



# The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

Volume XLVI, No. 1

An Open and Affirming Congregation

January 1, 2005

## Dear Members and Friends...

I am very happy to be the newly appointed Director of Christian Education. First, I would like to thank the members of my Search Committee, especially its chair, Liz Fritsch, for all of their efforts and support during the hiring process. They did a fantastic job. I also want to thank the staff, the BCE, and the entire congregation for the warm welcome that my husband, Mike, and I have received. We can already feel that Westmoreland is a caring, open, and energetic place to be. I really look forward to getting to know you and your children better in the upcoming weeks!

The Church School and the children's programs have been handled beautifully in the interim by Sharon Graham, Lisa Alexander, Ariel Moyer, and many volunteers. I want to thank them for all their hard work and for helping me transition into this position. As for the upcoming winter and spring sessions, we are working on continuing some liturgical themes, moving toward Easter, as well as developing new service projects. As some of you may know, one of my

top priorities is to develop Church School curriculum. I am hoping Church School will be a place where children and youth are excited to be. And, I am hoping that it will be a place where they can learn about and explore their Christian faith.

To that end, I am very open right now to all input, suggestions, opinions, thoughts, criticisms, and memories from the past. I especially would like to hear what you love and how you think we can make education at Westmoreland even better. Please feel free to call me at the church or email me: [aneuroth@westmorelanducc.org](mailto:aneuroth@westmorelanducc.org). I hope to be able to sit down at church or for coffee with many of you in the coming weeks. I especially hope to hear from children and youth.

I am so happy to be a part of the family at Westmoreland, and I am excited to see what God has in store for us on the journey!

Holiday Blessings and Happy New Year!

**Amber Henry Neuroth**

*Director of Christian Education*

## Sharon Graham Prepares for Ordination

**Sharon Graham**, who has been "in care" with Westmoreland since 1997, will present a summary of her ordination paper to representatives of the Potomac Association in an ecclesiastical council to be held at Westmoreland on **January 9 at 3 pm**. The council is open to all who wish to attend. Sharon will be ordained on **January 23 at 3 pm**. A reception will follow the ordination ceremony. Everyone is invited to attend!

### Worship Topics and Themes

**Sunday, January 2**

Holy Communion  
Melinda Reed preaching

**Sunday, January 9**

"A Safe Place to be Human"  
Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17  
Rich Smith preaching

Second Sunday  
Sunset Service  
at 6:00 pm

**Sunday, January 16**

"God's Calling—It's For You"  
Isaiah 49:1-7; John 1:29-42  
Rich Smith preaching

### Annual Meetings

**The Budget Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 16 at 11:30 am in the Social Hall.** Bring your suggestions and concerns for the final budget to be presented for a vote the following week. Childcare will be provided.

**The Annual Meeting will be held on January 23 at 11:30 am.** Elections will be held for officers and new board members and the budget will be voted upon. All members, including confirmed youth, are eligible to vote. Snacks and childcare will be provided.

*Reminder: Please submit your Annual Reports by January 3 via email or on disk to Sanelma Sutton: [ssutton@westmorelanducc.org](mailto:ssutton@westmorelanducc.org)*

## BCA Awards Semi-Annual Grants

The Board of Community Action, which derives its funding from benefit arts programs, the Christmas and Easter offerings and a special offering taken on Community Action Sunday, announces its semi-annual distribution of grants totaling \$10,250 to the following local and international agencies:

<b>APROBA-SANK</b>	\$1,000
Leadership training ( <i>see article on page 3</i> )	
<b>The Border Crossed Them</b>	\$1,000
UC-Berkeley youth learning about migration issues in Mexico	
<b>Global Partnership for Afghanistan</b>	\$1,000
Apple saplings to help families rebuild their lives in fruit-growing areas destroyed by war	
<b>The Senior Connection</b>	\$1,000
Services for the elderly in lower Montgomery County	
<b>United Campus Ministry</b>	\$1,000
Fellowship for youth at the University of Maryland	
<b>The Arc</b>	\$ 750
Services for those with developmental disabilities in Montgomery County	
<b>House of Ruth</b>	\$ 750
Services for homeless women and children in the District of Columbia	
<b>Malawi Children's Village</b>	\$1,000
Supplies such as pumps and books for children orphaned by AIDS in Malawi	
<b>Sacred Heart Adult Education</b>	\$1,000
Adult education for immigrants in DC	
<b>Manna Food Center</b>	\$1,000
Distribution of food in Montgomery County	
<b>St. Ann's Infant &amp; Maternity Home</b>	\$ 750
Services for women and children in Washington metro area	

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## All That Jazz at Westmoreland

**The Arts at Westmoreland** extends an invitation to all poets and artists to participate in a program devoted to the music, art and poetry of jazz on **Sunday, April 3 at 4 pm.** The program will showcase America's contribution to the music genre of jazz. Music will be provided by **The Rick Whitehead Trio.**

Poems, paintings, drawings, sculpture and other arts forms inspired by jazz, based on jazz themes, or devoted to particular jazz works or artists are welcome. Please contact Sanelma Sutton at 301-229-7768 or [ssutton@westmorelanducc.org](mailto:ssutton@westmorelanducc.org) for further information and submission requirements.

## Parish Notes

Congratulations to **Maryn and Leon Goodson**, who became the proud grandparents of Tessa Jean Goodson, born December 9 in Seattle, WA to Tony and Lisa Goodson.

**Jeremy Pierce Hutton**, son of **Susan and Thomas Hutton**, was baptized on December 12.

Congratulations to **Lois Stoner**, who was honored at the Committee for Montgomery Annual Breakfast Meeting on December 15. Lois chairs the legislative committee that defines issues in the county that need addressing and then lobbys the General Assembly for remedies.

**August Mason Tryon**, son of **Kristina and Steve Tryon**, was baptized on Sunday December 19.

### With Deepest Sympathy



We extend our sincere condolences and prayers to **Bunty Ketcham** and her family on the death of **Orman "Orm" Ketcham**, who died at home on December 14, 2004. He was 86 years old.

Orm was a 47-year member and former moderator of Westmoreland. For many years he served as a juvenile court judge and a D.C. Superior Court judge.

A memorial service was held at Westmoreland on Tuesday, December 28.

## Welcome New Members!

Please extend a warm welcome to **Stacey and Casey Fannon**, who joined Westmoreland on December 12. **Stacey**, now a stay-at-home mom, was a biochemistry researcher. She joins by reaffirmation of faith.

**Casey** is employed as a real estate banker for the National Co-op Bank. He joins by letter of transfer. They reside in the District of Columbia with their two children, Bridget, 2 and Megan, 3 months.

*(Are you interested in joining Westmoreland? We will be receiving new members on January 23 during the worship service. Contact Rich Smith or Janet Moyer.)*

## Book Club News

The **Women's Reading Group** is meeting on **Wednesday, January 5 at 7:30** at the home of Charlotte Moore. The address is 4990 Sentinel Drive, Apartment 205 in Bethesda. Please RSVP to her at 301-229-1127. They are reading *Atonement*, by Ian McEwan.

The **Wednesday Evening Book Club** is meeting on **January 12 at 7:30 pm in the Parlor**. This month's selection is *Snow*, by Orham Pamuk.

## Free Computer Class

Did you make a New Year's resolution to get computer-saavy? You could use the internet to find information, download *The Westmorelander*, create a document as well as other valuable computer skills. Amy Wooden will teach a class in January (date to be announced when she has assessed interest). Please contact Amy at 301-652-0705 or amy@thewoodenpost.com to sign up and let her know what you would like to learn.

## Christian Education Corner

### Winter Church School Teachers

If you have signed up to be a church-school teacher for winter term, the first Sunday you will be teaching will be January 16, 2005. I will be sending out lesson plans via email the week of January 8 and I will have hard copies at the church on January 9. Thanks teachers. You make church school possible!

### High School Service Project

In winter term, the high school youth will be continuing their series on service as a means of living out faith. Members of the congregation are invited to give presentations to the youth on various service organizations or opportunities. These presentations would be best if they came from your own experience, either personal or professional. Please note that the youth are also invited to make a presentation to their peers on a service project or organization that they find meaningful. The youth will be learning from your experience and then developing another service project in response. If you are interested in presenting on a Sunday morning in January or early February, please contact Amber.

### Curriculum Planning

Curriculum development is under way for most ages of church school. If you have questions, suggestions, ideas for resources, good memories from the past or from other church communities, please bring them to Amber Henry Neuroth. We are planning a fun, educational, and spiritual curriculum that helps us all, as a community, to learn more about our faith.

## BCA Funds Guatamalan Youth Project

Again this year Board of Christian Action gave \$1,000 to the **Guatemala SANK** project, which Westmorelander Jason Pielemeier helped found when he was a Peace Corpsvolunteer there two years ago. In the town of Chisec, there are no public schools and all education is expensive. The SANK project provides scholarships for poor young boys who scrape for a living by shining shoes. SANK started the Shoeshine Union, which it hopes will give these children a different, positive and more productive education.

One recipient of the assistance given by SANK is Osvaldo "el Nene" Jose Caal, who is 10 years old and in the first grade. Like most Chisec shoeshiners, Nene walks the streets barefoot looking for work. He is the youngest of ten children in his family. Only one older brother was allowed to go to school and graduate from sixth grade.

Females are routinely barred from school in the Q'eqchí culture just because they are female and SANK is addressing this issue.



## January 1 - January 15, 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					31 Church Office Closed	1 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>
2 Worship & Church School 10 am Conf. Class 2:30 S. Graham Eccle. Council 3:00 Worship 6:00	3	4 Staff 10 am and 11 am  AA 7:30 pm	5 Alanon 12 pm	6 Choirs 6:15, 7 and 8 pm	7 Alanon 12 pm  AA 8 pm	8
9 Worship & Church School 10 am	10	11 Staff 10 am and 11 am  AA 7:30 pm	12 Alanon 12 pm	13 Choirs 6:15, 7 and 8 pm	14 Alanon 12 pm  AA 8 pm	15

Senior Minister.....Richard L. Smith  
 Associate Minister  
 for Parish Life.....Melinda Reed  
 Minister of Music.....Mackenzie Albert  
 Director of Christian  
 Education .....Amber Henry Neuroth  
 Newsletter Editor.....Janet Moyer

**Office Hours: M-F 9am - 4pm**

### Newsletter Deadlines

Issue Date	Deadline
January 15	January 4
February 1	January 17

**Articles should be emailed to:**  
**jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org**

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[www.westmorelanducc.org](http://www.westmorelanducc.org)

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