

# eCURRENTS

LITTLE RIVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Editor: H.E. Beckwith

## A Little Child Shall Lead Them

I don't know how we started talking about it, but one youth group night somebody asked what it would be like to imagine our nation's leaders not solely as adults. Yes, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama were once helpless little babies! What would it be like if the president's baby picture flashed on the screen as he delivered the next State of the Union Address? Can you imagine a George Bush baby saying, "Read my lips"?

But think about it: Our leaders, bosses, friends, and family were once babies. The elders in our midst, who preserve our community's collective memory, were once tiny tots. Even Jesus was once an infant.

So how did they grow into the people we know them to be? Part of it, I am sure, comes from the families, friends, and schools that helped to raise them. These institutions helped to form them in their younger years. Memories of these experiences carry forward as guides for living.

Thinking back to the recent baptism in the Loss family, we highlight the great foundation and the staggering possibilities of his life. At the baptism, our church promised to love and nurture him within our faith community. Only with this kind of family and communal care can this child grow into the beautiful adult he is intended to be. What an awesome responsibility we have as a church family! What blessing we can be as

we together create the memories that sustain and shape our babies.

*Amanda*

## Church School Sunday

We will celebrate the end of the academic year when the children of the church school will assist in the leadership of worship **June 6** at the single 9:30 service. This festive service will be followed by the . . .

## Post-Pentecost Picnic

Come one, come all! On **Sunday, June 6** 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 (no worship at 11:00!), 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 Nancy Carey (*ncarey[at]mathematica-mpr[dot]com*).

## Summer at Little River UCC

**Summer worship** begins **Sunday, June 6**, which is Church School Sunday. We will worship at 9:30 only, with child care and church school for younger children. The 11:00 service will resume **September 12**, the Sunday after Labor Day.

**Church school** will be offered this summer starting **June 13** for ages 3-9. Children will begin in worship at 9:30 and proceed to class following the Time with Children. Volunteers are needed to staff these classes each Sunday through the end of August. No experience is necessary and all lesson and craft materials will be provided. Please sign up in the narthex.

**Summer office hours** begin **Monday, June 28**. The office will close at 2:30 daily through **Friday, August 20**.

**Celebrating Ginna's ministry** on her last **Sunday, June 27**, there will be an all-church brunch and program following our single 9:30 am service. All are warmly invited!

**And don't forget** that our ministries (and operating expenses) continue, even when you're on vacation. Please arrange to keep your pledges and offerings current while you are away.

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**Next deadline: Thu. May 20, 4:30**

*Schedule: lruc.org > About Us > eCurrents*

## Congratulations, Graduates!

Congratulations to our members and friends who graduated from school this season! Your church family celebrates with you and wishes you the best in your new pursuits. Pick up a printed copy of *Currents* to see the list of names and destinations.

## PF Farewell for Seniors, Ginna

Current and former PF members are welcome to join in a farewell to Ginna, **Sunday evening, June 6** from 6:00 to 8:00 at the Minguses', 6412 N. 26th Street, Arlington. Bring a side dish or dessert as we share a meal and celebrate Ginna's ministry. For more information, please contact Carolyn Yocom (*cyocom [at] verizon [dot] net*).

## Getting Help with Aging Issues

Over the last four years Little River has been very fortunate to be associated with gerontologist Teresa C. Dunbar, MS. Through our Supportive Group on Aging Issues she has helped us understand and deal with a variety of problems and possibilities facing aging people and their families. Now the Deacons' Parish Care Committee is pleased to announce that Teresa will be available to provide consultations to individuals, upon request of a pastor. She is willing to meet at the church if that proves more convenient than in her home office. Members who are dealing with aging issues may be invited to speak with a pastor to arrange an individual consultation.

## Rides from Greenspring

About thirty members of Little River live in Greenspring Village, the retirement mega-community in Springfield. Most of these people have given much to Little River over many, many years. Some aren't visible in our community because transportation can be a challenge.

The Parish Care Committee of the Board of Deacons, along with the pastors, is putting together a trial program to provide rides to church for Greenspring residents one Sunday a month this summer, with the hope of increasing to weekly rides in the fall.

Are you able to take a couple of extra minutes occasionally on Sunday morning to pick up one of these seniors? If so, contact any member of the Parish Care Committee: Robin Petrusak, Ann Lingo, Julie Holm, or Don Wallace. Summer Sundays when rides may be needed are July 4, August 1, and September 12 (Homecoming Sunday).

## "Strengthen the Church" Offering

On **Sunday, June 20** we will receive the Strengthen the Church offering, one of the UCC's special mission offerings. Our gifts will be used for:

- funds for new church starts;
- grants to help existing congregations grow and expand outreach programs;
- programs and activities to nurture lay and pastoral leadership and to build youth and young adult ministries;
- funds for the God is Still Speaking campaign to advertise the UCC.

Part of our offering will be used to help churches and programs here in the Central Atlantic Conference, and the rest will help fund national ministries of the UCC. You may offer your gift on **Sunday, June 20** or take or mail it to the church office. Please make checks payable to Little River UCC and write Strengthen the Church on the memo line.

## Help with Ginna's Celebration

Are you interested in helping with food or other preparations for Ginna's celebration on **Sunday, June 27**? Please look for signup sheets at church the first three Sundays of June. Thank you in advance for helping to make this a wonderful time for all.

## Supporting Capital Pride Week

Our Open and Affirming Committee is planning a range of activities in support of DC Capital Pride Week, **June 4-13**. Members and friends of Little River are invited to join with other Potomac Association UCC churches in the parade on **Saturday evening, June 12**. Line-up starts at 5:30 for the 6:30 parade. We hope to have our own "Out Outside the Beltway" tee shirts for the event. Please sign up in the narthex starting any Sunday, and indicate your shirt size. We will also be helping to staff the Potomac Association's booth on **Sunday, June 13** between 11:00 and 6:00. Volunteers are welcome! For further information, contact Nathan Groff (*nathangroff [at] aol [dot] com*).

## Intergenerational Mission Trip

Little River's Intergenerational Mission Trip to the coal country of southwestern Virginia is now scheduled for Saturday-Thursday, **August 21-26**. We welcome singles, couples, families, and friends. The primary work is likely to involve painting and carpentry. If you'd like to register, or if you'd simply like more information, please contact Verne. It would be helpful for planning purposes to have an idea of who is going by **Tuesday, June 1**.

## 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](http://www.cacucc.org)) or speak with one of the pastors.

## The First Paul Discussion

Verne will lead a discussion of Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan's book *The First Paul* (Harper-One, 2009-10) on **Sunday, June 22** 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 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!)

## Attention Kitchen Users

The kitchen has gotten lots of use this year and needs some TLC. There is an accumulation of food items, boxes of odds and ends, baskets, plates, etc. etc. on the counters, and open jars, bottles, and packages of food in the refrigerator and freezer. In preparation for a major cleanup session on **Wednesday, June 2**, please take anything that your group plans to keep. *Everything* left will be thrown out, put in Lost and Found, or given to charity, so that some deep cleaning can be done.

Questions? Contact Almuth Payne or Sue Leathers who thank you for your cooperation!

## Footsteps IX: Where Next?

A Footsteps IX trip will be organized for April or May of 2012. Past trips have taken us to the Holy Land, Greece and Turkey, Germany, and England as we followed the footsteps of Jesus, the apostle Paul, Martin Luther, and the Pilgrims. Then we traced early Christians in Italy, followed St. Patrick to Ireland, and studied 781 years of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian coexistence in Spain. Finally, we visited Mexico to learn the legacy of the cross and sword as Christianity came to the New World. (Hear a report on that trip on **Sunday, July 11.**)

Since we began in 1996, nearly 100 Little River members and friends have participated in one or more of these two-week trips. Please consider joining us in 2012 as we embark for: Where? What destination and what theme or focus would you suggest? What region or aspect of our history interests you? Please offer your ideas to the Footsteps Committee via Verne Arens or Brian Payne. If you like, you can even join the committee! Like our trips, it is open to all.

## Charitable Annuity: How It Works

How does a charitable gift annuity work? You make an irrevocable gift (\$1,000 minimum); the monies are invested, and you receive income payments for life. When you die, the remaining principal of your gift goes to Little River or whatever other charitable organization you designate. Your income depends on your age at the time you fund the gift; some current rates are 6.5% (of the original gift amount) for a 70-year-old, 7.1% for a 75-year-old, 8% for an 80-year-old. One or two people may receive income successively (rates are somewhat lower for two-life gifts). To learn more, contact a pastor or Brian Payne, Endowment Fund Committee chair ([brianrpayne \[at\] verizon \[dot\] net](mailto:brianrpayne[at]verizon[dot]net)).

## Brighten a Child's Summer

Under the energetic guidance of Executive Director Rev. Anne Troy, more and more people, young and old are being reached in life-changing ways by Shaw Community Ministry. With this surge in services comes an equal surge in the importance of funds to support them. Two scholarship opportunities exist this spring: college scholarships and camp scholarships. Please consider giving generously to support these Shaw programs.

Following a year-long college counseling program for Shaw-area high school students, the Board of Directors awards as many \$1,000 scholarships as funds allow each June to worthy D.C. high school seniors. Our goal is to increase the number this year to ten from last year's six and eventually provide multi-year support.

This summer Camp Shining Star, held for the first time at Shaw's Washington facilities, will provide a place to go, things to do, educational tutoring, and wonderful adult role models for 29 children ages 9 and up. Contributions of any amount will help provide a safe and fun environment for these children.

Please send your checks (any amount is appreciated) payable to Shaw Community Ministry with memo "scholarships" to Shaw Treasurer Julie Holm, P.O. Box 26223, Washington D.C. 20001, or leave your check with Jane in our church office. Thank you, Little River members and friends, for your continuing generosity toward our inner city neighbors.

*Shirley Bloomquist*





## Links: Events, People, News

- **Calendar:** Find out about church events at [www.lrucc.org](http://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](http://lrucc.org) > About Us > eCurrents > News from the UCC.
- **Currents by e-mail:** See the *Currents* web page at [www.lrucc.org](http://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.