



## Hosts for the Harvest

Are you saddened by the growing numbers of news reports enumerating the increasing numbers of people in need of food, right in our area? I find that in this season the need to move out from behind the computer and the books I love and into the sunshine (with a hat and sunglasses) is growing within me.

Food for Others offers an opportunity to bring those compelling forces together. Will you join me in volunteering to be a host to groups of people who will harvest food for the hungry on Department of Agriculture farms in Greenbelt, Maryland? Here's what's involved:

1. Meet at Little River on an agreed-upon date and drive to Food for Others for a tour of their site on Prosperity Avenue. Meet the staff and learn about what they do.
2. Drive out to Greenbelt to meet our facility hosts and walk through the simple tasks of hosting groups.
3. Sign up for a day to be a host. The days begin in August and run through the end of September. Hosting usually involves about two hours in the morning while the crew is harvesting, plus an hour drive each way.
4. Host on the day you requested. You will not be expected to harvest! You will welcome, lead, and support others at the field in which they will work. This saves displacing staff that is needed elsewhere.
5. Pray and give thanks to God for the response of people who feed the hungry.

If you are interested in this effort, please e-mail or call me very soon. There are about seven host positions

remaining on the Food for Others calendar. If we could field seven hosts we'd make a huge difference!

Peace,  
*Ginna*

## Welcome Our Newest Member!

On May 17 Little River welcomed Heidi Warrington into full membership at Little River UCC. .

Heidi is a 1989 graduate of Georgetown University. She worked in the information technology field as a programmer, a technical trainer, and a technical writer before pursuing her master's degree in education at George Mason University. She then taught high school geometry and pre-calculus in the Fairfax County Public School system. Presently, she is happily a stay-at-home mother with her two daughters, ages 8 and 10. Heidi formerly attended Emmaus UCC, where she taught Sunday School and served as Christian Education coordinator for three years. She enjoys geocaching with her family, morning hikes in Riverbend Park with her husband Jeff, and volunteering at her children's school and with Reston Interfaith. She's grateful for the warm welcome she's received at Little River and looks forward to being part of the community here.

## Honoring Our Graduates

On **Sunday, May 31** we will honor members of our church family who have graduated anytime since last spring from high school, college, or technical or graduate school. If that describes you or a family member, please notify the church office in writing as soon as possible. Include the graduate's name, school and degree, relationship (if not a Little River family member) and, for high school graduates, where they will continue their education, if applicable.

Also, please let the office know about any address changes for graduates listed in the church directory.

## This Ol' Church Work Day

The Trustees invite all helping hands to an end-of-spring work day on **Saturday, June 6** from 8:00 to noon. Watch for details.

### What's Current . . .

Post-Pentecost Picnic	2
Elder Care Support Group	2
Great Leaps Forward!	2
Send a Child to Camp	2
Caring Hands Schedule Change	2
Time Capsule Contributions	2
Women's Book Group	2
Summer Children's Bulletins	3
First Friday: Another Big Year	3
Links: Events, People, News	<i>back page</i>
Calendar	<i>lrucc.org &gt; fast links</i>

**Next deadline: Thu. May 14, 4:30**

[lrucc.org/Currents/Currents\\_Schedule.html](http://lrucc.org/Currents/Currents_Schedule.html)

## Post-Pentecost Picnic

Come one, come all! On **Sunday, June 7** we will celebrate the beginning of the summer season and the birth of the church with our annual Post-Pentecost Picnic. Following the 9:30 service, all members and friends 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*).

## Elder Care Support Group

The new Elder Caregivers Support Group is off to a good start. The next two Sunday meetings will be held on **May 24** from 12:15 to 1:45 and **June 14** from 10:45 to 11:15. Bring a bag lunch if you like.

Caregivers share information and resources at the meetings as well as concerns and challenges of providing care to older adults. Feel free to attend as needed and as your schedule permits. The meetings are led by gerontologist Teresa C. Dunbar. Questions? Please contact Teresa (*tlcd3 [at] cox [dot] net*).

## Great Leaps Forward!

The results are in! International students coming to the Welcome Center made great progress in their listening and speaking skills. One very self-conscious and quiet student began the semester not daring to say a word and finished scoring at the top of her class. Others also made dramatic strides.

Is your schedule a bit lighter in the summer? Give yourself some relaxing hours while you help these great young people feel more comfortable in this foreign land and gain self-confidence in their language learning. Please volunteer to be an occasional host when Welcome Center starts again for the summer on **Thursday, May 28**. Contact Lois Wyatt (*loisesl [at] verizon [dot] net*).

## Send a Child to Camp

If you would like to enhance the summer for an inner-city child, please consider sponsoring a Shaw Community child (from the low income-area around 7th and R Streets NW in Washington) for an expanded experience of hiking in the woods, refreshing swimming and developing friendships with children from the entire metropolitan area. The cost of sending a child for the two-week experience at Camp Letts is \$1,200. Funding is also needed for special day trips for the local Shaw Day Camp, called Camp Friendship.

If you would like to contribute any amount towards a student's camp experience, please make your check

payable to Shaw Community Ministry with memo "summer camp." Shaw must receive financial gifts by Monday, June 15. Please give your check to the church office or the special collection **Sunday, May 31**. Little River has been very supportive of the Shaw Summer Camp experience in the past and that generosity is greatly appreciated.

## Caring Hands: Schedule Change

The next Caring Hands meeting will be **Sunday, May 31** from 11:00-12:30. Caring Hands will meet again on **Sunday, June 14** at 11:00, but not in July or August. Please watch Currents for the fall schedule.

Caring Hands knitters and crocheters make items including hats and blankets for preemies and children at INOVA Fairfax Hospital, the Dinner Program for Homeless Women, and other charities. We are beginning an email group for anyone interested in receiving Caring Hands news and ideas by email. To be added to this list, or for more information, please contact Carrie Douglas (*bdouglas1 [at] cox [dot] net*).

## Time Capsule Contributions

During April, while studying biblical archaeology, the church school began a time capsule containing items that remind them of Little River. Throughout May we encourage all students to bring in things from their lives in this community to be included in the time capsule and offer them during church school. On **Sunday, June 7** at the Post-Pentecost Picnic, the students will bury the time capsule, to be unearthed in the future. Items should be approximately no bigger than your hand (although larger sheets of paper are also fine).

## Women's Book Group

Ron Suskind's *A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League* is the moving story of honors student Cedric Jennings, who struggles to maintain hope for a more fulfilling life as he wrestles with taunts and threats in Washington's violence-prone Ballou Senior High School. With the unwavering support of his mother, Cedric wins acceptance at Brown University. His freshman year is fraught with a bewildering array of challenges, both academic and personal. His determination to keep his hope alive provides a riveting framework for this story of a young man who learns to overcome difficult obstacles on his path to a different life.

Join us on **Sunday, July 19** at 11:00 for a lively and enriching discussion of this thought-provoking book.

# Summer Children's Bulletins

Summer is almost here, and with it all the vacations and travel that we look forward to all year! The Worship Committee and others support Ginna every year by preparing children's bulletins for the weeks she is traveling with the youth or on her own.

This year we invite anyone who might have gifts to share in this area to be a part of this fun and rewarding process. Bulletins may include pictures, short readings, puzzles and games, or other activities assembled from various sources. Samples, guidance, and resources are available. The only prerequisite for the job is loving children!

We need children's bulletin creators for **June 14, June 28, July 5, and July 19**. Work on the bulletin usually starts the previous Tuesday, and the "camera-ready" version must be finished by Friday if the office is duplicating it, or by 8:30 Sunday morning if you are willing to duplicate it yourself.

If you are interested in helping for one or more of these Sundays contact Ginna or Julie Holm (*jholm [at] dragonsholm [at] org*).

## First Friday: Another Big Year

First Friday has come to the end of the 2008-2009 season. We had another excellent year, with 142 different children enjoying our programs. With repeat customers, participants totalled 390 over the six events. This was a 14% increase over last year. The programs included Olympics, Wild West, Cookies with Santa & the Grinch, Weather, Dr. Seuss, and Carnival.

Many people make First Friday a success. We would like to thank the 33 adults who volunteered a total of 84 times in the classrooms. We would also like to thank the seven adults who helped in the kitchen a total of 35 times. The teens are a great help. There were 20 teen volunteers for a total of 50 times. This year we had the added help from two Girl Scout troops giving us 21 different scouts 25 times.

It takes all these people to help make the First Friday program a success. If you have thought about being on a winning team join us for the 2009-2010 season which will be another exciting year.

*Lorri Jones*





## 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

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& faithful action*

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