



Cranford United Methodist Church
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 Dr. Edwin Hann, III Pastor



LAMPLIGHTER

January 13, 2012

From the Pastor

I Would Like to Invite You...

...to an "Invitation to the Old Testament". An outgrowth of the classic "Disciple Bible Study" in which many of you participated a decade or more ago, this "Invitation" is a "short-term Bible study" especially created for those whose knowledge of the Bible is limited or lacking. In eight sessions over that number of weeks, we will share in an overview of the Old Testament, seeking not just knowledge about but experience with this part of God's Word (a second unit, "Invitation to the New Testament", will be offered following Easter).

Using DVD presentations, a participant's guidebook, daily Bible reading and small group sharing, you and I will have a chance to learn about and become more comfortable with this "primary resource" of our Faith. Bibles will be provided for those who do not own one. A \$10 fee will cover the full unit.

All of you who are church members and friends are "invited" as are your family members and friends of other, or of no, churches. For my guidance, however, I would like you to share your interest in a specific time and date for us to meet. Please fill out the tear-off below, even if you are just curious about this experience. In other words, "you are invited; please RSVP" using the form at the bottom of this page.

Pastor Ed

Deacon Carol and I will be attending the Bishop's Convocation on Ministry in Lancaster, PA, from January 23 – 25. Contact the church office if we are needed.

CALLING ALL USHERS

or those who may be interested in being an usher... There will be a short meeting for all ushers, current or future at 11:30 am in Room 2 on January 22nd to discuss the current teams, potential new team members and any other issues.

BISHOP SUDARSHANA DEVADHAR

of our Greater New Jersey Annual Conference returned from renewal leave early this month and went immediately on retreat with his Cabinet to pray and study in preparation for the making of appointments for this new year. He has asked for our prayers, especially as they consider a new pastor for this church.

Use this form to indicate your interest in "Invitation to the Old Testament."

___ I/We have interest in the "Invitation to the Old Testament".

My/Our preference for meeting would be ___ Sunday night ___ Wednesday night
 ___ during the day of _____

Name(s): _____ Contact information: _____

DEALING WITH LOSS

Healing from the inside out- learning to cope

The first Presbyterian Church will hold their 24th eight week seminar- "Journey to Wholeness- Healing the Grieving Heart" on Sunday evenings from Feb. 12 through April 1, 2012. Sessions are from 7-9 pm in the Mettam Lounge of the church. It does not matter if your loss is divorce, death or job loss. It does not matter how long ago you experienced loss. Bring family members and friends. All faiths are welcome. No fee is charged but please register at 709-1341.

NEW YEAR brings new church meetings!

On Monday, January 16, the CUM Church Council will meet, become (re)acquainted and enter into prayer, conversation and decision-making on matters of policy for this new year. Among the items on the agenda is a view of the architectural plans for the Faith-Lift elevator being prepared for bids. Reports from the old year and plans for the new, including the establishment of the 2012 church budget, will also take place. Beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Room 8 of the church, all Council members are expected to attend but all members and friends are cordially invited. Happy New Year!

TAIZE FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

If you are between 16 and 29 years of age, you are invited to join Bishop Devadhar and chaperones on a week-long spiritual development experience. Additional adults may request to attend as space provides opportunity. The group will leave the USA on July 27 and return on August 6, 2012.

Coming to Taizé is an opportunity to seek communion with God through common prayer, singing, personal reflection and sharing. Everyone is here to discover or rediscover a meaning for their life and to find a new vitality. Being in Taizé is also a preparation for taking on responsibilities back at home with a view to being bearers of peace and trust.

As you arrive at Taizé, you are welcomed by a community of brothers who have made a lifelong commitment to follow Christ in common life and celibacy, in simplicity of life. The GNJAC goal of the pilgrimage is to discover new depths of faith that enable us to make disciples for Jesus Christ who are committed to a world-wide connectional sharing of the gospel, in word and deed.

Taizé is located in France, a bus ride from Geneva. Accommodations there are rustic, with dormitory style life, sleeping in tents. Pilgrims sleep on their own bedrolls. Food, showers and other accommodations are very simple. Special diet requests can not be accommodated.

Pilgrims must carry their own clothing, supplies, air mattresses and sleeping bags. There will be no use of electrical appliances. We will be sleeping in large tents. Daily routines will include worship, Bible study, prayer, silence, reflection, faith sharing, camp chores and fellowship with 5,000 pilgrims from around the world.

Pilgrims must be approved by pastors and sponsored by churches of the Greater NJ Annual Conference. Only those pilgrims who have parental consent will be permitted to travel with the group. Every pilgrim will be required to enter into the Taizé Pilgrimage Covenant.

Cost: Pilgrim non-refundable deposit of \$375 required for registration by Feb. 15, 2012. \$1,000 payment due March 15, 2012. \$825 final payment due on April 15, 2012. **This church will provide significant support!**

For more information and to view pictures from last year's pilgrimage visit www.gnjumc.org or email Emunoz@gnjumc.org

ALL CHURCH LEADERS

should take note now of our District "Day of Learning" with workshops for most areas of church life. To be held in the Bridgewater UMC, the Day this year will be February 25, from 9:00 a. m. to 1:00 p. m. Contact Pastor Ed if a ride is needed.

CHURCH TABLES

We are missing 3 of the white tables that are kept in RH. If you borrowed them please return them- no questions asked. Thank you!

The Next Lamplighter will be produced on Friday, January 27th. Deadline is Wednesday,

the 25th at noon.



Green Corner:

Help the church office stay green. Save paper bags (especially those with handles) for the office to recycle paper in. Drop them in the office at anytime.

2012 Basic Lay Speaker Classes



Lay Speaking Ministries is a program to provide training opportunities and experiences to equip disciples of Jesus Christ to realize and respond to their personal call to ministry. Since each disciple is 'gifted' with one or more spiritual gifts (skills given by the Holy Spirit for the express purpose of serving the body of believers and thereby God), Lay Speaking Ministries strives to help disciples become aware of their particular gift or gifts by offering educational events to enhance and develop the skill level necessary for the full fruition of these gifts. It is an excellent vehicle for servant ministry skill development and has aided thousands of church members to be better servants of Jesus Christ, to become stronger church family leaders, and to more capably assist their pastors.

A Lay Speaker is:

An active supportive member of the United Methodist Church;

- Eager to serve through the church;
- Well-informed on the Scripture and the doctrine, heritage, organization and the life of The United Methodist Church;
- Committed to witnessing through church and community leadership, care-giving ministries, and spoken communication; and
- Willing to improve his or her skills for service.

What is expected of a Lay Speaker?

Local Church Lay Speakers:

- Support and minister to the local church
- Look for leadership opportunities in the local church
- Must file a report with their Charge Conference every year
- Take a refresher course every three years

Classes in our district will be held at Covenant UMC, Plainfield on four Saturday mornings beginning February 25th. To download the registration form (or register online), please visit:

<http://www.gnjumc.org/pages/detail/484> or contact the church office. Registration deadline 2-3-12.

COMING WORSHIP SERVICES

“A Community of Love”

January 15: Second Sunday after the Epiphany

I John 3: 1 – 3 & Isaiah 11: 6 – 9: “...in Worship, Music and Education”

January 22: Third Sunday after the Epiphany

I John 3: 11 – 28 & Genesis 4: 1 – 16: “...through Unity in Diversity”

January 29: Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

I John 4: 12 – 21 & John 15: 9 – 17: “...among the Young”