year with a deficit close to the projected $23,617 (not good, but at least what we expected.) Levels of giving and expenses fluctuate unpredictably from month-to-month (even week-to-week), so the outlook remains uncertain, and will require careful and continuous monitoring. Look for a further report in the next quarterly newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Sweeney, Finance Committee Chair at kms651@gmail.com.

The Doorways home is accepting reservations for a tour of the facility. This month’s date is: Thursday, July 8, from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. If you are available, please contact our Doorways representative, Heather O’Malley at: homalley@doorwaysva.org, or 703-522-8858, ext 22. Please arrive a few minutes early that evening to sign a confidentiality agreement. No children, please.
This year’s UMW Bazaar on Oct. 23 will have a theme—Fruits of the Spirit—to share Clarendon’s own spiritual fruits with all who attend. Galatians 5:22 describes fruits of the Spirit as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness and self-control. We invite all Clarendonians to consider what “fruits” they might share to support the Bazaar. Donations of children’s items reflect “Joy” and baked items or canned jams spell “Goodness”. Perhaps yoga or personal training skills would bring “Peace” or “Self-control” to our silent auction.

To help with publicity, the silent auction, corralling the items for sale, set up, or sales, contact Barbara Demetrion at bdemetrion@msn.com or Susan Prokop at susanprokop@att.net or 703-248-6988.

Murky Men

The CUMC United Methodist Men (UMM), known as the Murky Men, began about four years ago when some Clarendon UMC men got together on a Saturday morning at Murky Coffee on Wilson Boulevard in Clarendon to share in their spiritual journeys. They began meeting there every Saturday, and over time the group grew. The Murky Men outlived the coffee shop, which closed in 2009, but the name stuck. In 2009, the Murky Men became the chartered UMM group of CUMC. In addition to sharing friendship and Christian fellowship, Murky Men serve CUMC and the community, and hold an annual retreat each year. The Murky Men now meet in the CUMC Youth Room on Saturday mornings at 7:30 a.m. A “Night Owl” Chapter meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. These gatherings are informal. Nothing is required other than a desire to grow in Christ. (The General Conference on United Methodist Men mission statement reads, “To Help Men Grow In Christ, So Others May Know Christ.”) Stop in some Saturday morning or Thursday evening. All men are welcome. For info contact ksweeney@jhenergy.com.

Adult Sunday School Classes

The Crusaders Class is combining with the Logos class to create an intergenerational discussion group for the summer. We meet each Sunday in room 206 at 9:45 AM.

We will be exploring the nature, foundation, and marks of commitment as they apply to Christians in today’s world. Using the International Lesson Series from Abingdon Press, we will examine what Paul had to say about commitment in his letters to the Thessalonians in June and July, and to the Philippians in August. Noreen Quill and Jim Ruddick serve as facilitators, with assistance from Jeff Pehl. We welcome any and all seekers to come by for a visit any Sunday!

Noreen.K.Quill@irs.gov
WOW! We are always on the move! We had the most AMAZING square dance in March, a WONDERFUL Easter Egg hunt on the lawn in April! We had GREAT Sunday School activities all this spring and the best is yet to come.

Don’t miss our annual Vacation Bible School August 16-20 from 9:00 to noon each day. This year’s theme is “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”! Join us for a week focused on prayer, music, crafts, and interactive Bible skits!!! Our kids will make a prayer chain to encircle the entire church. We need volunteers to teach, make cookies, help in recreation and crafts!! We will also host a number of children and family fun days during the summer.

Our Sunday School kids were promoted on Sunday, June 20th as they walked across the stage to receive a certificate. Summer Sunday School begins on June 27th. Each Sunday, the children will gather in the parsonage back yard for lessons, crafts, and sharing. We will also use the church kitchen to create some edible “Bible story” treats!

Our regular Sunday School classes will resume on September 12th. Have your kids come join us!! Talk to Diane Smith if you would like to be part of our wonderful teaching teams.

Our Parent’s Night Out program will resume in October – watch for the registration dates. Contact Diane Smith at childrensministry@morefaith.org or (703) 527-8575 for more details on these events, or to volunteer in any capacity. We’d love to have you on our team!

CUMC’s 2010 Graduating Seniors

Hannah Crawford graduated from Washington-Lee High School in June. She has been singing and ringing for four years now. She has also helped Stephanie with the Sunday School program occasionally. Hannah loves animals and has been taking riding lessons for the last year and a half. She also loves camping during the summer and took the Counselor in Training program at her camp for the last two years. She has been working hard on her academics and will be attending the culinary college at Johnson and Wales University in Providence, RI this fall.

Ben Whelan’s experience at Washington-Lee High School was great. He became much closer with many of his friends and made even more than he could have imagined. Ben has spent seven years in the youth choirs at CUMC. The more that he progressed through the years the more he realized what his strengths were and what he would like to study in college. As it stands right now he will attend Radford University and he’ll probably study music and/or computer science.

Maddie Greenfield graduated from H-B Woodlawn. She has played soccer and run cross-country for Wakefield. This year she was taken with Ultimate Frisbee and is loving it! This is her 11th year in choir and 7th in handbells. She is going to be attending the University of Virginia in the fall (wahoowa!). She is going to miss everyone at CUMC and promises to come back and visit :)

Stephanie Smith is a Washington-Lee High School graduate who was baptized here at Clarendon in 1992. She currently sings in the Youth Choir and also rings in the handbell choir. She was a member of the youth team that traveled to New Orleans on the 2008 mission trip. She plans to participate in the youth mission trip this spring. Stephanie has taught Sunday School for the past three years, taught classes in VBS, and works in the Parents Night Out program. Stephanie’s goal in college is to major in Early Childhood Education in order to pursue a career as a first grade teacher. She loves to be around people and makes the best out of everything!

“Tomorrow was another day...” It has been a long, fun, ride. For five years, Ryan Lee was a student, teacher, worker, performer, and director at H-B Woodlawn. Alas, the time has finally come for him to leave. Ryan plans to major in Theatre at Old Dominion.
What is the Alpha Course? For 28 years, churches around the world have offered a course in answer to the questions "Is there more to life than this?" It is now coming to Clarendon!

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly setting. The Alpha course meets once per week for 10 weeks where people enjoy great food, laughter and learning in a fun and friendly atmosphere and no question about life or God is seen as too simple or too hostile… questions like—Is there a God? Why am I here? Where did I come from? Where am I going? All free!

CUMC will offer this class beginning Sunday, September 12th from 5-7:30 pm. If you would be interested in learning more, contact Liesl Arends, liesl_arends@hotmail.com or (703) 338-5222. Childcare provided. Alpha information at www.alphausa.org.

Come on… take a chance… Why not now?