

# eCURRENTS

LITTLE RIVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Editor: H.E. Beckwith

## We Are There

Worship and mission are two indispensable functions of the church. The first leads to the second. Our worship life informs the way we are to live in the world. Life in the world, for the church, is about loving neighbor—just as we love God and self.

Our Church's Wider Mission is the basic way we express our love of God and neighbor around the world. Through our OCWM mission dollars we are present with our sisters and brothers in all conditions of life. Our commitment to the church's wider mission is a natural extension of our commitment to the neighbor in our own community.

Little River has historically been one of the leading congregations of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ in OCWM support. Sixty-five percent of OCWM contributions remain in the Conference to support the ministries within its five Associations. The remaining 35% supports the work of the United Church of Christ at the national and international levels.

Because we have basic support in place through OCWM, we are there. When a disaster hits, we are on the scene immediately through our office for Global Sharing of Resources Ministry. Our Minister for Ecumenical Relations represents us in conversations with other denominations and leaders. We establish new

congregations and help revitalize existing ones through our Evangelism Ministry. We speak of God's love and justice through our Justice and Witness Ministry. Churches seeking pastors and students seeking to discern God's call to ministry are assisted by the Parish Life and Leadership office.

*Jim*

## Summer Schedule

**Worship, church school:** From now through September 3, we will all worship together Sundays at 9:30. Care is offered for children age two and under; children age 3-9 will begin in worship, then after the Time with Children they may either remain in worship or attend class.

**Office hours:** The church office closes at 2:30 until Monday, August 25, when normal hours (9-4:30) resume.

**Currents:** The August deadline has been changed to Thursday August 21 at 2:30. See the article below for September-January deadlines.

**Gifts and pledges:** Don't forget that our ministries (and operating expenses) continue even when you're on vacation. Please arrange to keep your pledges and offerings current while you are away.

## Sermon Talkback

Most Sundays during July and August, whoever is preaching will offer an opportunity for "talkback" beginning at 11:00 in Room 8. Grab a cup of coffee or tea, if that's your desire, and engage the preacher with questions, comments, disagreements (surely not!?), or whatever. Feel free to leave when you must; the preacher will stay until the room is empty or until it's noon—whichever comes first.

## Brain Fitness for Aging Well

On Sunday, August 3 from 4:30 to 6:00, Teresa Dunbar, gerontologist and Little River's consultant on aging, will discuss the importance of brain fitness—how our brains change as we age how to improve brain functioning. She will outline steps we can take to maximize our overall capabilities as we age. This is truly a program for everyone!

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**Next deadline: Thu. August 21, 2:30**  
[lruc.org/Currents/Currents\\_Schedule.html](http://lruc.org/Currents/Currents_Schedule.html)

## PFLAG Group Needs Leaders

PFLAG (which now serves parents, families, and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered persons) is looking for a facilitator and co-leader for its support group based at Little River UCC. I have facilitated this group on Sunday afternoons for about three years and wish to resign to spend more time in service with LGBT youth.

It has been a wonderful experience meeting with parents and family members who have recently experienced their child or loved one coming out. When first coming to the group they are often grappling with various confusing feelings as they sort through their own beliefs and fears, not only within themselves but in their relationships with family and friends. Underlying much of their fears and confusion are their own religious beliefs and those of their churches. This support group has served many family members as a safe place to grieve their initial sense of loss and to talk through their fears and confusion with others who are in different stages of their own journeys. PFLAG offers many services, from mental health, education, and advocacy to providing safe environments within schools for the youth.

You can learn more about PFLAG by visiting their website ([www.pflagdc.org](http://www.pflagdc.org)). Please feel free to e-mail me ([vivien.lohmeyer \[at\] cox \[dot\] net](mailto:vivien.lohmeyer@cox.net)) if you have questions or are interested in facilitating or co-leading this group.

*Vivien Lohmeyer*

## Our New Partner: Homestretch

Homestretch, the newest benevolence that Little River's Board of Missions supports, exists to empower homeless families in Northern Virginia to return to stable housing and self-sufficiency by giving them the skills, knowledge, and hope they need to become productive participants in their communities. Located in Falls Church, Homestretch is a comprehensive program offering subsidized housing; case management; child health, educational, and social services; child care support; debt repayment and savings assistance; and domestic and substance abuse counseling.

Currently, Homestretch owns and leases 65 transitional housing units. Of the families that enter the program, 83% successfully move into permanent affordable housing within two years. Over 90% of those families remain in stable housing and jobs.

When most families come to Homestretch, they have few if any belongings. They depend on donations such as beds and mattresses, kitchen items, furniture, linens, and baby items. If you have items to donate, call Homestretch (703-237-2035) and dial extension 110 to schedule a pick-up. There are many volunteer opportunities. To find out how you can help, call Homestretch or visit its website ([www.homestretch-inc.org](http://www.homestretch-inc.org)).

## Youth Summer Travel

Our high school age youth will engage in exciting and challenging mission trips this summer. Here's what's happening when:

### UCC National Youth Event 2008 – Knoxville, TN

- Wednesday, July 23, 10 p.m.: Arrive at Little River for a pre-road-trip party!
- Thursday, July 24, 2:15 a.m.: Bus arrives at Little River for transport to Knoxville with other youth and advisers from the Central Atlantic Conference.
- Monday, July 28, 7:00 a.m.: Depart Knoxville by bus; arrive at Little River late in the day.

### Y-GELI Phase 2 American Indian Experience – Bridger and Eagle Butte, SD

- Monday, August 4, 8:59 a.m.: Depart Dulles Airport on United Airlines; 1:14pm: arrive Rapid City, SD (via Chicago) and drive to Eagle Butte
- Friday, August 8, 1:52 p.m.: Depart Rapid City, SD on United Airlines; 9:02 p.m.: arrive Dulles (via Chicago)

### Youth worship planning for all summer travelers

- Monday, August 11, 11:00-1:00 with pizza lunch

### PF/Y-GELI Summer Splash!

- Saturday August 16
- 2:00–3:00 p.m. Worship rehearsal at Little River
- 3:00–Depart Little River
- 4:00–8:00 p.m. Splash Down Water Park & dinner at the park—all PF are welcome!
- 9:00 p.m. Arrive at Little River

### Summer Travelers Lead Worship!

- Sunday, August 17, 9:30 a.m.

## A Tag Line for Little River

Tag lines: They say it all. They're everywhere. And they're coming to Little River UCC.

We want a short statement to catch passers-by—to convey a bit of our essence in a well-turned phrase. It might turn up on a roadside banner, a print ad, or anywhere that Little River people are doing outreach.

We might borrow a successful tag line from the UCC. (You know: "Wherever you are on life's journey . . ." "Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking is not." "God is still speaking,") But maybe we can express something vital about our unique congregation.

Can you? Please send us your gems by the end of August. Address them to Dave Curtis ([davidcurtis \[at\] alum \[dot\] mit \[dot\] edu](mailto:davidcurtis@alum.mit.edu)) or leave them in the Evangelism Committee mailbox in the church office. You will receive appropriate recognition and reward if the Evangelism Committee, helped by the Communications Advisory Team and the Church Council, selects yours! Thank you!



## Film and Faith: Social Justice

The summer is already well underway as our Film and Faith series continues. Note that this year's remaining films this are rated R and are not family-friendly. Screenings, snacks, and discussion are held in the Jubilee Room at 11:30.

**July 27:** *Crash* (2005, R) — This ensemble picture explores race relations in contemporary Los Angeles, displaying racism in a variety of contexts. This film contains coarse language, sexual content, and violence.

**August 10:** *Dead Man Walking* (1995, R) — The true story of Sister Helen Prejean and her work with a condemned killer, this story explores the morality of the death penalty without sugar-coating the serious crime. This film contains coarse language and disturbing violence.

**August 24:** *El Norte* (1984, R) — This little-seen but beautiful art-house film explores the story of two Guatemalan political refugees as they become illegal immigrants in the US. It helps us see illegal immigration from their point of view. This film contains coarse language and some violence.

## Young Adults Engage the Bible

Join our young adults in their twenties and thirties as they get together at church following Sunday worship on August 10 and 24 to ask critical questions and connect the Bible to real life. Come to any or all sessions for rousing discussion and who knows what else! Lunch is provided.

One enthusiastic participant wrote "Thanks for getting this group started—I really enjoyed it and look forward to the next time!"

For more information, please contact Ginna Minasian Dalton ([ginna \[at\] lruc \[dot\] org](mailto:ginna@lruc.org)).



Mother Teresa and Martin Luther King had a broad commitment to improving the community as a spiritual exercise, as a form of stewardship. Stewardship means caring for other people and the wider world, and we at Little River practice it in ways large and small.

We commit our funds to support missionary work in India by Anil Henry, Acting Medical Superintendent and surgeon, Mungeli Christian Hospital. In this isolated

area, the hospital is always in need of new buildings and more modern equipment. The hospital is building a new blood bank, a wing for single staff teachers, dorms for relatives of patients, and a school for area children.

On a local level, we help maintain seven local charities including the Dinner Program for Homeless Women, which has only five staff members but over 1,300 volunteers, including Little River's Jean Duggan and Bill and Louise Fall.

Shaw Community Ministry works with children in the Shaw neighborhood of Washington by providing tutors and mentors. There is also a great deal of support for parents. Shirley Bloomquist serves on Shaw Community Ministry's Board of Directors. This year Little River responded to a request for additional funding so that an after-school gathering center could be outfitted with grade-level-appropriate books, computers, and software for science, reading and math. Little River also donates our White Gift service gifts to Shaw children.

None of these commitments would be possible without the financial commitment of members at Little River UCC. We are thankful that we have members who see, and do, the Lord's work. Stewardship is what we do. We couldn't do it without you!

## Go Green with E-Mail Currents

Getting *Currents* by e-mail saves paper, helps our staff work efficiently, and gets you the news more quickly too—all in two easy steps:

1. Request your subscription to e-mail *Currents* by writing to [getcurrents \[at\] lruc \[dot\] org](mailto:getcurrents@lruc.org) from the e-mail address where you want to receive it. Upon confirmation you'll get an announcement for each new issue. The PDF format looks just like the printed edition; you can save it on your computer—or even print a copy on paper.
2. Stop delivery of *Currents* by mail. Include the request when you subscribe, or send a note to [office \[at\] lruc \[dot\] org](mailto:office@lruc.org).

## New *Currents* Dates

The deadline for the August issue has changed, and a schedule is now in place through January 2009. As always, see [lruc.org](http://lruc.org) > About Us > Newsletter > Schedule.

<i>Deadlines</i> (Thursday, 4:30)	<i>Mailing dates</i> (Tuesday)
August 21	August 26
September 4	September 9
September 18	September 23
October 2	October 7
October 16	October 21
October 30	November 4
November 13	November 18
November 27	December 2
December 11	December 16
January 1	January 6
January 22*	January 27



## What's New in the UCC?

If you receive *United Church News* in the mail every other month, you can stay informed about our denomination's many witnesses in our nation and communities, happenings among our churches, and news of the wider world that affects people of faith. Tucked inside comes *NewSpirit* with news specifically for those of us in the Central Atlantic Conference region.

In fact, in April *United Church News* shared third place in Associated Church Press's honors for best national or international religion newspapers in North America.

If you don't have a subscription, it's easy—and the only fee is a strictly voluntary contribution. Either fill out the online form at [www.ucc.org/ucnews/how-to-subscribe.html](http://www.ucc.org/ucnews/how-to-subscribe.html), call 800-363-0575, or simply send the form below to:

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## Links: Events, People, News

- **Calendar:** Find out about church events at [www.lrucc.org](http://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](http://www.lrucc.org) > About Us > Our Links > The UCC
- **Currents by e-mail:** See the *Currents* web page at [www.lrucc.org](http://www.lrucc.org), > About Us > Newsletter: *Currents*, or write [webteam@lrucc.org](mailto:webteam@lrucc.org).

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