



Annual Meeting Highlights

At its annual meeting January 29, the congregation received the 2011 annual report and comments from board and committee representatives, elected a slate of officers and board and committee members, adopted a 2012 budget as proposed by the Trustees, and thanked those who served in 2011.

The 2012 budget totals \$701,499. That figure is \$38,744 less than last year's budget, but \$83,529 above what was actually spent. Unexpected savings in pastoral compensation and transition expenses contributed significantly to reduced outlays in 2011. The new budget allows for a two-percent salary increase for most staff members.

Unspent 2011 funds in excess of \$73,000 are being divided as appropriate to augment funds for major capital expenses, pastoral transition, the Endowment Fund, transition contingencies, and the Building Fund beyond amounts allocated in the 2012 budget. The Treasurer and the Trustees would be happy to answer any questions about these matters.

The Stewardship Committee announced a total of \$651,764 pledged for 2012, the lowest total in four years. Pledges lost from departing members exceed new pledges by about \$24,000.

The congregation voted to adopt the Marriage Equality for All resolution, which was presented by the Open and Affirming Committee and extensively discussed by the congregation in the months before the meeting.

The Interim Pastor Search Committee announced its selection of Katelyn Macrae to become our Interim Pastor for Children, Youth, and Families. See the article on this page.

A roster of officers, board and committee members, and other leaders for 2012 appears in this issue and on www.lrucc.org (About Us > Boards and Committees).

Minutes of this meeting will be submitted to Church Council for approval at its next meeting. Council will also make any needed corrections to the annual report.

Copies of the report are available in the narthex. The Communications Team thanks Hube Beckwith for proofreading help.

Meet Our Interim Candidate

On January 22 the Interim Pastor Search Committee enthusiastically announced that they have selected a candidate: Ms Katelyn Macrae of Biddeford, Maine. Katelyn has served on staff at the outdoor ministry at Pilgrim Lodge Youth Camp in the UCC Maine Conference and Silver Lake Youth Camp in the Connecticut Conference. While preparing for ministry at Yale Divinity School, she provided pastoral care in both congregational and hospital settings. Katelyn has worked as an intern at Westmoreland Congregational Church in Bethesda and a caseworker for persons with developmental disabilities in Maryland. She currently works at a homeless shelter in Maine. While new to ministry, Katelyn possesses a treasure of gifts that can help Little River grow as together we transition into the future. If approved by the congregation, she will start March 1.

Many, many thanks to Carolyn Yocom, Cici Thompson, Tom Ross, Dave Shepherd, and Peggy Morrison for serving on the search committee that recommends Katelyn to Little River.

Looking forward,
Susan

Installation of Church Leaders

At each worship service **Sunday, February 5**, we will install our newly elected officers and board and committee members and ordain new deacons. If you are slated to be installed, please attend worship that day, either at 9:30 or 11:00.

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Next deadline: Thu. February 9, 4:30
Schedule: lrucc.org > About Us > eCurrents

First Friday: Reptiles Alive!

On **February 3** First Friday explores the world of scales, darting tongues, and Velcro feet—or no feet at all! From 6:30-9:30 p.m. young naturalists (age 6 months to 12 years) will see, learn about, and meet—even touch—some fascinating reptilian friends, thanks to the fun folks of Reptiles Alive.

As always, First Friday welcomes children from our church and the community at large and gives their parents an evening of freedom. You can still sign up online through mid-week. Learn more about registration and the First Friday program online (*lrucc.org* > Community & Fellowship > First Friday). Or ask Lorri (*firstfriday [at] lrucc [dot] org*).

Help Tackle Hunger

Please support Little River's youth during the second day of Souper Bowl of Caring on **Sunday, February 5**. On Super Bowl Sunday in 1990 a simple prayer inspired a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world. The prayer was, "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." Please empty your pockets of change (or your billfold of bills!) into the large soup pots in the narthex. All funds collected will be donated directly to Food for Others in Fairfax.

Open Mike Night

Talent runs deep in the Little River, and on **Saturday, February 11** that talent will be in great evidence as the social hall is transformed yet again into Club Little River for our annual Open Mike Night! We have a great lineup of talented performers, a stellar band accompanying them, and the incomparable Brian Payne as emcee. Join us, tip back a glass of bubbly (sparkling cider), and enjoy a snack or two and the almost unlimited talent of our community. The show begins at 7:30 sharp!

Caring Hands Returns

Knitters and crocheters are invited to stop by the Caring Hands corner on the following **Sundays** through May, anytime between 11:00 and 12:30: **February 12, March 11, April 15, and May 13**. Come to knit or crochet a few rows on a "community-made" premie hat, chemo cap, square for a warm blanket, or a Little River baptism blanket, or have your first knitting or crochet lesson! If you wish to work on your own project, please pick up some donated yarn to take home. Patterns and ideas for charity projects will also be available. For more information, contact Carrie Douglas (*carriedouglas [at] gmail [dot] com*).

In addition, those who enjoy handwork of any type are always welcome to attend the Little River Quilters' meetings on the first and third Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00.

Tea and Talk: Still Connecting

The Women's Ministry is sponsoring a winter Tea and Talk, "Still Connecting: Heart to Heart," in the Jubilee Room on **Sunday, February 12** from 12:15 to 1:30. We will have lively and personal small-group discussion groups along with tea and sandwiches. If you would like to bring tray-ready, tiny tea sandwiches or snacks, please contact Camille Brooks (*rbrooks2 [at] cox [dot] net*).

Thank you in advance and we look forward to being with you.

Shaw Ministry Celebration

Members and friends of Little River UCC are invited to Shaw Community Ministry's annual Celebrate Your Heritage day **Saturday, February 25**. From 1:00 to 4:00 enjoy dance, drama, and song by Shaw youth, as well as light refreshments. Shaw is located at 1726 7th Street NW. RSVP to Jason Thompson (*jasonthompson2 [at] cox [dot] net*) by **Friday, February 17**.

Shaw is also in need of volunteers! On Mondays from 6.30 to 8:00 p.m. we have mentoring clubs. Come read to a student or participate in planned activities while getting to know the children. After-school volunteers, especially science and math instructors, are also needed for at least an hour any time from 3:30 to 6:00.

Come every day of the week or only once a month. The choice is yours and your time will be greatly appreciated!

Jason Thompson

Book Group: Discuss and Dine

The Women's Book Group will meet **Sunday, March 18** to continue discussing Sandy Tolan's book *The Lemon Tree*, in which an Arab and a Jew explore the similarities and differences in their lives. The book helps us understand the conflict between Palestine and Israel.

To accommodate viewing a video, the meeting will last longer than originally planned: 12:15-2:30. Bring a sandwich or other lunch to eat during the session.

Please join us for insightful discussion, even if you did not attend the first part last fall.

Wellspring Anniversary

You are cordially invited to celebrate Friends & Family Sunday at Wellspring United Church of Christ: Moving Forward in Faith, celebrating sixteen years of service in the Centreville community. The service will take place **Sunday, March 25** at 3:30, with special music and a message by the congregation's covenant pastor, Rev. Dr. Al Fuytes. A "repast" will follow the service.

Wellspring UCC was started almost twenty years ago, pioneered by a group of Little River members who lived in the Centreville area. Our church sponsored Wellspring during its development as a new church start, and Al was an active member of Little River before making his full commitment to Wellspring.

Wellspring UCC meets at St. John's Episcopal Church, 5649 Mount Gilead Road, Centreville 20122. For more information see the church website (www.wellspringucc.org).

Youth News

The youth of Little River have been quite busy lately! After participating in the Advent Funshops, the White Gift service, Christmas Eve luminaria setup, and the Christmas pageant, Pilgrim Fellowship rang in the new year with service to others. On Martin Luther King Day six teens and three adults from Little River participated in the Four Mile Run stream cleanup sponsored by Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment. The group found shoes, camping materials and many bottles and plastics, which were collected and bagged. PF looks forward to their annual Super Bowl party and to planning an April 21 fundraiser for their summer mission trip to Habitat for Humanity in Franklin, West Virginia with youth from other Potomac Association churches.

Roster of Leaders

Delivered with this issue please find a roster of congregational leaders for 2012. It is also posted on our website (www.ucc.org): follow the link under *About Us > Boards and Committees*.





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* ~

Phone: 703 ~ 978 ~ 3060
Fax: 703 ~ 978 ~ 3372
E-mail: [office \[at\] lrucc \[dot\] org](mailto:office@lrucc.org)

www.lrucc.org

Interim Senior Pastor
The Rev. Susan A. Henderson
703 ~ 255 ~ 2464
[susan \[at\] lrucc \[dot\] org](mailto:susan@lrucc.org)



Currents is published usually biweekly (monthly in summer) for the members and friends of Little River United Church of Christ, Annandale, Virginia, and is mailed third class or by e-mail (contact the office to subscribe). A public edition, *eCurrents*, is posted on our Web site (www.lrucc.org > About Us > Our Newsletter: *eCurrents*).

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)), or on paper. Submit notices 3 weeks ahead of events if possible.