



The Sound and the Noise

Sound isn't always noise. Noise can be frittering activity.

Recently a conversation in one Little River group focused on the *noise* from the narthex that permeates the sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

There seemed to be agreement that noise is different than sound. Certain sounds seem welcome in the contemplative moments some seek when they come to the Sanctuary early, to rest and take a breath of air for the breath of God to enter.

Some say there is a yearning for quiet in the sanctuary space so that one can hear one's own heart beating where it joins with the sound of God's.

Some say they imagine a corridor of sound transition to allow for the dynamic sounds of life in a community of faith to buffer the spirit's need for the soothing sounds of silence.

I wonder: How can we quiet the *noise* of frittering activity so that the *sound* of the spirit can find escape?

Perhaps it is merely being aware that there are some who have the need.

Peace,
Ginna

Conversations on Membership

If you are considering membership at Little River UCC, you are invited to Conversations on Membership

on **Wednesdays, April 28** (Session A) and **May 6** (Session B) from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Session A focuses on Little River and Session B on the United Church of Christ.

Prospective members are encouraged to attend both A and B sessions (in any order or time of their choosing) before joining. Those ready to join will be received **Sunday, May 16**.

For more information, or to arrange child care at church, please speak to Verne or Ginna. The next round of Conversations on Membership will be **Sundays, July 18 and 25**, with new members received on August 8.

Rededication in Baltimore

Christ Church in Baltimore, whose pastor Jim Bell is our former Minister of Community Relations, will rededicate its sanctuary **Sunday, May 2** at 3:00. Our Sanctuary Choir and the band of Francis Scott Key School will sing and play.

The service is a double celebration: it acknowledges not only the completion of repairs following a December fire, but also a gift of landscaping and a flower and vegetable garden from Key students and the Parks and People Foundation. A reception will follow the service.

"During the past months our congregation has experienced new hope, excitement, joy and generosity," Jim writes. "And, in a very real way, we are witnessing resurrection all around us."

Angelman Syndrome Walk

On **Saturday, May 15** Little River youth will participate in the Angelman Foundation's National Walk-A-Thon. They will walk in memory of Tommy Ross, our own "angel," who passed away last year at age 5. Please join them in remembering Tommy through your prayers and donations.

On **Sundays May 2 and 9**, youth will set up a table following both services so you may make a donation. Please make checks payable to the Angelman Syndrome Foundation. Thank you for supporting Tommy's Team and PF! On May 15 walkers will depart from Little River at 8:30 a.m. for the walk in Columbia, Maryland and return around 3:00 p.m.

What's Current...

LGBT Place Setters for Summer	2
Eco-Wellness Garden	2
Gay Men's Spirituality Retreat	2
Women's Book Group	2
Spring Reflections at Cathedral	2
Youth Volunteer Training	2
Alleluia! Join the Chorus of Giving	2
Conference Annual Meeting	3
<i>First Paul</i> Book Discussion	3
Charitable Gift Annuity	3
Links: Events, People, News	<i>back page</i>
Calendar	<i>lrucc.org > home page</i>

Next deadline: Thu. May 6, 4:30

Schedule: lrucc.org > [About Us](#) > [eCurrents](#)

LGBT Place Setters for Summer

Calling all Little River LGBT community members! We are starting a Friends of Dorothy Place Setters group for the summer on the third Sunday of the month. Our first gathering will be at 1:30 on **Sunday, May 16** at Freddie's Beach Bar and Restaurant, 555 South 23rd Street, Arlington (www.freddiesbeachbar.com). The other dates are **June 20**, **July 18**, and **August 15**, time and location to be determined. Please respond to David Styers ([dcstyers\[at\]yahoo\[dot\]com](mailto:dcstyers[at]yahoo[dot]com)) to confirm a headcount. Looking forward to this time of fellowship together.

Eco-Wellness Garden

Join us on **Monday, May 17** at 7:30 p.m. to brainstorm the first phases of Little River's new sustainable-living garden project. We are looking for gardeners, aspiring gardeners, used-to-gardeners, hope-to-gardeners, or anyone with an idea about how, what, or where to plant our garden. Questions? Contact Jen Beckman ([jen\[at\]lovenandonions\[dot\]com](mailto:jen[at]lovenandonions[dot]com)).

Gay Men's Spirituality Retreat

Are you a gay man who wants to reconcile his spirit and his gay self? Think about signing up for the next GaySpirits retreat from **Friday evening, May 14** at 6:30 through 4:30 Saturday afternoon at St Thomas Episcopal Church, 1772 Church Street NW, Washington. This retreat offers a safe, confidential, sex-positive space for gay men to explore their spiritual selves. To enroll or get more information go to the GaySpirits website (www.gayspirits.com).

Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group will meet 12:15-1:30 on **Sunday, May 16** to discuss *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. Kristof and WuDunn are journalists who have detailed the plight of women and what is being done to turn despair into hope. The book ties the importance of education to overcoming poverty, terrorism, and violence as women learn to stand up for what is just for all people. Please join us for a lively discussion of this important book.

Spring Reflections at Cathedral

Women in our church and their guests can take time to reflect on our connections with God and neighbor on **Sunday, May 23** during a retreat at the National

Cathedral, led by Little River member and Cathedral spiritual director Kathy Spaar. Space is limited, so please sign up early.

Here are the basics: we'll leave the church at 12:15, singly or in carpools; when we arrive at the Cathedral we will eat a delicious catered lunch in the charming Cathedral library. At about 2:00 Kathy will lead us in our spring reflections, which may include some alone time. Our retreat will conclude with the beautiful 4:00 service of Evensong. After that, participants may choose to remain at the Cathedral or return to Little River.

The cost is \$45 (\$40 for seniors 65 and over). The registration deadline is **Sunday, May 16**. Make checks payable to The Washington National Cathedral and note "LR retreat" on the memo line. Call Jane Johnson in the church office to register, or sign up at a table near the sanctuary. Checks can be given to Jane in the office, or left for her there, or given to Jackie Shaffer.

Youth Volunteer Training

Attention, all church school teachers and youth fellowship, First Friday, and Welcome Center volunteers: Our newly adopted Safe Church Policy requires all adults who work with children and youth to receive training concerning appropriate boundaries between adults and young people in the church setting. This two-Sunday class will be offered **May 23 and 30** at 11:00, led by the Rev. Anne Holmes. Please contact Heidi Warrington ([hwarring\[at\]aol\[dot\]com](mailto:hwarring[at]aol[dot]com)) if you have any questions or are unable to attend.

Alleluia! Join Chorus of Giving

It is with joyful anticipation that the Stewardship Committee announces "Alleluia! Join the Chorus of Giving" as the theme for the Pledge Campaign 2010. It was chosen because even in these turbulent times, Little River remains a welcoming, affirming church home in which to share our faith, our gifts, our lives. And that's worth celebrating!

Now we need your help. How would you say Alleluia? More to the point, how would you show "Alleluia! Join the Chorus of Giving"? The Stewardship Committee is soliciting photographs from the young and old that depict this year's theme. We want photographs of activities both inside and outside of church that demonstrate the harmony of giving within our lives. Submissions may be placed in the Stewardship Committee mailbox in the office throughout the rest of 2010. Please, please, please include names of the people in the photographs and the event depicted. We'll use the photographs on the bulletin board and in our materials. Alleluia, indeed!

Sydney Manley

Conference Annual Meeting

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the UCC's Central Atlantic Conference will take place **Friday-Sunday, June 11-13** at the University of Delaware. The keynote speaker will be the Diana Butler Bass, author of *Christianity for the Rest of Us*. The theme is "Who are you Christians anyway? Seeking our way in the CAC." Little River is officially represented at Conference meetings by our pastors and lay delegates representing certain boards and committees, but everyone is welcome to attend as a non-voting participant. To learn more about the meeting, visit the Conference website (www.cacucc.org) or speak with one of the pastors.

First Paul Book Discussion

Verne will lead a discussion of the book *The First Paul* by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan (HarperCollins, 2009) on **Sunday, June 20** from 11:00 to noon. The book's subtitle says it all: "Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon." Is it possible progressive Christians can embrace Paul with a clear conscience—maybe even with enthusiasm? Read the book and let's discuss. (Note: if parts of the book seem too challenging or technical, skim through those sections and keep exploring. Parts are quite deep and parts are rather easily understood. Don't give up!)

Charitable Gift Annuity

Retired? Not getting much income from your certificate of deposit? Here's a way to increase your spendable income and make a future gift to this congregation.

Use your CD to establish a Charitable Gift Annuity. For example, if you're eighty years old and the current value of your CD is \$30,000, your gift annuity income, every year for the rest of your life, will be \$2,400 (that is, an 8% rate of return). You will also receive a partial charitable tax deduction in the year of your gift, and some of your income will be tax-free.

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





Links: Events, People, News

- **Calendar:** Find out about church events at www.lrucc.org by clicking on the Calendar link on the home page, 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 from the United Church of Christ and learn about our denomination at lrucc.org > About Us > eCurrents > News from the UCC.
- **Currents by e-mail:** See the *Currents* web page at www.lrucc.org > About Us > eCurrents > About eCurrents, or write [webteam \[at\] lrucc \[dot\] org](mailto:webteam@lrucc.org).

LITTLE RIVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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thought, and faithful action ~

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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.