



News from the Blue Ridge

Claire & Lovin Cranford
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Family Events:

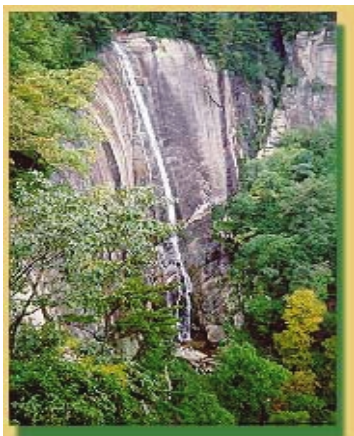
With the excitement of so many family members visiting in June, July has seemed very tame indeed. Yet, the slower pace along with a freer schedule after completing some writing projects have enabled Claire and me to take some day trips just for the pure pleasure of doing things together. The older we become the more we crave such times together, just enjoying one another and the beautiful countryside in which we live.

July 4 was special with the fireworks display put on by GWU for the town. Claire took some very good pictures which are in the Day Trips section of Photo Albums at Cranfordville.

Our first foray on **July 7** was to Mt. Airy, NC, where Andy Griffith was born and raised. Also the Andy Griffith TV series was shot in part from here. The historic old downtown part is preserved pretty much the way it was in the early post-WWII era which was the setting for the TV series. Located slightly over two hours from us, it is a worthwhile trip with lots of interesting things to see. You can still get a haircut at Floyd's Barbershop, eat lunch at the Snappy Lunch diner, visit the jail and sheriff's office where Andy was the TV sheriff. See photos under Day Trips in Photo Albums at Cranfordville. Also, they have a good web site at <http://www.visitmayberry.com/>.

Our second delightful experience took place on Sunday afternoon, **July 9**, at the Broad River Greenway just south of Boiling Springs. Various summer activities are scheduled there and we enjoyed listening to a group perform traditional mountain music at the old log cabin located on the Greenway. To learn about the park go to <http://www.broadrivergreenway.com/>. Several other scheduled activities there are also on our To Do list.

On Wednesday, **July 12**, we went to Chimney Rock Park and spent the day hiking the Skyline and Cliff Trails to and from Hickory Nut Falls. Although the route is strenuous, it has some fantastic views. We love the park so much that we carry season passes that enable us to go there often to enjoy the scenery. You can check out the park on the internet at <http://www.chimneyrockpark.com/>.



A **new feature** to the newsletter is the addition of an archive database containing most of the past issues over the last 2 1/2 years. These are in the PDF file format. To gain access to them, simply click on *Archive* in the table of contents left-col-



University Happenings:

Summer school comes to an end with graduation on Aug.5. This means for me the conclusion of two experiments in teaching this summer: the 10 week online Religion 3050 survey of the New Testament at the undergraduate level through the university G.O.A.L. program and the intensive one week masters level MDiv course on the parables of Jesus taught in a multimedia classroom using the materials on Cranfordville projected onto a giant screen at the front of the classroom. Both experiences taught me much about certain approaches to teaching. One common conclusion from both: the use of technology in teaching takes extra time and generates its own set of surprises, but overall makes the teaching/learning experience much, much more effective for both teacher and student.

The fall semester promises to be its own excitement. Not the least is the addition of **three outstanding faculty** to the DivSchool beginning this fall: Dr. Doug Dickens in Pastoral Ministries; Dr. Todd Still in New Testament; and Dr. Robert Conoy in Theology. The last is a mixed blessing because Robert has been our pastor since we moved to NC. He is one of the finest preachers we've ever heard. His scholarly background combined with outstanding pastoral and leadership skills will enable him to make a wonderful contribution to the university, although we will sorely miss him at the church. Doug and Todd are long time personal friends and we greatly look forward to working with them at GWU. Their exceptional gifts and scholarship will substantially help lift the quality of theological education at GWU.

Along with this comes the announcement of GWU's move toward establishing a law school within the next couple of years. These indeed are exciting days!

This summer has also given me opportunity to work on advancing some of my **computer skills**. In order to correct operating systems problems with Win98 SE I've had to learn much more than I cared to! More enjoyably, however, has been to work with graphics materials. The addition of Adobe's Illustrator, GoLive, ImageReady and Live Motion to Photo Shop, Acrobat and Page Mill have given me an arsenal of materials to do more professional creation and managing of graphics especially on the web. The first venture into animated graphics creation is found at the C&L Ventures logo on the home page at Cranfordville. Click it on sometime and watch what happens!

umn of the newsletter HTML hyperlink at Cranfordville. Some of the files are rather large and it may work better to save them to your hard drive first and later bring them up inside your Acrobat Reader. The newsletter started out to be a running diary for Claire and me, but has unexpectedly become a ministry to many others in the process.

105 Twin Lake Drive
Shelby, NC 28152-0660

For all kinds of info about us as well as a PDF copy and an expanded HTML version of this newsletter, check out our home page Cranfordville at <http://Cranfordville.cjb.net>

Ph: 704 434-5657
Fax: 704 434-5618
e-mail: cranford@shelby.net



Claire's Musings:

July 2000

July 2, my birthday, turned into a perfect day. Lorin preached that Sunday morning and evening so I got to listen to my favorite preacher. I learn so much from him and always enjoy his sermons.

Lorin did not take much time at all for vacation; he really does work too hard. At least we did take a couple of days for a mini vacation. One day we went to Mt. Airy, which is Andy Griffith's hometown. We didn't have a chance to see everything, so we plan to go back again later.

Another day we went to Chimney Rock and went on a new hiking trail which was the best one we have been on there. The day was absolutely perfect, too, because it was cloudy and fairly cool. We plan to go every once in a while, because it is great exercise and fun at the same time. On the way back we stopped at a German restaurant. The food was wonderful and Lorin especially enjoyed it.

I have been enjoying the last of my free time immensely. I have been meeting with special friends and talking over old times. What a fantastic way to keep up with how my friends are doing and have fun at the same time.

A lot of my time has been spent organizing around our house. I get so behind on everything during the school year. I have worked on catching up with mending, cleaning out my school files, crocheting baby blankets for gifts, and recipes. But, as always, the main objective is bringing up my photo albums.

I have just discovered Creative Moments, a new way to display photos. Everything is acid free and specially made for preserving photos. I plan on slowly changing over my albums, but I have so many it will take several years. The best time, of course, is during the summers. I am already looking forward to next summer.

This summer has been very special; I have so much to be thankful for. The three weeks with the kids was heaven. The remaining 4 1/2 weeks has given me a chance to catch up and be in my favorite place, home.

School starts this week and I have awesome memories to help carry me through.

The hymn we Baptists have sung for decades captures well the essence of the historical view of Baptists:

My faith has found a resting place,
Not in device nor creed;
I trust the Everliving One,
His wounds for me shall plead.

But now the rulers of the SBC have said in effect at Orlando this summer that we can't sing that hymn any longer because it teaches heresy by denying authority to the BF&M to define our faith. This disturbing pattern spells trouble for the SBC. Already, even fundamentalist oriented SBC pastors are publicly taking issue with aspects of the BF&M. Are Southern Baptists to spend the next decades debating theology rather than sharing the good news of Christ with a dying world? We've already wasted two decades doing that, only to our detriment. Hopefully, most SBC churches will stay Baptist, rather than turn aside into something un-baptistic like creedalism.



Lorin's Musings:

In the effort to get materials available on the internet to interested individuals, two lectures given some time ago have been uploaded at Cranfordville under the **Spiritual Resources** page at **Lectures**. Both of these, one in German and another in English, contain the materials presented originally in Germany in the early 90s and deal with the phenomenon of American fundamentalism. The lectures were very well received at the universities in Bonn and Heidelberg when originally presented. The emphasis in them remains surprisingly relevant to the continuing issues a decade later. Check them out, if you're interested.

Also, new to Cranfordville are the first two of my published articles now posted under **Articles** in the **Spiritual Resources** section of Cranfordville. They are "Inspiration" published originally in the Garland Press *Encyclopedia of Early Christianity* and "A Rhetorical Reading of Galatians" published in the *Southwestern Journal of Theology*. These are the first two of about a dozen previously articles that will be gradually posted.

In the present SBC uproar one issue that needs clarification is the nature of a **confession of faith** over against a statement of creed. For the last 300 plus years Baptists around the world have adopted various confessions of faith, but have vigorously resisted creedal stances -- that is, until now with the last SBC convention in June. What is the difference between the two? Why do Baptists take opposite stances toward each?

Several years ago a colleague at SWBTS presented a paper to a Ph.D. Colloquium meeting there on this topic that contains some of the finest assessments of this issue I've ever come across. Let me highlight some of the essential points of that paper. Historically a creed in Christianity "originates from a community and functions as the official voice of and for that community." The implications are enormous. Usually, a small hierarchy determines this official voice, not the community itself. It is perceived as a universal statement defining true Christianity from heresy, and becomes the criteria determining whether the individual can belong to, or remain within the Christian community. Thus creeds have operated with the highest level of authority within the Christian community determining how to interpret scripture, how to properly worship, giving basis for eradicating heterodoxy etc. Mostly originating out of doctrinal crises historically they typically take on an apologetical (defensive) and prophetic stance against perceived ills of society. In a nutshell, creeds define boundaries for exclusion from and for proper belief and behavior within the community of faith.

Confessions of faith, on the other hand, in Baptist history especially have originated out of the community as a whole, as a means of explaining the communities' identity to the outside world. Expressing a 'consensus' of belief by the majority of the community they serve as a means of bringing other similar minded individuals or groups together to engage in common religious activities such as missions and education. From the 1700s all the preambles of the Baptist confessions of faith until the newly revised SBC one this summer adamantly disavow any binding authority of the confession to dictate what is to be believed. Jesus Christ and the Bible serve that role exclusively.