



News from the Blue Ridge



Volume 3

Claire & Lorin Cranford

February 2000

Issue 2



Family Events:

WOW! What a beautiful snow we had the fourth weekend in January. Although it came through and caused enormous problems with power outages etc., fortunately that was mostly to the east of Boiling Springs so that we just enjoyed it, along with canceled classes in most public schools -- but not GWU day classes. We were able to take some pictures of the snow around Boiling Springs and they are posted in the Photo Album section of Cranfordville (<http://www.shelby.net/cranford>).



Here is one of them reflecting the beauty of the experience. Claire got an extra long weekend as we both worked on catching up with the unexpected time.

The following weekend was a different story! Instead of beautiful snow and fun, we had sleet and sheer ice. It reminds me of the DFW metroplex! The roads were horrible and dangerous, so we didn't get out of the house from Sat. afternoon through Sun. evening. This kind of weather is not normal for Boiling Springs and thus causes even worse problems!



We're looking forward to the weekend of Feb 5-6 when **Bill and Sue Brown** from Fort Worth will visit us. Bill cut my hair faithfully every third Monday at 1:30 pm. from 1968 through 1997, while I tried to be his pastor the first six years of that time. I expect to receive some evaluations of my hair style once he has a chance to inspect. I've been getting them via e-mail and phone calls already -- based on photos! But Bill and Sue are a fun couple who enjoy life and are enjoying retirement.

Grandchild #10 is here at last!!! A week overdue, but healthy, Andrew Barnett Cranford arrived in College Station, Texas, Sunday morning, Jan 30, at 11:34 am, weighing in at 7 pounds 9 ounces. Jennifer is doing fine as well -- for which we are very grateful. Greg seems to be taking fatherhood okay -- with his typical nonchalantness, although I suspect there's an overwhelming excitement looming just beneath the surface. They went to the hospital at 1:30 am Sunday morning, so Andrew wasn't in a real big hurry to get here especially being a week overdue.

We don't have pictures yet. We'll spare you that until next month's issue of the newsletter. Just as soon as we can we'll post them in the family photo album at Cranfordville.

It's a Boy!



University Happenings:

The **spring semester** has gotten off to a flying start, but has run into the two straight weeks of bad weather causing some canceling of classes, especially at the GOAL extension campuses. Thus, already we're behind schedule worse than usual in some classes.

The **weather patterns** are creating some real challenges for North Carolinians with the floods last summer and the blizzard conditions this winter. The northeastern part of the state, however, has had far worse problems than we in the western part of the state. Two feet of snow plus in NC other than in the mountains is unheard of!! Fortunately ours was only about five inches and didn't create the havoc that the Raleigh-Durham area experienced.

We, evidently, lucked out with the isothermal condition in our area helping us slip by unscathed. For folks not familiar with this term -- like me before moving here -- it refers to a small region where Boiling Springs is located that is protected from more severe weather normally. The Blue Ridge Mountains immediately to the west act as a shield to the wintry blasts of frigid weather coming down out of Canada and across the central plains of the US headed southeast. It hits the mountains, bounces up and then comes back down about 50 miles to the east of us around Charlotte. Likewise, the severe weather coming off the Gulf of Mexico up through Alabama and Georgia usually turns due east in northeastern Georgia and goes through South Carolina to the south of us. Thus we enjoy much milder -- and more constant -- climate in both winter and summer than we would otherwise. Just another of those reasons why Claire and I enjoy living here.

The **Greek classes** this semester - first, second and third year classes -- are doing well. The classes are small and thus more enjoyable with time to interact extensively with the students. I'm continuing the massive expansion and revision of the first year grammar as the elementary Greek class works through the material. The more I develop this way of teaching the language, the more convinced I am that the students will have a far better grasp of how to get at the complex ideas that are present in the Greek NT. A couple of my student workers who conduct the Greek labs comment often about the much the students are learning. I believe they will come out at the end of the program with real exegetical skills that will make a significant difference in their preaching and teaching ministry for a life time.

The second year class has set up a photo album page giving info about each class member. To check it out, go to Cranfordville >GWU classes >Greek 202 >Photo Album.

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For all kinds of info about us as well as a PDF copy of this newsletter, check out our homepage [Cranfordville](http://www.shelby.net/cranford) at <http://www.shelby.net/cranford>

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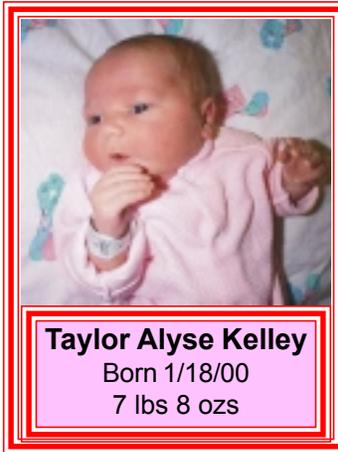


Claire's Musings:

Jan2000

Well, this has been another exciting month, mostly because of new grandbabies. While waiting for a call from Angie and Brian saying they were on the way to the hospital, Lorin and I jumped every time the phone rang. Then in the middle of the night, January 18 we got "the call." It was so fantastic because even before I had to leave for work that morning Carrie called and we were able to hear Taylor Alyse Kelley's first cries. Of course I cried, mostly from sheer happiness, but a little partly because I could not be there. How thankful I have been that at least I was able to spend a few days with Carrie, Angie, Brian, and Clay recently. The hardest part of moving to N.C. has been missing my special family. What has made it a little easier has been e-mail and phone calls, along with an occasional visit. The kids love it so much out here that they have made several visits. It is hard for us to visit Texas, because we have to try to see so many people. But, when others visit us here we have some real quality time and beautiful scenery to check out. HINT! HINT!

Needless to say, Taylor is a beautiful baby and reminds us of Clay when he was born. Be sure to check out our web site for pictures and information about this precious new baby. Angie and Brian are great parents (I know because I have seen them with Clay) and so very happy with their new addition. They have helped alleviate the pain of separation with pictures sent over the Internet from the hospital. They even surprised us with a video of Taylor and them. Of course, I cried again because it was so absolutely perfect.



Taylor Alyse Kelley
Born 1/18/00
7 lbs 8 ozs



Saturday, January 29 I had what we like to laughingly refer to as a speaking engagement. Actually all I did was share my story of being a widow with other widows and ladies of Beaver Dam Baptist Church. (Go to <http://www.shelby.net/bdbc/MugsPicts.htm> for details.) This is the church where Lorin preached in N.C. for the first time right before we moved here. It was an awesome experience for me to do, because

I am not a speaker. But it was fine, because I could speak from the heart. In preparation for this I had to unbury some of my memories from the past and reflect on them. I'm sure that any of these ladies had stories of tribulation that they could have shared in which they came through by the grace of God. One of the things I reflected on is the fact of hurting people in the world who are searching in the wrong places for peace in their hearts. The companionship of Christian friends along with a faith in God is wonderful. How do people with little or no faith in God survive from day to day, much less go through the bad times?

Sunday, January 30, Greg called to announce that Jennifer



Lorin's Musings:

January has been an exciting month around our place, as well as exceptionally busy.

One of the memorable times was the third weekend when Claire and I were with Michael and Edith Shumate at the Union Baptist Church near Shelby (<http://www.connectu.net/unionbaptistchurch/>). The church invited me to lead their Winter Bible Study on 1-2 Thessalonians in a two day weekend conference. We fell in love with the people and the pastor and his wife who lead the church as pastor and minister of music. The people seemed to enjoy and hopefully profit from the study of these two letters of the apostle Paul. If you're interested, a more detailed version of the study is available at Cranfordville (<http://www.shelby.net/cranford>) under Resources for Spiritual Growth, then Bible Studies. It was an interesting experiment to

post the study materials on the internet in advance of the Bible conference so that interested members could use the web page to do preparatory study for the Bible conference. Additionally, it was nice to refer those who really got into the study of the scripture text to this internet site for additional study opportunities beyond what we had time to do in the conference itself.

Another exciting event for me personally has been to move my computer systems closer to the professional level that I have dreamed of. The addition of PhotoShop 5.5, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe GoLive, Screen Shots, and PCAnywhere along with some other graphics

programs is enabling me to do some serious graphics and web development at a more professional level. The video camera, along with the digital camera, now gives the resources to create movies and still shots for use in classroom projects, as well as video streaming projects through Cranfordville. Not only will this enhance the supplemental materials for the on ground classes, but the online courses will have much more sophisticated materials to make the learning experience better.

had a baby boy. Andrew Barnett, 7 lb. 9 oz. was born 11:34 a.m. What fantastic news. We are so excited for Greg and Jennifer. This is their first baby and they are in for a wonderful life with their new family. This now makes ten grandchildren for us. Wow! We are anxious now to see pictures of Andrew.

A kindergarten teacher asked her students to bring something related to their faith to class. At the appropriate time she asked the students to come forward and share with the rest of the students.

The first child said, "I am Muslim and this is my prayer rug."

The second child said, "I am Jewish and this is my Star of David."

The third child said, "I am Catholic and this is my rosary."

The final child said, "I am Southern Baptist and this is my casserole dish."