

the CRANberry VINE



LESSONS LEARNED

I went for a walk early in the cool of the morning. The only street in our development was deserted. It was very quiet. The sun was coming out in all its splendor, highlighting the beautiful colors of a renewing nature. The tender leaves of the trees complemented by the colors of the pear trees, the Kuanzan flowering cherry trees and others made my morning walk almost magical!

Then the thought hit me, why is there no one else walking and enjoying all this beauty? Our neighbors were in their homes practicing social distancing! Looking at the blue sky accented by white clouds, I thought of God and the human condition in this world. Fortunately, we do not have to practice social distancing with God! On the contrary, the closer we get to Him, the more comfortable and secure we feel! He tells us "Come unto Me all who are weary (tired, concerned) and heavy laden...I will give you rest. (Matt 11:28)

When all this is over, *what would we have learned after the social distancing?* I know that I will appreciate a lot more being close to my friends, church members, CRAN members, people I find in the supermarket, etc. Some that I probably took for granted. Relationships will mean a lot more, and I will do all I can to be closer to family, neighbors and friends.

What would we have learned about God? Having more time on my hands, I can assure you that I have enjoyed being closer to God. Those Bible texts that were so common, have taken new meaning. In our childhood I memorized Psalm 91, and its promises have come real at this time. I feel like the only thing worth pursuing is a closer relationship with the only one that can bring peace and comfort in times of trouble. I've learned to trust more in God and to spend more time with my Bible and in prayer, and it feels very good.

As we emerge from this test, I hope that we all have learned useful lessons that will help us in our daily lives.

Sam Leonor, Sr., President



Those who receive
The CRANberry Vine by
email, receive it in color.
Do you?

IMPORTANT REMINDER . .

Your annual member fees were due in March. You can still pay your \$10 annual dues by mailing it to our CRAN

Treasurer:

Carol Hayes, Treasurer
103 Oakwood Place, #1
Hendersonville NC 28792



Roasted Brussels Sprouts

Serves 4

1 lb Brussels sprouts, trimmed and cut in half

1 or 2 T olive oil

Salt and pepper

2 T honey or maple syrup

1/2 cup dried **cranberries** (Craisins)

1/2 cup sliced almonds

Preheat oven to 350. Put Brussels sprouts and oil in a large bowl. Season with salt and pepper and toss to coat.

Spread on rimmed baking sheet in a single layer, cut side down and roast until tender and edges are starting to brown, about 35 minutes.

Drizzle sprouts with honey or syrup and sprinkle evenly with cranberries and almonds. Bake about 5 minutes more. Serve.



Congratulations

to Richard and Nancy (Powell) Schell who married February 14, 2020. They live in the Fletcher Retirement villas and attend church at Hendersonville. Nancy is serving as CRAN Hosting Chair and we are happy to welcome Richard as a new CRAN member. We wish you God's blessings and much happiness as you enjoy many years together!

Remembering . . .

Elder Ralph Workman passed away on May 2, 2020. He untiringly and effectively shared Jesus with many whether he was serving as a pastor, chaplain, church elder or Sabbath School teacher. He will be greatly missed.

Six Little Stories with Lots of Meanings

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is Faith.
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is Trust.
3. Every night we go to bed and without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarm to wake up. That is Hope.
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is Confidence.
5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is Love.
6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence, "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience." That is Attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories.

Remember — Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!!

— Author Unknown

WHAT 'S NEXT?



June 22 Lunch - CANCELED

Under the current environment and especially with our age group being in the high risk population, the CRAN Board has canceled this event. If conditions improve to the point that we can be together safely with little or no risk, consideration will be given to doing something later this summer. Watch for further announcements!

Fall Retreat - September 21-24, 2020

At this time NOSOCA has canceled summer camp and will not commit to any Fall events. Therefore, the CRAN Board is making plans for an alternate event during this timeframe where we can assure everyone's safety. Stay tuned for more details!

Christmas Banquet - December 9 at Pisgah Academy

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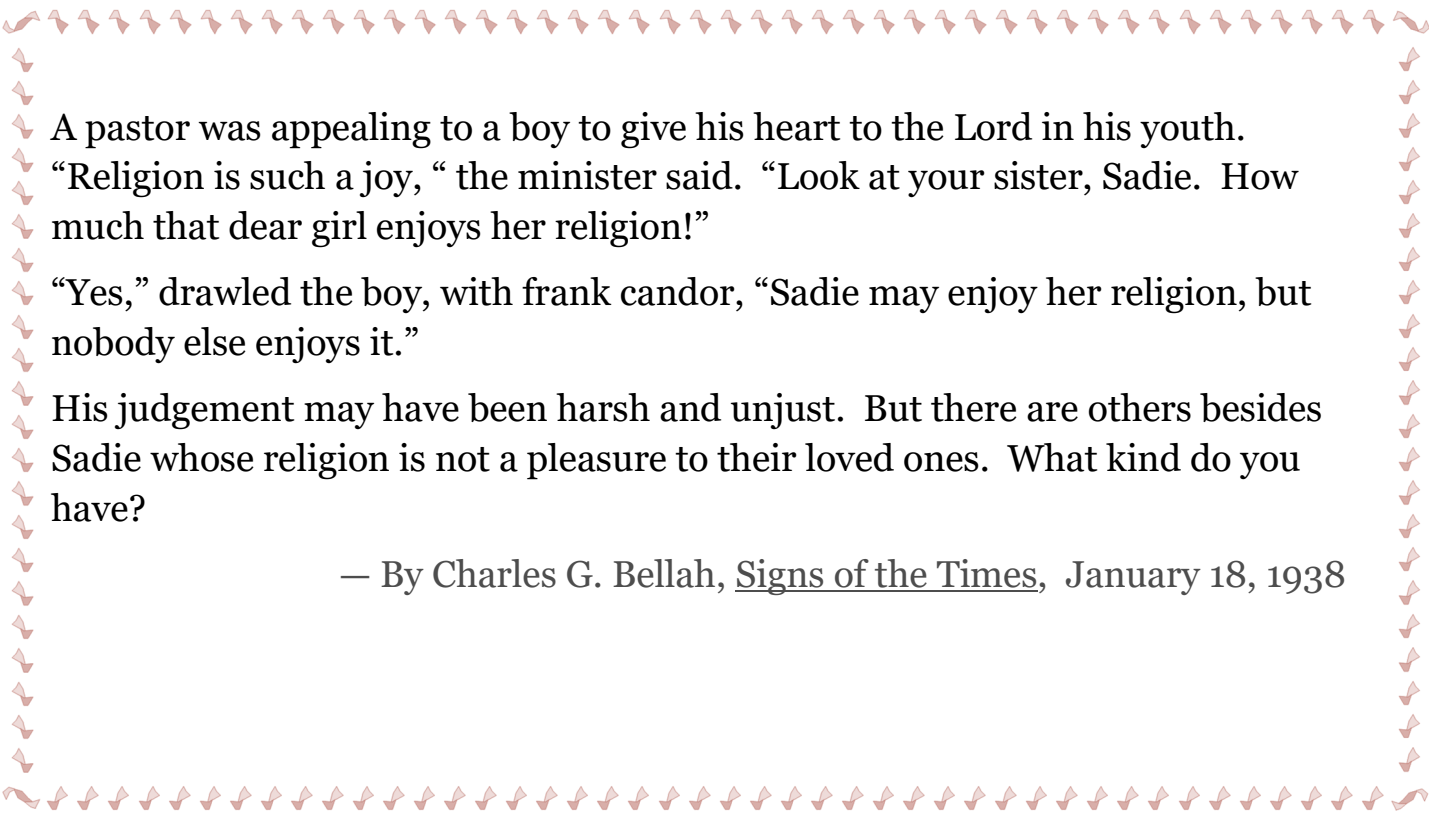
You are invited to contribute . . .

This is your newsletter to enjoy reading and being a part of.

Whenever you come across something that is particularly inspirational to you, humorous or interesting, please think of your **CRANberry Vine** newsletter. It might be a short story, poem, recipe, significant news about a CRAN member or just a one-liner. Share it. If you liked it, the rest of us would probably like it also.

Your contributions can be sent to the editor by email or regular mail — whichever is most convenient for you. These will be inserted as appropriate and as space permits.





A pastor was appealing to a boy to give his heart to the Lord in his youth. “Religion is such a joy, “ the minister said. “Look at your sister, Sadie. How much that dear girl enjoys her religion!”

“Yes,” drawled the boy, with frank candor, “Sadie may enjoy her religion, but nobody else enjoys it.”

His judgement may have been harsh and unjust. But there are others besides Sadie whose religion is not a pleasure to their loved ones. What kind do you have?

— By Charles G. Bellah, Signs of the Times, January 18, 1938

**Carolina Retirees
Association Northwest**

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Peggy Peterson, editor



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