



F or God's Sake Vote!

Wow! How does that slogan strike you? At first I wasn't sure where the phrase was coming from—literally: from which tradition? Gradually that became less important; the idea captured by mind. And yours?

The idea that voting could be for God's sake makes sense to me now. I reasoned that because my view of God is one that sees God as a force for wisdom which is compassion and mindfulness, it seems logical that when I step into that voting booth, I'm making a statement about God—or at least my view of God—because I believe that the reality of God is manifest in my participation in the well-being of others and the world. That means I vote for the sake of God too. That means that voting helps me to stand up and claim what I say I believe about all avenues of life, rather than extrapolating my faith and spirituality from the mix of the whole.

So however you vote, consider: Are you voting for God's sake too?

Peace,
Ginna

PS: By the way, the slogan is on a sticker from the UCC's "Our Faith, Our Vote" program! I have a few more if you want one.

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Next deadline: Thu. September 18, 4:30
lruc.org/Currents/Currents_Schedule.html

Hosts for Welcome Center

Little River's Jubilee Room and its hosts from our church welcome international students to our Welcome Center program 3:30-7:00 each Thursday afternoon. Students ask questions, join conversations, and bring their homework assignments, particularly "interview an American" and "take a survey" projects, to this comfortable gathering. In contrast to their lives outside the classroom, they can relax in a place where their listeners patiently strive for understanding and successful communication.

Please consider becoming a host. There is no formal host schedule; you may drop in occasionally as convenient for you for any length of time between 3:30 and 7:00. The largest number of students, and hence our greatest need for hosts, is from 4:45 to 6:30.

Lois Wyatt

How Green Is Little River?

The adult Public Policy and Faith class resumes on Sundays at 11:00 with a series on our church and the environment. All are welcome to attend.

September 14: The Greening of Our Church II. Allison Fisher of Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light will answer our questions raised by the September 7 discussion and provide guidance on implementing her suggestions.

September 21: Fairfax County and Climate Change. Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross, chair of the Board of Supervisors' Environment Committee, will discuss what our county is doing to combat global warming and to conserve scarce resources. Invite a friend or neighbor!

Confirmation Class

An introductory session to the 2008-09 Confirmation Class will be held Sunday, September 28 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. If you are in the ninth grade or above, or at least 14 years old and have not received a letter of invitation, please contact the church office or speak to Verne.

Peter Banks Memorial Run-Walk

In honor and memory of Peter Banks, whose family remains an integral part of our congregation, you are invited to join the Senior PF in supporting the September 21 Peter Banks 5K Trail Race and 2K Fun Run-Walk.

Those who would like to participate are urged to sign up on the web; those who would like to sponsor participants through a contribution may do so Sunday, September 14 or 21 at a table set up in the social hall.

The run will benefit Fairfax Police Youth Club (whose running program Peter founded), the American Cancer Society, and the Prayers for Maria Children's Glioma Cancer Foundation. The fun run & walk starts at 8:30 a.m. and the trail race at 9:00, both at Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. Early registration is \$15 for the 2K and \$20 for the race.

To register, visit fpysports.com and click on the green Special Event banner. For complete information, see the Meet Flyer link below the banner.

Be an Usher!

One of the most important jobs in the church is that of usher. Ushers faithfully support the congregation at worship by providing a welcome, a bulletin, and a seat to everyone as they enter the sanctuary. They gather our offerings and present them on behalf of the congregation, and they straighten up the sanctuary after services. Ushers help the many individuals in worship come together as a true congregation.

There is no minimum age for ushers. We've had very young ushers, quite old ushers, and all ages in between. All that is needed is a friendly smile.

Little River is reorganizing its usher teams. Everyone who is interested is invited to meet Sunday, September 21 at 12:30 for a chance to learn how to be an effective usher. Current and potential ushers and those just curious about the position are all welcome.

175 Years for United/Vereinigte

The congregation of The United Church + Die Vereinigte Kirche in Washington will celebrate 175 years of ministry in Foggy Bottom on Saturday, September 20 with a 4:00 worship service and reception. United German Evangelical Concordia Congregation was founded as the first German Evangelical church on the East Coast in 1833. Concordia UCC merged with Union United Methodist Church in 1975, becoming The United Church, but it has maintained a ministry to German speakers in Washington ever since its founding. It is one of the last remaining German-speaking congregations in the UCC.

The service will be in English, with German-language music provided by the Washington Sängerbund. The United Church is located at 1920 G Street NW. For more information, phone 202-331-1495.

Place Setters Fall Signup

Share meals and conversation with old and new Little River friends this fall. Place Setters offers four different ways to enjoy food and friendship this fall:

- **Dinner for Eight**, where seven to nine people gather in each other's homes on perhaps three occasions, sharing meals usually as a potluck.
- **The Lunch Gathering**, for people who have free time during the day or may not like to drive at night.
- **The Brunch Bunch**, which meets midday Sundays.
- **The Mini Dinner Group**, for those who may want to meet only two or three times rather than committing to the full four-month scheme.

Each group sets its own dates, times and menus, restaurant or home, adults-only or children-welcome.

Sign up Sundays through September 28 for the October-January round of your choice of Place Setters.

Young Adults Brunch

Little River members and friends in their twenties and thirties will meet Sunday, September 28 at 12:15 in the atrium to go to brunch after the congregational forum. At brunch we'll discuss possibilities for activities such as serving meals at the Dinner Program for Homeless Women in Washington or other outreach projects.

Women's Book Group

Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin is the selection for our September 28 book discussion. Please join us to talk about this much-talked-about nonfiction work.

A plan to scale the summit of K-2 by an American mountain climber in memory of his sister fails. After a harrowing descent, he takes a wrong turn which leads him to an isolated village in northern Pakistan. He vows to return to build a school for its children as a tribute to his beloved sister. Mortenson becomes immersed in Pakistani village life and travels between the United States and Pakistan to fulfill his mission of peace. Along the way, a generous endowment allows Mortenson to continue and expand his work. Part adventure, part intrigue, part travelogue, part romance, Greg Mortenson's story of his mission is a satisfying read.

Blessing of the Animals

Little River UCC will offer its first-ever blessing of the animals on Sunday, October 12 at 12:30. It will take place in the grove behind the narthex, or in the social hall if the weather is bad. Bring your favorite animal(s) to this brief celebrative service of word and song. Bonnie Hardy, Ginna Minasian Dalton, and Verne Arens will lead the service.

Brochure Deadlines

If you are responsible for publicizing educational or enrichment opportunities offered by your group, please note the schedule of quarterly calendars for the 2008-9 E&EO brochure:

<i>Deadline</i>	<i>For events during</i>
Wednesday, October 1	December-February
Friday, January 2	March-May
Thursday, April 1	June-August
Wednesday, July 1	September-November

July 1 is also the deadline for overviews to be published in the 2009-10 annual brochure.

First Friday: Let the Games Begin!

A new season of First Friday hits the ground running October 3 at 6:30 with First Friday Olympics! Games, activities, special guest, and even the menu will have participants going for the gold.

As always, First Friday provides good fun and a caring environment for children six months through sixth grade while parents get time of their own. First Friday is open to all, both in and outside our church family.

For the new program year, each child must have a new registration. Find forms at www.lrucc.org: click on Our Life Together > Fellowship > First Friday, and follow the registration link. Fill out the General and Session Registration forms online and be ready to sign them in person on the day of the event. Or arrive early with insurance information, and fill out the forms.

First Friday is looking for fun-loving people to assist each month. The pay is low (nonexistent, actually) but the job satisfaction is high—and you get a free dinner! Contact Mike or Lorri at [firstfriday\[at\]lrucc\[dot\]org](mailto:firstfriday[at]lrucc[dot]org).

Casting Call for Christmas Eve

Next month Little River will begin rehearsing "Matt and Lucy's Version Births" for Christmas Eve. In this light-hearted play with music, performers and audience will explore the all-too-apparent differences between Matthew's and Luke's versions of the Christmas narrative and find new truth in the sacred story.

If you have been in a Christmas production before, you know that the season comes more fully alive for those who present words and music before the worshiping church. All are invited to help share the story of Jesus from a "God is still speaking" perspective.

Auditions for all ages will be held Sunday, October 5 at noon. Salt of the Earth and Joyful Noise will sing in the production, but singers are welcome to try out for speaking roles as well. Rehearsals take place most Sundays thereafter at 3:00-5:00 (see below).

If you have questions, or are interested in helping with staging or props, dialogue coaching, or refreshments, please contact director-producer Bonnie Hardy ([Barbra\[dot\]bhnotes\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:Barbra[dot]bhnotes[at]gmail[dot]com)).

Important dates (subject to change):

- October 5: auditions (noon)
- October 12: first rehearsal
- November 2: off-book (memorized)
- November 16 and following: with choir
- November 30: no rehearsal
- December 14: no rehearsal
- December 21: dress rehearsal and reception
- December 24: performance at 5:00 service

Prayer at National Youth Event

The following is from an article by Barb Powell in United Church News, July 28, 2008. Megan wrote the prayer in response to discussion among Little River's participants there: Megan, Hilary Douglas, Alek Erickson, and Rachel Ward.

Youth attending the UCC's National Youth Event in Knoxville, Tenn., found their own ways to remember the families and congregation assaulted by a lone gunman July 27 at nearby Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church.

Megan Diesselhorst, of Little River United Church of Christ in Annandale, Va., composed a prayer that called those attending NYE's closing worship to remember the tragedy at the church. The prayer was read during the NYE closing worship service Sunday evening:

"O God of Peace and Love,

"You have been with us on this journey of growth, discovery, and reflection. We are amazed at the signs that you have given to us to show us the way to a better life of love, creation, and harmony. We confess that we all have faults, differences, and doubts. As your children we ask for your forgiveness and guidance to heal our brokenness. We are entering into a period of mourning for the victims of the shootings this morning at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. We ask for your comfort and the strength of your love for the victims, the shooter, and their loved ones. As a generation that has been confronted by 9/11, the shootings at others schools and colleges, as well as war, we trust in your power and wisdom to lead us to create a world of peace and wholeness. We leave here inspired, and ready to love. In your name we pray. Amen."

Help Test a Women's Bible Study

Would you like to be in on the ground floor of a new Bible study? Here's your chance to make a difference in what is being offered for study. The publishers of the Tapestry series, a cooperative venture between the Presbyterian Church USA and the UCC, have invited Little River women to help field-test their forthcoming study on the book of Revelation. We are asked to meet between November 2008 and February 2009 to experience and evaluate nine sessions. Ginna will lead the sessions, which will be scheduled based on the availability of those who volunteer. To find out more, please contact Ginna.



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).

LITTLE RIVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Phone: 703-978-3060
Fax: 703-978-3372
E-mail: office [at] lrucc [dot] org

www.lrucc.org

Senior Pastor
The Rev. Verne E. Arens
Verne [at] lrucc [dot] org

*Associate Pastor for Christian
Education, Youth, and Evangelism*
The Rev. Ginna Minasian Dalton
ginna [at] lrucc [dot] org

Minister for Community Relations
The Rev. James M. Bell
jim [at] lrucc [dot] org



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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.