



## Courage to Live in the Present

As I listened to President Obama's State of the Union address I couldn't help but imagine that everyone, Republican or Democrat, was probably feeling apprehensive about the future. No one knows what life will be like in the coming year, and there always seem to be frustrations: the economy, security, health care, etc.

In fact, everything always seems to be in a state of becoming and uncertainty. I remembered a quote that said something like "Live in the present, don't focus on the future or you will end up living in neither the present or the future but some shadowy place of non-existence."

We know that things are always changing, and to some degree we can affect that change, as in the case of our national government. But we sometimes also get bounced around on a sea of uncertainty that is not of our own making at all. Take Haiti for example. Who would have guessed on New Year's Eve that this small country would have been devastated by a natural disaster not more than a month into the new year!

How tricky it is to live with the uncertainty of life! What about that quote? Do I, do we, have the courage to live in the present? Living in the present is difficult

because we have to be courageous and willing to see things for what they are. We can't imagine a rosy picture of the future but we must work to create it now. However, living in the present also means that we don't overlook the little things that make life so beautiful!

Daily we must give thanks—for new births, an unexpected visit by an old friend, something special your child or partner did for you, a moving spiritual experience, a productive and mutual meeting at work.

May we give thanks for what is good and work in the present to bring about our visions of hope and abundance for the future.

*Amanda*

## First Friday: World of Music

First Friday presents Bill Jenkins's World of Music on **February 5**. Music lovers of all ages are invited to participate in this foot-stomping, hand-clapping event. Hear and play instruments from around the world! Registration starts at 6:00. Volunteers are needed too.

First Friday offers all area children age six months through twelve years a tasty meal and an evening of fun from 6:30 to 9:30 while parents enjoy an evening off. See the website for fees, forms, and details. Questions? Ask Lorri (703 ~ 953 ~ 8270, [frstfriday\[at\]lrucc\[dot\]org](mailto:frstfriday[at]lrucc[dot]org)).

## Souper Bowl of Caring

On **Sunday, February 7** help our youth fight local hunger and poverty by filling the Colts' or Saints' soup pot with your spare change. May the *souper* team win!

## Open Mike Night: Tide of Talent

Talent runs deep in our Little River! On **Saturday, February 6** that talent will come to the surface at Open Mike Night. We have a great lineup of performers, a stellar band, and legendary emcee Brian Payne to light up the night. Come to Club Little River at 7:30 and enjoy a snack or two and our abundant talent!

## Installation of Church Leaders

We will install our newly elected leaders and ordain our new deacons on **Sunday, February 8**. All those elected are asked to be at worship either at 9:30 or 11:00.

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**Next deadline: Thu. February 11, 4:30**  
[lrucc.org/Currents/Currents\\_Schedule.html](http://lrucc.org/Currents/Currents_Schedule.html)

## Annual Meeting Highlights

At the annual meeting January 31, the congregation received the 2009 annual report, elected a slate of officers and board and committee members, thanked those who served in 2009, and gave Ginna Minasian Dalton a standing ovation at this, her last annual meeting with us. Board and committee leaders shared blessings and challenges their groups face in the coming year.

A budget with income of \$720,555 and \$714,636 in expenses was approved as presented by the Trustees. It includes notable increases for benevolences, staff, operations, and capital items. Most programs will not increase. Pastor transition costs are the biggest new item.

An interim associate pastor search committee was named. The congregation voted to adopt the Safe Church policy approved last year by Church Council, and it changed the by-laws to establish a permanent Safe Church Committee. The by-laws were also amended to establish a subcommittee of Church Council on staffing issues and policies. See page 3 for details.

A roster of officers, board and committee members, and other leaders for 2010 is included in this issue and on [www.lrucc.org](http://www.lrucc.org) (Fast Links > Boards & Committees).

Minutes of the annual meeting will be available after their approval at the next Church Council meeting.

## UCC Haiti Relief News

The Board of Missions voted to contribute the 2009 and 2008 Easter offerings, totaling \$2,689.00, to the UCC Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund. Every dollar is going directly to help Haitians because overhead costs are paid by Our Church's Wider Mission basic support.

As of January 25, generous Little River members have also contributed \$4,711.00 to the fund, in addition to gifts via [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) and to other relief organizations.

The Board thanks everyone for their outpouring of prayers and financial support of people of an already struggling nation now coping with profound disaster.

*Carolyn Labbé,*  
Co-Chair, Board of Missions

## Ember Evening

On **Wednesday, February 10** at 7:30 we will offer contemplative worship to prepare for Lent, centered on table and cross, prayers, silence and the music of a contemporary orchestral piece composed for Lent. To learn more please see Chris Weakley ([chris.weakley \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:chris.weakley[at]gmail[dot]com)) or Ginna ([ginna \[at\] lrucc \[dot\] org](mailto:ginna[at]lrucc[dot]org)).

## Amanda's Ordination

Amanda Hopkins, our pastor for youth ministry, will become an ordained minister **Sunday, February 14**. The service will take place in Amanda's home church, St.

John UCC, Strasbourg, Ohio. Sam and Ginna Minasian Dalton and Dave (and maybe Jan) Curtis will attend.

## Announcing Our New Website!

The Communications Advisory Team is thrilled to announce a completely redesigned [www.lrucc.org](http://www.lrucc.org) with improved navigation and features to entice visitors to stay and learn about our faith community. Many thanks to project leader Jan Curtis and everyone who contributed so much to this three-year effort.

What's new? Sermon comments. A blog. A link on each page to schedules, procedures, and policies. Unveiling is expected **Monday, February 1**. Take a look!

## Howard Univ. Dean to Preach

The Dean of the Howard University School of Divinity, Dr. Alton B. Pollard III, will preach at both services **Sunday, February 14**. Dr. Pollard, a Baptist minister, has written about African-American religion and culture and the sociology of the Black church.

## Valentine's Day Fair Trade Sale

On **Sunday, February 14** the Prells will once again be offering coffee, tea, chocolates, dried fruits, and nuts just outside the social hall after both worship services. Take this opportunity to purchase your Valentine a gift that helps to support a more sustainable and fair market for producers in developing countries.

## Mexico in the Twentieth Century

The "Our Faith and the World" series on Mexico continues on **Sunday, February 14** at 11:00 with a look at Mexico in the twentieth century. Steve Rogers will lead a discussion of Mexico's oil industry and exports as leading issues in its close and complex relationship with the U.S. On **February 21**, Barbara Lowrey will focus on the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement on Mexico's agriculture and its *campesinos*.

This series is related to the April 7-21 Mexico trip, but all who are interested are welcome to attend—especially those who have experience with Mexico.

## Ash Wednesday, Lent Program

On **Ash Wednesday, February 17** we will worship with communion at 7:30 p.m. Then on three Wednesdays (**February 24, March 3, and March 17**) a simple supper at 6:45 will precede a 7:30 program series focusing on Sabbath from the point of view of Jews, Muslims, and Buddhists. Watch *Currents* and Sunday bulletins for details.

## Catching Up with Our Youth

If you didn't see our youth on January 31, it could have been because they had just returned from a ski trip! Eight youth, four adults and some other families joined the trip to Somerset, Pennsylvania Saturday.

Still on the move, youth who are free **Saturday, February 6** are meeting at the church at 1:30-1:45 to caravan over to Woodson High to see Katie Summers perform at 2:00. Katie was selected for the District XI All-District Middle School Honor Band. Tim Planert was chosen for the High School Honor Band.

We are leaving again on **Sunday, February 7** after church to go to the Mingus-Yocom household for a Super Bowl Party. Both Junior and Senior PF youth are invited to come and enjoy the big game.

## Justice Legislation in Virginia

Join members and friends of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) on **Monday, February 15** at 9:00 a.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 8900 Little River Turnpike, to discuss the status of legislation regarding social justice issues in Virginia. Areas of concern include redistricting, predatory lending, capital punishment, health care, and unemployment. VICPP focuses on issues that affect citizens who have little or no voice in the legislative process but are adversely affected by the outcomes of the process. Breakfast refreshments will be served.

If you do not belong to VICPP, consider joining—a year's membership is only \$35. Visit the VICPP website ([www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org](http://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org)) and add your voice as an advocate for a just and compassionate Virginia.

*Pam Binninger*

Christian Social Action Committee

## Easter Vigil at Little River

*On the evening of Saturday, April 3, Little River will hold its first Easter Vigil. In the next few issues of Currents, members of the congregation who are familiar with the Vigil will share their experience and understanding of this ancient Christian service. Following are thoughts by Julie Holm.*

A spark flashes. Quickly a flame builds, and light returns to a dim world. The sanctuary, where light was removed a day ago, is suddenly suffused with it. The silence of grief is broken with music. This first section of the Easter Vigil turns our attention to a moment before the women arrive at the tomb, to the unreported, solitary, mystical moment of the resurrection itself. This service is the night watch of the resurrection. We wait in night, and light comes! We proclaim it!

We celebrate the light in the sanctuary, then turn and reflect on the story that brought us to this moment, through a series of scriptural readings. They tell us how

again and again God has liberated us, redeemed us, supported us, walked with us, from creation to the empty tomb. We listen, we pray, we reflect, we remember.

We explore the symbols at the very heart of our faith, water and bread, as we celebrate first the baptismal water that marks us as God's beloved children, then the common meal that binds us together. As we settle into the communion liturgy, we return to the familiar, to the words, actions, and motions we know. We are aware that we have always been God's community.

The vigil at Little River, of course, won't be like the Easter Vigils of my childhood. The Contemporary Choir won't chant the Gloria. There won't be bells or incense. But we will celebrate the coming of light. We will remember our collective journey of faith through a series of readings. We will celebrate those symbols that mean so much to us, baptism and communion. And we will strive to draw spiritually nearer to that moment when the greatest sorrow of the world was transformed into the greatest joy.

*Rejoice, heavenly powers!*

*Sing, choirs of angels!*

*Jesus Christ, our Light, is risen!*

*Sound the trumpet of salvation!*

## Coal Country Mission Trip

Please join us for a conversation to shape an inter-generational mission trip to Binns-Counts Community Center near Nora, Virginia to help repair homes and lives. We'll gather **Sunday, March 21** to plan our trip. The trip starts **Saturday, June 12**, arriving in Nora in time to enjoy an evening of authentic bluegrass music at the historic Country Cabin in Norton. On Sunday we'll worship in area churches and roam the coal-mine remnants. We'll work on houses Monday-Wednesday and leave on Thursday, arriving home in the evening.

We will pay \$150 each for housing and project materials, plus food and travel costs to be discussed. Contact Ginna to join the meeting, at no obligation.

## Thanks for Increased Pledges

Thanks to twenty-nine new and increased pledges totaling \$24,365, our pledge income for 2010 will come to \$656,000. Unfortunately, that is still a 3.2 percent decrease from last year. Pledge revision forms remain available in the literature racks and church office.

## Baptism Blankets Needed

Little River gives blankets to infants at baptism. Our stock is low. Please Peale knit or crochet soft white blankets about 36x36 inches. Questions? Ask Ginna.



## Annuities: A Trio of Benefits

Charitable Gift Annuities provide a trio of benefits:

1. income for life for one or two people,
2. a charitable income tax deduction,
3. a lasting legacy for Little River or other entity related to the United Church of Christ.

For more information, contact a pastor or Brian Payne, Endowment Fund Committee chair (703 ~ 425 ~ 3711, [brianrpayne \[at\] verizon \[dot\] net](mailto:brianrpayne[at]verizon[dot]net)).

## Wellness Garden for All Ages

If you are interested in sustainable living, gardening, hunger, or connections between these and faithfulness, please consider being part of a conversation aimed at establishing a sample garden here at Little River to help us all learn more about such concerns. Join Ginna at 12:15-1:30 on **Sunday, February 28**.

## Lenten Peace Vigil

Every Tuesday-Friday in Lent (**February 18-March 26**) from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Ginna will stand at the highway with a "Peace be with you" sign. The hope is for peace to bless all passers-by for a second or two, and for those seconds to multiply. Want to join her? No vigil if it rains or if the temperature drops below 40.

## Vocabulary Pop Quiz!

Can you spot the true definition of this word?

**dead•line** *n* **1** : the time when *Currents* submissions must reach the editor. **2** : the time to start thinking about *Currents* submissions. **3** : WHATEVER .

## By-Laws Changes

The following changes to the by-laws of Little River UCC were approved at the January 31 annual meeting:

### ARTICLE XI – CHURCH COUNCIL.

[Add a third paragraph, as follows:]

The Council shall include a subcommittee, consisting of the Moderator and a representative of each Board or Committee having responsibility for ordained or lay staff personnel, that will meet at least quarterly to coordinate church staffing issues and policies.

### ARTICLE IX – OFFICERS.

SECTION 3 – The Moderator.

[Modify the first sentence as follows. Add the underlined text; delete the stricken word.]

*The Moderator shall be elected for a term of one year, and shall preside at all meetings of the*

congregation, and the Church Council, and its subcommittee on staffing issues and policies.

### ARTICLE XII – COMMITTEES.

[Add:]

SECTION 8, *The Safe Church Committee* shall consist of three members appointed by the Moderator, plus the Senior Pastor. The Committee shall implement and oversee the Congregation's Safe Church Policy for the purpose of ensuring a caring and secure environment for all who participate in the life of the Church.

[Change current SECTION 8 to SECTION 9.]

[Change current SECTION 9 to SECTION 10.]



## 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, and faithful action ~

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

[www.lrucc.org](http://www.lrucc.org)

#### Senior Pastor

The Rev. Verne E. Arens  
703 ~ 239 ~ 0186  
[verne \[at\] lrucc \[dot\] org](mailto:verne@lrucc.org)

#### Pastor for Congregational Life

The Rev. Ginna Minasian Dalton  
571 ~ 432 ~ 0395  
[ginna \[at\] lrucc \[dot\] org](mailto:ginna@lrucc.org)

#### Pastor for Youth Ministry

Amanda M. Hopkins  
202 ~ 375 ~ 4322  
[amanda \[at\] lrucc \[dot\] org](mailto:amanda@lrucc.org)



*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](http://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.

# Little River United Church of Christ

Officers, Board and Committee Members,  
and Other Church Leaders  
January 31, 2010

Key: *year*= term expiration (Jan.)    (2) = terms elected    + = partial-term appointment before election    \* = chair

## Officers

Moderator	Bruce Douglas (1)	Assistant Treasurer	Jeff Wyatt (5)
Church Clerk	Brian Payne (3+)	Comptroller	Mark Holm (no fixed term)
Membership Clerk	Bunny Jones (5)	Historian-Archivist	Steve & Kent Rogers (4)
Treasurer	Diana Card (1)		

## Commonwealth Trustees

Willard Griffing	Barbara Lowrey	Steve Wheelock
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## Board of Christian Education (meets fourth Wednesday at 7:30)

2011	2012	2013
Liz Baker (1)	Ron Griesse (1)	Linda Anderson (2+)
Mike Craven (1+)	Jackie Shaffer (1)	Noreen Bania (1+)
Kent Rogers (1)	Cici Thompson (0+)	Cathy Hunt (1)
Steve Rogers (1)	Carolyn Yocom (0+)	Kathy Sukites (1)

## Board of Deacons (meets last Tuesday at 7:30)

2011	2012	2013
Nancy Carey (1)	Jean Duggan (2)	Rich Dodenhoff (1)
Bunny Jones (1)	Cindy Fithian (1)	Kay Hart (1+)
Robin Petrusak (1)	Julie Holm (2)	Ann Lingo (1)
Patrice Redmiles (2)	Dorothy Lamb (1)	Eric Pankey (1)
Barbara Shepherd (1+)	Ginny Peters (1+)	Lois Wyatt (1)
Don Wallace (1)	Kathleen Styles (1)	<i>vacant</i>

## Board of Missions (meets Sundays at 8:00 a.m.)

2011	2012	2013
Lucy Banks (0+)	Janet Mackey (1)	Andrea Carpenter (1)
Jill Cetina (1)	Dorothy Ogilvy-Lee (2)	Tom Johnson (2)
Betsy Erickson (1)	Danielle Smith (1)	Caroline Labbé (2)
Mark Prell (0+)	Mary Summers (1)	<i>vacant</i>

## Board of Trustees (meets second Tuesday at 7:30)

2011	2012	2013
Clark Beil (1)	Roy Brooks (1)	Geoff Carpenter (1)
Joanna Knoll (1+)	Nathan Groff (1)	Joe Christiansen (1)
Doug Williams (0+)	George Nelson (1)	Carolyn Johnson (2+)
<i>vacant</i>	Chris Weakley (1+)	Ron Smith (1)

## Arts Committee *in abeyance: see Arts Group (Other Church Leaders)*

2011	2012	2013
<i>vacant</i>	<i>vacant</i>	<i>vacant</i>
<i>vacant</i>	<i>vacant</i>	<i>vacant</i>
<i>vacant</i>	<i>vacant</i>	<i>vacant</i>

## Audit Committee

2011	2012
George Matthews (7)	Dawn Forrest (6)

## Christian Social Action Committee (meets Sundays at 8:00 a.m.)

2011	2012	2013
Barbara Allen (1)	Gay Gardner (1+)	Bob Lingo (1)
Shirley Bloomquist (2)	Anne Parke (1)	Claire Peterson (2)
Susan Kennedy (1)	Jim Weaver (1)	<i>vacant</i>
Tracy Lingo (1+)	Mary Weaver (1)	<i>vacant</i>

**Endowment Fund Committee**

2011	2012	2013
Barbara Lowrey (2)	George Leonard (2) Brian Payne (2)	Bryan Ardouny (1) <i>vacant</i>

**Music Committee** (meets Sundays after church)

2011	2012	2013
Ruth Duncan (1) Kenyon Erickson (2)	Jenny Planert (2) Sue Leathers (0+)	Steve Wheelock (1) <i>vacant</i>

**Nominations & Appointments Committee**

2011	2012
Joe Christiansen (1) Jean Wheelock (0+) <i>vacant</i>	Bill Huddleston (1) Barbara Lowrey (1) <i>vacant</i>

**Stewardship Committee** (meets Tuesdays at 7:30)

2011	2012	2013
Gary Allen (1) Tracy Lee (1) Sydney Manley (0+)	Jan Curtis (2+) Kelly Loss (1) Bruce Summers (2)	Neil Carey (2) Dave Shepherd (1) Randy Young (1)

**Communications Leaders**

Communications Advisory Team	Jan Curtis
Newsletter	Hube Beckwith
Publicity	Deacons' Evangelism Committee
Sound System Team	Armand Maillet, Roy Brooks
Web Site Administrator	Julie Holm

**Community Outreach Leaders**

Community Ministry of Northern VA	Board of Missions
FISH Coordinators	Susan Kennedy & Joe Christiansen
Shaw Community Ministry	Shirley Bloomquist, Julie Holm

**Other Church Leaders**

Advent Funhsops	Board of Deacons
Arts Group	Liaisons to Council: Jennifer Atkinson, Hube Beckwith
Called to Care	Verne Arens
Caring Hands	Carrie Douglas
Communities of Care	Board of Deacons
First Friday	Lorri Jones, Mike Craven
Flowers	Jane Hustvedt, Ruth Duncan, Bunny Jones
Food for Others	Don Wallace
Interim Associate Pastor Search Cte.	Heather Shackley, chair; Mary Ellen Ardouny, Mike Craven, Eric Pankey, Mary Summers; the senior pastor
Multiracial Multicultural Committee	Dorothy Ogilvy-Lee
Open & Affirming Program	Bob Lingo
Place Setters	Deacons' Fellowship Committee
Planning Committee	Mark Prell, chair; Dee Cardiff, Anne Holmes, Robyn Lingo, Claire Peterson, Steve Wheelock
Quilters	Ruth Duncan
Safe Church Committee	Heidi Warrington
Scrappers	Peggy Morrison
Ushers	Deacons Worship Committee
Welcome Center	Lois Wyatt
Women's Ministries	Dee Cardiff
Young Adults	Joe Petrusiak, Cameron Lynn