



## Goodbye and Thanks!

Gratitude has become the center of my spiritual life.

A psychologist whose name I cannot remember once told an audience that he began to invite his patients to take the first two minutes of their day to lie in bed and name all of people and things for which they are grateful. People reported a significant change in attitude. Their situations didn't change, but they felt more hope and empowerment to deal with life and could identify love when they saw it more easily.

Well, that's my take too. I suppose the singing group Abba said it well:

*Thank you for the music, the songs I'm singing  
Thanks for all the joy they're bringing  
Who can live without it, I ask in all honesty  
What would life be?  
Without a song or a dance what are we?  
So I say thank you for the music  
For giving it to me*

Thank you for the music and for giving it to me—  
always in prayer and gratitude for your willingness to  
share life with me.

Peace be with you,  
*GINNA*

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**Next deadline: Thu. June 17, 4:30**

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

## "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 during worship 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.

## Summer at Little River UCC

**Summer worship** has begun! We 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** is offered for children ages 3-9. They 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**.

**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.

## Ecclesiastical Council

A council to examine candidates for ordination and installation in area UCC churches will be held at Little River on Saturday, **June 19**. All are welcome to attend.

## 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*. Preaching on Sunday morning will be our own Verne Arens.

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.

## Little River & Capital Pride Week

Little River members and friends are invited to join in several Pride Week activities, from interfaith worship on **Thursday, June 10** at 7:00 p.m. to marching with a Potomac Association contingent in the Capital Pride parade on Saturday evening, **June 12**, to helping staff a Potomac Association booth at the Washington street festival **Sunday, June 13** between 11:00 and 6:00.

Thursday's service, co-sponsored by People of Faith for Equality in Virginia and 30 faith communities, is at Metropolitan Community Church of Northern Virginia, 10383 Democracy Lane, Fairfax VA 22030. On Saturday, Little River marchers will meet at church at 4:15 to take Metro to our assembly point at 23rd St NW between M and N. Lineup starts at 5:15 for the 6:30 parade. We will have bottled water and special tee shirts with the logo "Little River UCC: Out Outside the Beltway"! Sunday's street festival takes place on Pennsylvania Avenue between 4th and 7th Sts NW; check at the information booth.

Questions? Visit [capitalpride.org](http://capitalpride.org) or contact Nathan Groff ([nathangroff\[at\]rocketmail\[dot\]com](mailto:nathangroff[at]rocketmail[dot]com)).

## Celebrating Ginna's Ministry

At 10:45 on **Sunday, June 27**, following our single worship service, we will have a lively program in the sanctuary remembering and lauding Ginna's ministry with us. At noon we will move to the cheerfully decorated social hall for a festive brunch and presentation of a gift to her.

To make this shared event happen, please volunteer to help with food, setup, or cleanup. Sign up **Sundays, June 13 or 20** outside the social hall. Many thanks in advance to the thoughtful Little River community.

## Hall Display Take-Down

Thanks to everyone who contributed items for the Art Sunday hall display. Please retrieve your art from

the hall **Sunday, June 13** following the service, or from the church office after that date.

## Considering Choir? Come Party!

Everyone who now in, or is interested in singing with, any of our choirs is invited to a potluck picnic at Nancy Huddleston's **Sunday, June 13** at noon. Drinks and hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Guests should bring a dish to share and a lawn chair. Nancy lives at 3396 Reedy Drive, Annandale and can answer your questions ([nfhuddleston\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:nfhuddleston[at]gmail[dot]com)).

## 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 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!)

## Shaw Scholarship Dinner

Little River friends are invited to attend the eighth annual Shaw Community Ministry Scholarship Dinner for worthy, low-income DC seniors on **Tuesday, June 22**. Thanks to expanded funding, this year's group of eight recipients is the largest ever. Six have been in the US for four years or less, and the group includes the top three students in Cardozo High School's class of 2010! These young people are truly inspiring.

The dinner will be held 6:00-9:00 p.m. in the downstairs social hall of 12th Street Christian Church, 1812 12th St. NW, Washington DC 20009. The nearest Metro station is U Street-Cardozo (Green Line). Let's have a good Little River presence at this special event!

## Baptism Blankets

If you've been at worship when we've baptized an infant or young child, you know it is our custom to present a blanket to the one newly baptized as a reminder of the love which enfolds them—both God's and ours. These blankets are lovingly knitted or crocheted, by members and friends of Little River UCC using white, washable yarn. They are approximately 30 x 36 inches in size. While we have an adequate supply for now, we always welcome contributions. Please let Ginna, Amanda, or Verne know if you have questions.

## Memorial for Tommy Ross

One of Little River UCC's special friends, Tommy Ross (son of Michael and Nani Ross and grandson of Tom and Barbara Ross), who passed away in November due to complications from Angelman Syndrome, was honored at a special dedication ceremony this spring.

In early May, Little Run Elementary School celebrated the three years Tommy spent there. A bush, red in color (Tommy's favorite), was planted by a red rock in front of the building. The rock is inscribed "Tommy Ross 7/21/04-11/04/2009 You touched our hearts."

Indeed Tommy did, with his bravery and determination, and he made quite an impression for someone who never said a word. As the service began, a rainstorm briefly interrupted the dedication of his memorial. Since Tommy loved water, we believe that was his way of saying "Remember me, and continue my legacy with laughter and smiles."

The devotedness of Little Run's administration and staff is greatly appreciated.

*Michael Ross & Tom Ross*

## Thanks to Angelman Walkers

The Ross Family would like to extend their appreciation to all the young people and adults from Little River UCC who participated in the annual Angelman Syndrome walk that took place on Saturday, May 15 in Howard County, Maryland. In addition, a special thanks to all those who provided financial support to those participating in the event. The Angelman Walk helps raise both awareness and funding for assisting those who are afflicted by Angelman Syndrome. The entire Ross family is tremendously grateful for the loving and caring support we have received over the years. Tommy Ross, who passed away last November at the age of five, was remembered at the beginning of the walk.

*The Ross family*

## 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.

To learn more, visit [lrucc.org](http://lrucc.org) > Our Church in the World > National and International Support and Action. If you'd like to register, or if you have questions, please contact Verne.

## College Road Trip Pilot Program

This year 2009-2010 we explored ways that a Pastor for Congregational Life could help to support the visions

of ministry many of you have expressed. We've focused primarily on young-adults ministry.

One group of young adults we reached was the college-age people. We connected to them by Facebook and e-mail, as well as face-to-face visits to those whose schools were in particular geographical patterns. In November I traveled with Sam to Virginia Commonwealth University, Old Dominion University, Elon, East Carolina, and William and Mary. This spring we went to Virginia Tech, James Madison, Longwood, Juniata, and George Mason. I was able to offer pastoral support to thirteen students.

We traveled about 2,000 miles and took each of our students out for a good meal. Expenses for the experience included gasoline and meals for the students. Julie Holm and Sam and I donated our rewards credits for the hotel costs. The response from the students and their families was encouraging.

In the future I imagine this program deserves more consideration. How far could it reach? Is there a way that Deacons or other members of the congregation could visit our young people who are away from home? What is a feasible way to create this opportunity for personal care in a time of life that is challenging and often alienating, yet just as often filled with joy and enthusiasm to share? What can this mean for the church to be the community that reaches out to people as they develop into adulthood?

Personally I was surprised at the impact the journeys had on me. They offered a rare opportunity to have face-to-face conversation and pastoral care that otherwise would not be there. It also gave me the opportunity to remind the students of the chaplaincy ministries that are readily available on their campuses.

My hope is that the Board of Deacons and you as a congregation will explore further how you can reach out to people in this formative time in life as they move beyond the families of origin and into the world.

*Ginna*

## New Directory Still Available

If you didn't receive a copy of the May issue of the church directory for your household, pick one up at the church office.

## Currents Schedule for 2010

Currents will appear on the following schedule during the remainder of 2010. Deadlines fall on Thursdays at 4:30. Currents is mailed on Tuesdays (or Wednesdays of holiday weeks as noted\*).

<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Mailing</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Mailing</i>
Jun 17	Jun 22	Oct 7	Oct 13*
Jul 15	Jul 20	21	26
Aug 19	Aug 24	Nov 4	Nov 9
Sep 9	Sep 14	18	23
23	28	Dec 9	Dec 14
		30	Jan 4



## 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.