



## Owners or Caretakers?

Walking through a basement corridor at Fairfax Hospital I came upon a colorful picture, hanging on the wall, celebrating creation. A multiplicity of animals and birds is gathered around a small pond teeming with fish. The caption at the bottom reads: *The earth is a house that belongs to us all.*

How do you react to that statement? Like me, do you appreciate its gentle reminder that we share the planet earth with a wondrous variety of other creatures, and that we need to be caring of all forms of life? Also like me, do you find something missing—something essential to a Christian view of life? The psalmist said it most succinctly: *The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein . . .* (Psalm 24:1, RSV). The picture in Fairfax Hospital accurately reflects a secular view of life that the earth belongs to us, rather than to the Creator. Have we lost something by thinking of earth as "ours" rather than as "God's"? Does such a shift make a difference in how we act—in how we interact with nature? Are we less likely to be careless with something that belongs to someone else, of which we are stewards, than to something we view as ours?

In these months when we spend more time out-of-doors, mingling with all of creation, I invite you to ponder such questions, for I am convinced they affect how we live, and how we treat our earthly home.

Verne

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**Next deadline: Thu. August 19, 2:30**

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

## Welcome, Susan Henderson!

The Rev. Susan Henderson will begin work as our new Interim Pastor for Congregational Life on Sunday, **August 1**. Susan recently completed almost three years as Interim Senior Pastor for Christ Congregational UCC in Silver Spring. Before that, she served congregations in northern New England and was also Interim Conference Minister for the Vermont Conference of the UCC. She will be in church next Sunday, July 25.

## Beckwith Award for Julie Holm

During worship on July 18, Tom Johnson of the Board of Missions presented the 2010 Beckwith Scholarship to our own Julie Holm, who is pursuing a degree at Howard University School of Divinity. The annual award, currently \$1,000, assists a seminary student from the UCC Potomac Association who demonstrates academic excellence and sustained commitment to community service. It was established to honor of our founding pastor, Hubert S. Beckwith ("Beck"), who encouraged many of his flock to enter the ministry.

## Conversations on Membership

If you are considering membership in the congregation of Little River UCC, you are invited to attend the Conversations on Membership now being held. Session A, which deals primarily with our congregation, took place July 18; Session B, which focuses on the United Church of Christ, will be Sunday, **July 25** from 2:00 to 3:30. Prospective members are encouraged to attend both A and B sessions (in any order or time of their choosing) before joining.

To learn more or to arrange child care, please speak to Verne. The next Conversations on Membership will be Wednesdays, **October 27** and **November 3**, with new members received Sunday, **November 21**.

## Poppy Artwork

Many thanks to Janet Mackey's son, Eric Mackey, who contributed the original poppy artwork for Ginna's farewell. Some people have asked how they might contact Eric: simply visit [www.ericmackey.com](http://www.ericmackey.com).

## Central Atlantic Conference

At its annual meeting on June 10-14, Central Atlantic Conference meeting took the following actions:

- Elected officers, board members and General Synod delegates.
- Increased, after much debate, Conference's share of basic support funds from member churches from 65% to 70%. This number will be reviewed yearly.
- Passed a 2011 budget as proposed. It includes a 3% salary increase and merges the Conference endowment with a portion of the operating reserve, allowing for an annual draw of up to 5%.
- Affirmed a "Campaign for the Conference" which aims to re-create in some form at least one of the two Conference ministry positions cut in January.
- Ratified changes in the UCC Constitution and Bylaws adopted by the 2009 General Synod, which focus on preparation for the ministry. Twenty-two other conferences must also approve the changes.
- Raised guidelines for minimum clergy pay in the Conference by 3%.
- Affirmed Potomac Association resolutions against tobacco in Virginia and for a Maryland health plan.
- Approved a Catoctin Association resolution calling on churches to deal with banks that practice fair lending and community investment.

Learn more at [www.cacucc.org](http://www.cacucc.org) > Annual Meeting > 2010 Annual Meeting.

—adapted from a summary by Conference Minister  
Rev. John Deckenback

## Thanks from Ginna . . .

Dear LRUCC Friends,

We left Fairfax with our moving van full, our cars overloaded, and our memory bank overflowing with joy, gratitude and breathless wonder for the blessing of being with you for eight years.

Sam and I suggest that you just sit back a bit and relax about that church profile—all you need to do is attach a copy of all the photos and video etc taken on June 28: the clergy will come running! Who wouldn't want to serve a community that celebrates and gives thanks as you do? Who wouldn't want to serve a community so filled with creativity, energy and joy as you have? Who wouldn't want to serve a community that carefully plans and executes life together? I, at least, can say I did!

You are amazing. Our whole family and Richmond friends who attended the celebration of our ministry are still talking about the generosity of spirit and care who demonstrated to Sam and to me. We are still running on the energy of love you gave. As we found fatigue setting in, we only had think about Little River UCC!

Thank you, not only for the celebration gala you showered upon us, but also for the privilege to serve you for eight years. As I unpack boxes and make trips

to Goodwill and recycling to move toward simpler living, and as my eyes and heart turn toward Clinical Pastoral Education and chaplaincy, I will forever be blessed for knowing you and for sharing life with you.

Peace,  
Ginna

## . . . and from Celebration Crew

The Little River Village truly demonstrated its love and appreciation to Ginna Minasian Dalton on June 27. We co-chairs express our deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to the multitude of Little River friends who made what Verne called "a feast of memories" for Ginna and for all of us. Others described the morning as "serious, joyous, light-hearted, and cooperative." "On Ginna's Sunday all the wonderment unfolded," they said. "We are blessed and truly given a charge to help those blessings flow on like the little river we are."

*Shirley Bloomquist, Dee Cardiff, Dee Collins*

## Being Good Stewards Like Ginna

Little River UCC is truly blessed with wonderful and caring pastors to guide the church and the congregation in our worship and in our lives. In light of Ginna's recent departure, the Stewardship Committee wants to honor Ginna in her role as a good steward—someone who maintains and uses wisely the gifts God has bestowed. As a congregation, we are grateful for Ginna's example and for her stewardship of *us*. She has helped to guide and inspire so many of us at Little River.

Your gifts to Little River through the annual stewardship campaign help to support our superb pastors and the critical work they do every day. Our pastors understand the importance of stewardship and incorporate its meaning into everything they do. We say to you, "Alleluia! Join the Chorus of Giving!"

*Tracy Lee, Stewardship Committee*

## Shaw Donations: Thank You

Thanks to generous and thoughtful Little River donations made to Shaw Community Ministry, Shaw is hosting Camp Shining Star this summer for 23 boys and 12 girls, with 20 children on the wait list. Seven children will attend Camp Letts for two weeks in August.

This year personal donations also supported \$1,000 scholarships for eight worthy District high school seniors. One, a robotics and math prize-winner, national science Olympian, and recent Vietnamese immigrant inspired to study engineering because his grandmother died for lack of medical technology, was described by a teacher as "one of the most thoughtfully driven and skilled students that I have ever known in my 23 years of teaching."

Thank you, Little River, for helping The Shaw Community Ministry support young people.

## Spotlight on Fairfax FISH

Fairfax FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help) is an ecumenical outreach program begun in 1975. Through referrals from Fairfax County's Department of Human Services, it provides financial assistance, food, clothing, and rides to medical appointments for working families and elderly residents in need of support. Little River is one of 15 member churches who each provide a volunteer member of the FISH Council. Susan Kennedy is our FISH representative. We also provide food, volunteers, and financial support—\$3,000 this year—through our benevolences budget.

As you probably know, our church also houses a food pantry where FISH volunteers pick up bags of food to deliver to people in need. On communion Sundays (normally the first Sunday of the month) we invite your gifts of non-perishable staple food items to stock the food pantry. Some suggestions include boxes or bags of cereal, pasta, and rice; canned soups, stews, spaghetti sauces, fruits, and vegetables; jars of peanut butter and jelly; baby food, diapers, and so on.

Please visit the Fairfax FISH website ([www.fairfaxfish.org](http://www.fairfaxfish.org)) to learn more about this vital mission to our neighbors. And if you can spare four hours once every four weeks, consider volunteering as either a phone captain or a driver. See the web site or contact Susan Kennedy for details.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to several members of our church family recently recognized in the wider community.

**Joe Blair** (Ann) has been named Food Hygiene Veterinarian of the Year by the American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians. The award honors "a teacher of veterinary food hygiene in recognition of excellence in teaching, or to colleagues in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in the field of veterinary food hygiene." The presentation will take place August 1 at the convention of the American Veterinary Medical Association in Atlanta.

**Edith Buckley** (Ann) and the Society of Descendants of Peter Francisco received the Peter Francisco Medal in Melville, New York on June 26. The Portuguese Continental Union of the United States presents this prestigious award, named for the highly decorated Revolutionary War hero, to persons or organizations that contribute to the promotion of Luso-American relations and the preservation of Portuguese heritage and culture.

**Brandon Hunt** received the Rotarian academic achievement award for outstanding performance among the students finishing their studies at Weyanoke Elementary School this year. The Annandale Rotarians give this award at nineteen area schools. The teachers and staff at each school select one of their students for the honor. Brandon's mother is Cathy Hunt (Alx); his grandmother is Barbara Lowrey (Alx).

**Hube Beckwith** (FxE) was one of the 100 top fundraisers of over 1,300 participants in the American

Diabetes Association's "Tour de Cure" Rochester, NY cycling event outside in June, thanks largely to the generosity of Little River members and friends.

## Follow Amanda in the Holy Land

Check out Youth Pastor Amanda Hopkins's weekly updates from the Holy Land at Little River's Web site: [www.lrucc.org](http://www.lrucc.org). On the home page's Blog section, click on "Read More" and find Amanda's postings under "Adventures in the Holy Land." Amanda is assisting her husband David at an archeological dig in Jordan.

## Planned Giving: Hope & Reality

Ray Harwick of Charlotte, Vermont writes: What do you hope for? What do you desire most? Happiness? Good health? Greater wealth? A comfortable, worry-free retirement? Life doesn't offer any guarantees, but faith provides an "assurance of things hoped for" (Hebrews 11:1) as well as direction and motive to work toward the fulfillment of our dreams.

According to research done by the Menninger Foundation, one of the world's most respected mental health organizations, people who give generously live healthier and more fulfilled lives. Perhaps these renowned mental health scientists have simply rediscovered the basic truth in Christ's words: "The measure you give is the measure you get." (Luke 6:38) One of the deepest gratifications many of us can experience is to make a gift that continues to give in perpetuity. We can say with the poet Horace: "I have built a monument more lasting than bronze."

A charitable gift annuity that names Little River as beneficiary provides a life-long income for the donor and also benefits our church's ministries in perpetuity—"a monument more lasting than bronze." Ask us how we may be helpful to you: contact a pastor or Brian Payne, Endowment Fund Committee chair ([brianrpayne\[at\]verizon\[dot\]net](mailto:brianrpayne[at]verizon[dot]net)).

## Scholarships to Local School

Pinecrest School, a small preschool-through-sixth-grade school in Annandale that focuses on small class sizes, is offering generous need-based scholarships for the 2010-11 school year. If you or someone you know might benefit, find out more from the poster in the social hall, or contact admissions officer Karen Tamayo (703 ~ 354 ~ 3446, [admissions\[at\]pinecrestschool\[dot\]org](mailto:admissions[at]pinecrestschool[dot]org)).

## Little River Tote Bags

It's not too late to get your Little River tote bag! The Evangelism Committee will sell them for \$5 each after worship through Sunday, **July 25**. Join us in spreading the word about our wonderful church!



## 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

*~ welcoming diversity, independent  
thought, and faithful action ~*

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