

eCURRENTS

LITTLE RIVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Editor: H.E. Beckwith

Change: Sacrifice, Opportunity

In a recent commentary on the BP oil spill, evangelical minister Jim Wallis said, "At the heart of the Christian tradition lies the belief that transformation requires sacrifice." Hmm. That's not a truth we enjoy hearing—not even during Lent. Like it or not, however, sacrifice as a means to transformation is an integral part of the Christian tradition. It also is an integral part of any meaningful transition.

This week we say goodbye and Godspeed to a pastor and teacher who has walked with us in faith for the past eight years. Words will not fully acknowledge what God has shared with us through Ginna's ministry, yet we will try. Then, in another four weeks, we will welcome an exciting new pastoral leader with a different set of skills and life experiences who will create new possibilities for growth and discovery as we seek harmony with God's creative spirit.

Such transitions require much of us: that we show up, that we engage in life-giving relationships, that we offer anew our gifts and our talents. Some may view such rededication as sacrifice; I see it more as opportunity.

Verne

Interim Associate Pastor Chosen

Following the unanimous recommendation of the interim search committee, on June 15 the church Council with great enthusiasm appointed the Rev. Susan A. Henderson to be our Interim Pastor for Congregational Life. Susan recently completed almost three years as Interim Senior Pastor for Christ Congregational Church in Silver Spring, Maryland. Before that, she served congregations in northern New England and was also

Interim Conference Minister for the Vermont Conference of the UCC. Susan lives with her husband in Oakton. Her two grown children both live in this area. Susan expects to begin her ministry with us around **August 1**.

The Church Council and I are very pleased with the great job done by the search committee: Heather Shackley (chair), Mary Ellen Ardouny, Mike Craven, Eric Pankey, Mary Summers, and Verne Arens. Please join us in thanking them.

Bruce Douglas
Moderator

Goodbye for Ginna

On **Sunday, June 27** we will embrace the original meaning of "Goodbye," which is "God be with you": a blessing bestowed for a journey. From 8:50 to 9:20 a.m. Ginna will be at the front door welcoming and saying "until we meet again" to our community. Following the service, at 10:30, we will have a short break and then return to the sanctuary for a lively celebration of Ginna's ministry. We'll then move to the social hall for a sit-down family style brunch of cheese-egg dish, fruit, ham, breads, and dessert. A surprise gift from the congregation will be given to Ginna at this time.

If you have not signed up to attend the brunch during the last few Sundays, please phone the church office (*office [at] lruc [dot] org*) to tell us you are coming. While reservations are not required, they do help with planning. Care for young children will be available.

We hope you can attend on June 27.
Shirley Bloomquist

Little River Tote Bags

Little River tote bags are here! The Evangelism Committee will have them on sale for \$5 each after worship **each Sunday in July**. Supplies are limited, so be sure to purchase a bag before they run out! When you carry a Little River tote bag to the store, the beach or to the office, it is a great way to advertise our community. So join us in spreading the word about our wonderful church.

What's Current...

"Strengthen the Church" Offering	2
Little River Clergy on the Move	2
Planned Giving's Many Fruits	2
Intergenerational Mission Trip	2
Links: Events, People, News	<i>back page</i>
Calendar	<i>lruc.org > home page</i>

Next deadline: Thu. June 17, 2:30

Schedule: lruc.org > About Us > eCurrents

“Strengthen the Church” Offering

Last Sunday we received the Strengthen the Church offering. If you wish to contribute, please bring or mail your gift to the church office. Please make checks out to Little River UCC with memo Strengthen the Church.

Little River Clergy on the Move

Three of our ordained members and friends have new positions at regional UCC churches. The Rev. Bonnie Hardy recently accepted a call to First Congregational UCC in Washington to serve as Associate Pastor for Christian Education. The Rev. Jim Bell will become the new pastor of the Village Church at Greenspring Village. And the Rev. Clara Young accepted a call as interim pastor of Zion UCC (also known as Zion Perry Hall) in Baltimore County.

Planned Giving’s Many Fruits

*When we cast our bread upon the waters,
we can presume that someone downstream
whose face we will never know will benefit from
our action, as we who are downstream from
another will profit from that grantor’s gift.*

—Maya Angelou

Your Gift Annuity, Charitable Remainder Trust or Pooled Income Fund gift can supply you with income for life, as well as provide resources for Little River and/or another ministry of the UCC far into the future. For more information, contact a pastor or Brian Payne, Endowment Fund Committee chair ([brianrpayne \[at\] verizon \[dot\] net](mailto:brianrpayne[at]verizon[dot]net)).

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 rucc.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.





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

*~ welcoming diversity, independent
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.