



## Catching Eyes, Capturing Spirits

One of the hallmarks of a vibrant church community is the ability to match the many needs of the congregation with the skills, interests, and talents of its members, and to do so in ways that energize and satisfy.

A small case in point: Our stewardship committee is hard at work planning this year's campaign to raise funds for the 2010 budget. Already they have identified a theme (*Little River UCC Matters . . . Our Support Matters Too!*), and they plan to present this theme in terms of how Little River matters to me, my family, my community, and the world.

As happened last year, the committee would like a theme-related logo to "brand" their materials and occasional newsletter articles, but none of them is an artist. So the opportunity is being passed along to you.

As you ponder this year's stewardship theme (see above), does some image, symbol, or artistic rendering occur to you? Can you transfer that inspiration from your mind to paper and share it with the Stewardship Committee (Jan Curtis is its chair) no later than Sunday, May 3? If they use your ideas, you will of course get full credit—and have the satisfaction of knowing your gifts were well-used and appreciated by your community of faith. Oh—don't forget—the person who developed last year's stewardship theme logo was one of our youth. *All* members and friends of the Little River UCC faith

community are welcome to contribute an entry—or two!  
*Verne*

## Holy Week and Easter Worship

**Maundy Thursday, April 9:** We commemorate Jesus' last supper with the disciples with an **8:00** p.m. communion service. Some of our children will have their "first communion" experience as part of this service. Care will be available for children age two and under.

**Good Friday, April 10:** We recall Christ's passion during a forty-minute service at **6:00** p.m.

**Easter Sunday, April 12:** Joyous worship in the sanctuary at **9:30 and 11:00** (only) features a brass quartet. There is no church school, but care will be available at each service for children up to age two.

## Thrive DC: Still Serving Homeless

Thrive DC is the new name for our longtime partner in mission, the Dinner Program For Homeless Women. Begun in 1979, the program came to serve meals to men as well as women of all ages, backgrounds, races, and ethnicities; created a job training program; and introduced case management and educational programming. Thrive DC provides the last safety net for people facing economic crises and housing instability. It believes that the first step to stabilizing a person's life is to meet basic needs and establish a relationship of trust.

Find out more about Thrive DC, its programs, and how you can help by visiting its website ([www.thrivedc.org](http://www.thrivedc.org)), or contact our Thrive DC representatives, Lou and Bill Fall ([billouise \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:billouise[at]gmail[dot]com)).

## Teen Movie Café

Our resident GLBT and Ally movie night for teens has returned, now transformed into The Movie Café. In partnership with Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry, our church will once again host a movie "night" the third Wednesday of every month (year-round) at 4:00-6:00 p.m. The grand premiere will be **April 15**.

Little River's Senior PF will have the opportunity to volunteer as hosts, and all teens are invited as we find ways to live out our commitment to be a Gay-Straight Ally youth group.

If you have questions please contact Ginna.

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**Next deadline: Thu. April 16, 4:30**  
[lrucc.org/Currents/Currents\\_Schedule.html](http://lrucc.org/Currents/Currents_Schedule.html)

## Fun with Jane!

After 90 years, did you think Jane Hustvedt would stop having fun? Come find out at an open house honoring her birthday (on April 8) scheduled for **Sunday, April 11** from 2:00 to 8:00. This “presence-no-presents” party will take place at Jane’s abode, 5105 Philip Lane, Annandale. Bring your favorite memories!

## United College Ministries

United College Ministries in Northern Virginia offers students at NOVA and George Mason University a listening presence on campus, opportunities for fellowship and discussion, projects for serving the community, and information about opportunities for spiritual and social growth.

Please consider sharing yourself with students at Table Talk and Listening Post events, by coordinating hospitality for international students at Easter, and through financial contributions, including bequests.

For more information contact United College Ministries ([www.gmu.edu/org/ucm](http://www.gmu.edu/org/ucm)).

## Welcome Center Dinner

On **Thursday, April 30**, Little River’s young adults will host a dinner for our Welcome Center guests from Northern Virginia Community College. The young adults will set up, host, and clean up after the event, but they are unable to prepare the large amount of food needed to feed the many guests who are expected. They are asking everyone to help by fixing and delivering the food: entrees, side dishes, desserts, bread, beverages.

Please take the food in containers that have your name on them so they can be cleaned and retrieved from the kitchen on the Sunday following—or use recyclable containers. The cooks are not expected to remain for the dinner. Please email or call Ginna to tell what you plan to offer. Thank you!

## Women in Theology: New Date

The May gathering of Women in Theology Today has been postponed: the new date is **Wednesday, June 3**. Please come at 7:30 p.m. to join a discussion inspired by *Setting the Table: Women in Theological Conversation* (Chalice Press, 1995). No preparatory reading is required, though you may find it enriching to look at the book at your convenience. All are welcome.

## Dinner and Silent Auction

You are invited to the Y-GELI silent auction and dinner **Saturday, May 2**, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Bring your friends and neighbors! The theme for the evening is the Fifties—enjoy a musical floor show, and dress appropriately if you want!

This is the sole fundraiser for this summer’s Youth Global Experiential Learning Initiative trips. Y-GELI helps our youth learn about poverty, pollution, hunger and more, and how through work, learning, and faith they can make a difference and make God’s love visible.

Your donations for the silent auction are encouraged! Please take a Silent Auction/Dinner flyer, available in the narthex, which includes a donation form. Ideas for new items to donate are limited only by your imagination! The youth will be accepting auction items with completed forms and selling tickets on **April 19 and 26** during coffee hour. Tickets are \$10 per adult, \$5 per child, or \$25 per family.

You can also participate by performing Fifties-style music during the entertainment. To volunteer please contact Peg Gianuca ([peg.gianuca \[at\] lw \[dot\] com](mailto:peg.gianuca[at]lw[dot]com)).

## Petition to Investigate Torture

Senator John McCain has said that “torture is the defining issue of our age.” Indeed, how we respond to the reality of torture defines us in some sense. Although our new president has promised not to torture, we as a society haven’t addressed this issue in a durable way.

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture, of which Little River UCC is a member, is conducting an online petition campaign calling for an independent commission to investigate US detention and interrogation since 9/11. The following are just a few reasons why NRCAT believes such a commission is needed:

- Learning the truth can set us on a path toward national healing and renewal, demonstrating to the world that we understand the seriousness of torture.
- Understanding what occurred and why is essential to making sure they can’t happen again.
- Both domestic and international law require the US to investigate allegations of torture.
- Previous investigations have been severely limited, focusing on relatively low-level people and hampered by lack of public access to many documents.

Please read and consider signing the petition at [www.nrcat.org](http://www.nrcat.org). If you don’t have internet access or you have questions, please be in touch with Gay Gardner ([gaygardner \[at\] msn \[dot\] com](mailto:gaygardner[at]msn[dot]com)).



## Women's Cathedral Pilgrimage

On **Saturday, May 16**, our own Kathy Spaar, pilgrimage leader, will guide Little River women on a personal, spiritual journey at The Washington National Cathedral. We will escape the busy world and spend time praying, worshipping and reflecting on our personal journeys in the Cathedral's sacred spaces. We will explore the Olmsted Woods and Cathedral gardens and worship at the noon Eucharist in the choir area. Lunch will be provided in the bell tower and there will be time for personal reflection.

Parking is now available in the new Cathedral garage. Or catch the carpool from church at 9:15. The pilgrimage begins promptly at 10:00 and concludes at 3:00. The cost is \$40 for students and seniors and \$45 for other adults. Scholarships are available. Please make checks payable to Washington National Cathedral. To register, call Jane at the church office or sign up on the poster at church. Do register soon, as the group is limited to 18 women. Questions? Contact Shirley Bloomquist ([sbloomqu@aol.com](mailto:sbloomqu@aol.com)).

## Pentecost Puppet People!

Wanted: four more adults and twelve young people to help with some giant puppets—up to ten feet tall! Rich Dodenhoff is making these puppets to tell the Pentecost story on **Sunday, May 31** at both services. Practice is **Saturday, May 30** from 10:00 to noon. Adults will hold the puppets aloft while the young people work their arms. Are you interested? Please contact Patrice Redmiles ([paredmiles@comcast.net](mailto:paredmiles@comcast.net)) or Ginna at church ([ginna@lrucc.org](mailto:ginna@lrucc.org)).

## Adventures in India

By remarkable coincidence, several members of our congregation have ties to boarding schools in India. On **Sunday, May 17**, join Owen Thomas and Kenyon Erickson from 11:00-noon as they lead a short discussion about these schools, illustrated with a 30-minute video and slideshow. Come learn about a multi-cultural educational experience of a lifetime.

Woodstock School ([www.woodstock.ac.in](http://www.woodstock.ac.in), [www.sageprogram.org](http://www.sageprogram.org)) is perched in the foothills of the Himalayas with spectacular views of the Indian plains and snows of the highest peaks in the world. Kodaikanal International School ([www.kis.in](http://www.kis.in)) is located 7,000 feet above sea level in some of the world's oldest mountains in south India. Both schools offer programs one semester or longer studying in this unique environment. In addition to K through 12 and International Baccalaureate programs, both schools also offer the Studies Abroad for a Global Education (SAGE) Program which provides grants for a semester or a year study in 11th or 12th grade or a "bridge year" between high

school and college. And for teachers in search of adventure, these schools offer job opportunities as well.

If you or anyone you know might enjoy this presentation, or benefit from a semester or year (or more) in India, RSVP to Kenyon ([keeperken@aol.com](mailto:keeperken@aol.com)).

*So how many of us have a connection with India? With one of the SAGE schools? Let us know! —Ed.*

## Summer Second Sundays

Several people have shared thoughts about getting young people of various ages together this summer around a variety of activities. To facilitate those gatherings and yearnings, Summer Second Sundays are coming on **June 14, July 12, and August 9**. Girls and guys ages 8 to 11 will gather after church until noon for play, singing, and dreaming of whatever we want to do together. For instance, some of the girls want to work out a routine for Open Mike Night in February. We'll make the most of the summer days and give it a whirl. Let's imagine what fun we can have in the meadow! (Did you know that Little River has a meadow?) Please e-mail or call Ginna to sign up.

## Summer Book Discussion

Covenant is a central, and often ignored, tenet of the United Church of Christ. This summer's Sunday book discussion with Verne will explore its importance to us as the congregation of Little River UCC as well as in our relationship with the larger UCC.

Jane Fisler Hoffman's *Covenant: A Study for the United Church of Christ* (United Church Press, 2008) is a small 58-page volume on this central topic written by a UCC conference minister. The discussion will take place **June 21** (one Sunday only). *Covenant* may be ordered from Amazon for \$8 plus shipping.

## One Great Hour of Sharing

We have received over \$5,000 in response to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. Many thanks for your continuing generosity in Christ's name!





## 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 \[at\] lrucc.org](mailto:webteam@lrucc.org).

### LITTLE RIVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*welcoming diversity, independent thought,  
& faithful action*

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