

eCURRENTS

LITTLE RIVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume 55 Number 10

May 19, 2008

Editor: H.E. Beckwith

A Real-Life Parable

It was May 11, Pentecost Sunday, when we talked about the Holy Spirit and our need to be careful what we pray for—especially when the Holy Spirit is involved. We also welcomed new members. After the 11:00 service one of those new members, Bart Cochran, a seminarian preparing for parish ministry, approached me with a twinkle in his eye. “You’re aware,” he began, “that I had some difficulty deciding on my next church home, and was hoping for some sign that the UCC, and Little River, were the right choice?”

“Yes,” I replied.

“Are you also aware that you once quoted me in a sermon?”

“I beg your pardon?”

“My wife went on line last week and, just for the fun of it, googled my name. One of the first hits was your December 24, 2006 sermon, which quoted a letter I had written to *The Washington Post*.” At that point Bart handed me a transcript of that sermon, pointing to the passage in question.

“This is incredible,” I responded. “Just incredible.”

“And that’s not even the best part,” replied Bart.

“Look at the title of your sermon.”

When I flipped back to page one I read: *This Will Be a Sign for You*.

Yes, you’ve got to be careful when the Holy Spirit is involved!

Verne

Summer Worship, Church School

Our summer worship schedule has started! From now through August, we will worship together at a single 9:30 service. Care is offered for children age two and under. Starting June 1, older children will begin in worship. After the Time with Children, those ages 3-5 and 6-9 may either remain in worship or attend class.

Post-Pentecost Picnic

Come one, come all to the Post-Pentecost Picnic! On Sunday, June 1 we will celebrate the beginning of the summer season and the birth of the church with our annual picnic. Following the 9:30 service, all are invited to gather for a potluck lunch. Bring your favorite salad, dessert or side dish. The Board of Deacons will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages. Don’t miss this great event! Questions? Contact Cici Thompson ([cicithom \[at\] aol \[dot\] com](mailto:cicithom[at]aol[dot]com)).

New Directory, Calendar

The spring 2008 Little River UCC directory is now available on the literature table in the narthex. Pick up a copy for your household. Please report any errors or omissions to the church office, so they can be corrected in future printings.

The June-August Education and Enrichment Opportunities calendar is available in the atrium. Please pick up as many copies as you—and your neighbors!—need.

Summer Book Study

On Sundays June 15 and 22 at 11:00, Verne will lead a discussion of Marcus Borg’s recent book *Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary* (Harper, 2006).

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Next deadline: Thu. May 29, 4:30

Schedule: lruc.org > About > Newsletter

Our Newest Members

On May 11 Little River received two friends into full membership. Congratulations and a deep welcome to them. Pick up a printed copy of *Currents* for introductions.

You Can Help Protect Our Earth

Former Little River member John Rogers, now a senior energy analyst at the Union of Concerned Scientists in Cambridge, Massachusetts, will discuss climate change and stewardship of our Earth at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 25. John will present recent information on how climate change will affect the Northeast and Middle Atlantic states and will describe the wide variety of community-level and individual climate solutions. Come and become informed about this critical issue, ask questions, and be inspired to make a difference! Child care will be provided.

Place Setters

Share meals and conversation with old and new Little River friends through the summer version of Place Setters. The sign-up sheet in the atrium offers three different ways to enjoy food and friendship:

- *Dinner for Six*, where six or seven people gather in each other's homes on perhaps three occasions, sharing meals usually as a potluck;
- the *Lunch Gathering*, for people who have more free time during the day or may not like driving at night;
- the *Brunch Bunch*, which meets midday Sundays.

Each group sets its own dates, times, menus, locations (restaurant or home), and age range (adults-only or welcoming children). Sign up through Sunday, June 15.

Aging Issues: Dementia

Alzheimer's and other dementias touch many of our lives—of our family members, our friends, ourselves. Gerontologist Teresa Dunbar, a specialist in this area, will give a presentation on Alzheimer's and other dementias on Sunday, June 1 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Please bring a friend to this important program.

Supportive Group on Aging Issues will now meet regularly on Sundays from 4:30-6:00 p.m. You are welcome to attend any or all meetings. Private fee-based consultations with Teresa are also available by appointment. Questions or requests? Please contact Teresa ([tlcd3\[at\]cox\[dot\]net](mailto:tlcd3[at]cox[dot]net)) or Shirley Bloomquist ([sbloomqu\[at\]aol\[dot\]com](mailto:sbloomqu[at]aol[dot]com)).

Comment on Safe-Church Policy

A draft of Little River's *Safe Church Policy Concerning Abuse Prevention* is available on lruc.org: click on Our Life Together > Caring. Church members and friends are encouraged to study the proposal and share any feedback with Hal Price ([hiprice\[at\]cox\[dot\]net](mailto:hiprice[at]cox[dot]net)), who chaired the committee that developed this proposed policy, or with moderator Barbara Lowrey ([lowreybr\[at\]iopening\[dot\]com](mailto:lowreybr[at]iopening[dot]com)).

Summer Travel with Our Youth

Summer is fast approaching, and our Little River youth have several trips that are being planned. They will need chaperones.

- **July 24-28** *UCC National Youth Event (ages 13-18)*: We need a man and a woman to travel on the bus to and from Knoxville, Tennessee with the youth. Ginna will be attending until Saturday and will not be returning with group.
- **August 4-9** *Y-GELI Phase 2 (Senior Highs)*: Travel to Eagle Butte, South Dakota, to learn and work with American Indians there. How many people can say they've slept in a teepee?!

If you can help, please contact Jean Wheelock ([wheelocks\[at\]verizon\[dot\]net](mailto:wheelocks[at]verizon[dot]net)). Thank you!

Young Adults Engage the Bible

The new series "Push It! Young Adults Engage the Bible" asks critical questions and connects the Bible to real life. Beginning Sunday, June 8, join our young adults in their 20s and 30s as they get together at church the second and fourth Sundays of June, July, and August for lunch after worship. Come for rousing discussions and who knows what else! Please contact the church office or Ginna if you are interested.

Seminar: Serving Seniors

Members of the Supportive Group on Aging Issues will attend the Interfaith Summit 2008 seminar "Where to Start: Closing the Gap in Serving Seniors." The seminar is June 11, 8:30-4:30 at George Mason University in Fairfax. Please contact Ginna if you would like to go.

Church Council: Thinking Green

Church Council will hold a special meeting Wednesday, June 18 at 7:30 to discuss the recently adopted Thinking Green initiative. All in the church family are welcome to attend. If you have ideas or concerns about how our church should respond to this focus on environmental stewardship, please pass them on to your Council representative (if you are on a board or committee) or directly to moderator Barbara Lowrey (*lowreybr [at] iopening [dot] com*).

Comcast Blocks Our E-Mail

- > I sent a couple of PF e-mails and all the Comcast
- > addresses were blocked as spam. Is this something
- > you could please help with?
- > Thanks!
- > ~Darlene [Lane, CE Administrator]
- >

Unfortunately I can do nothing, and you can do nothing. Comcast is blocking a number of domains for spam and, even though I have requested multiple times to be taken off their list, it is not happening. This is a choice by Comcast, and they refuse to change it.

We should let Comcast folks in the congregation know that they will probably not be able to get e-mail from any LRUCC list or account. It is unfortunate, but it is Comcast's choice.

Julie [Holm, Web Administrator]

- >
- > Little River's internet squad is pursuing a potential
- > work-around. Watch for news if it proves feasible.
- > ~Ed.

Thanks from Choirs, Youth

Congratulations and thank you for making the choir robe fund drive a great success. As of May 11 the campaign passed its goal of \$8,500 to buy new robes for our choirs. Look for a new look in September!

Many thanks from PF to all who donated, dined, and bid! The auction was a roaring success and proceeds will help send five youth and their advisers to this summer's UCC National Youth Event in Knoxville.





Links: Events, People, News

- **Calendar:** Find out about church events at www.lrucc.org by clicking on About Us > Calendar, or pick up a printed copy of *Currents*.
- **Passages:** Pick up a printed copy of *Currents*, or subscribe to the e-mail edition, to share the latest celebrations and concerns in our church family—as well as the latest address, phone, and e-mail updates and changes in our church organizations.
- **UCC news:** Read the latest news from the United Church of Christ and learn about our denomination at www.lrucc.org > About Us > Our Links > The UCC
- **Currents by e-mail:** See the *Currents* web page at www.lrucc.org, > About Us > Newsletter: *Currents*, or write [webteam \[at\] lrucc.org](mailto:webteam@lrucc.org).

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Currents is published usually biweekly (monthly in summer) for the members and friends of Little River United Church of Christ, Annandale, Virginia, and is mailed third class or by e-mail (contact the office for instructions). A public version, *eCurrents*, is posted at www.lrucc.org; click on About Us > Newsletter: *eCurrents*.

Submissions: Include your name and phone or e-mail address (not for publication). Please submit electronically if possible (MS Word, Word Perfect, or plain text; e-mail to [currents \[at\] lrucc \[dot\] org](mailto:currents@lrucc.org)). Submit notices 3 weeks ahead of events if possible.