



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

Volume XLVI, No. 3

An Open and Affirming Congregation

February 1, 2005

New Learning Opportunities for Lent

Easter is quite early this year, which means that so is Lent! Seems like the Christmas decorations have just come down! We begin on Ash Wednesday—February 9—with a service of Ashes and Communion, done this year in a more contemplative style, and with a special burial of ashes in the Memorial Garden.

During this season I will be preaching on some encounters Jesus had with a number of interesting folks (following the lectionary): Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, and Lazarus, among others. As a special feature in worship, our high school class will present these encounters using the medium of drama, making these stories come alive for us in new ways.

Each Wednesday during Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday at 11 am, I will be leading Bible study on these same texts. While I have ideas

for preaching on these topics, if you attend you will get to help shape the sermon. Preaching is never a monologue, but always a dialogue, or maybe even a multi-logue, a three way conversation between the preacher, the text and the congregation, and I invite you into this conversation.

Lent was originally a time for baptismal candidates to prepare—through study and prayer—for their baptisms, which would take place at the Easter Vigil. Later it became a penitential season, a time of fasting and self-examination.

I hope that the various things we are offering in the way of worship and study will lead us to reclaim Lent's original purpose as we freshly examine our faith and renew our commitment to the way of life to which Jesus calls us.

See you in church!

Rich

Public Affairs Forum Focuses on the American Economy

Long-time Westmorelander, **Kent Hughes**, will be the featured speaker at a public affairs forum on the American economy scheduled for **Sunday, February 6 at 11:30 am** in the Social Hall. An economic scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center, Kent will present his views based on his forthcoming book, *Building the Next American Century: The Past and Future of American Competitiveness*, scheduled for publication this spring. He will examine the various challenges the United States faces in an increasingly competitive global economy in the 21st century.

A panel discussion featuring **Peter Davis**, a private investment advisor, **Heidi Hartmann** from the Institute for Women's Policy Research, and **Mary Hallward-Driemeier** from The World Bank, will follow Kent's presentation. Child care will be provided.

Worship Topics and Themes

Sunday, February 6

Transfiguration Sunday
"Reconnected, Refreshed,
Resourced"

Matthew 17:1-9

Rich Smith preaching

Sunday, February 13

First Sunday in Lent
"When You Can Resist
Everything but Temptation"
Rich Smith preaching

Second Sunday

Sundown Service at 6:00 pm

Dramatic presentation:

Diaries of Adam and Eve

by Mark Twain

Volunteer Corps Seeks Applicants

The Volunteer Corps Board needs your help recruiting volunteers for 2005-06. Please send a letter or email to your alma mater describing the Volunteer Corps and its opportunities for a year of service in the Washington, DC area. Contact Nancy Pielemeier (301-913-0685 or npielemeier@abtassociates.org) for suggested wording. Then let Nancy know which college or university you have contacted. Help spread the word about this wonderful Westmoreland institution!

Spring Book Sale Planned for April

The second annual **Spring Book Sale** will be on **Saturday, April 30**. A preview party for Westmorelanders and their friends is planned for the preceding Friday night (April 29). If you have books *in good condition*, please bring them in. **No college yearbooks, textbooks, or magazines, please!**

In addition, we hope to have at least 40 to 50 books that will sell in the \$10 to \$500 range. If you have a book that you believe fits into this category, please label it "special" and bring it in as soon as possible so that we can do the necessary research to assure that it is priced appropriately. If you have any information or history concerning the book, send it along. For further information, contact **Judy Newman** or **Alan McMann**.

Help the Hungry by Dining Out

The Community Ministry of Montgomery County's annual **Thanksgiving in February**, is **Tuesday, February 1**. Participating restaurants have agreed to donate 10, 15, or 20% of their receipts to help feed the hungry. Proceeds will be distributed among several non-profit organizations, including Bethesda Cares, that provide food to qualifying clients throughout Montgomery County. Visit www.gazette.net/specialfeatures/thanksfeb.html for a list of participating restaurants and non-profits or pick up a brochure from the Community Action bulletin board.

Last Shot for Flu Shots

Friendship Heights Village is offering flu shots one last time on **Friday, February 11 from 10 am - 2 pm** to people 50 years or older (with photo i.d.) or anyone with a long-term health problem (with a doctor's note).

The cost is \$26, payable in cash or by check to the Visiting Nurses Association. Individuals with Medicare Part B or Medicaid will not be charged. You must have an appointment to receive a shot. Call 301-656-2797 to register.

Coping with Lost Love

A workshop dealing with loss of a love will be held on **three Sundays, February 13 and 20 and March 6 from 6 - 8 pm** in Room 35. *How to Survive the Loss of a Love* by Melba Colgrove, Harold Bloomfield and Peter McWilliams will be the resource. The workshop will be led by **Rev. Linda Lebron** of the The Washington Pastoral Counseling Services and **Rev. Melinda Reed**. Bring a potluck dish to share. For reservations, contact Sanelma Sutton at 301-229-7766 or ssutton@westmorelanducc.org.

Super Bowl Sunday Pot-Luck for Youth

All Westmoreland youth are invited to the annual **Super Bowl Party** on **February 6 at 4 pm** at the home of **Lisa Alexander and Joe Clayton**. There will be games and pizza and fun! Please bring a can of soup for a local food kitchen and a snack to share with the group. Meet and greet our new Director of Christian Education and Youth Director, **Amber Neuroth**. Contact Amber at 301-229-7766 or aneuroth@westmorelanducc.org.

Parish Notes

To my wonderful church family...

I want to thank each and every one of you for making Orm's memorial service on December 28 so heartwarming. From the gifts of Rich and Mackenzie through the special contributions of ushers, reception hosts, and Debbie's transformative clean-up crew, the afternoon was a comfort to us all and an inspiration to visitors experiencing Westmoreland's warmth and generosity for the first time. Thank you, my friends, from the bottom of my heart.

—Bunty Ketcham

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to **Lavinia Stuart** and the family of **Marjorie Stuart Harter**, who died on January 21. Marge was 92 years old and a member of Westmoreland for 78 years. A memorial service will be held on **Saturday, February 5 at 2 pm**.

Congratulations to Rev. **Sharon Ann Graham**, who was ordained into the ministry of the United Church of Christ at Westmoreland on Sunday, January 23. May God bless your ministry!

Donations in memory of **Kathy Burchedian** can be made to the following places:

Grace Lutheran Church
329 EastMain Street
Mankato, MN 56001
Mothers Again Drunk Driving
511 E. John Carpenter Fwy.
Ste. 700, Irving, TX 75062
Melanoma Research Foundation
24 Old Georgetown Road
Princeton, NJ 08540

Welcome New Members!

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest members, who joined the church on Sunday, January 23.

Terry Provance is regional director of Oikocredit USA, an organization that extends credit to disadvantaged people. He enjoys running and skiing. Terry and his 4 year old son, **Ian**, live in Washington, DC. He joined by letter of transfer.

Mary and Jon Schoonmaker recently relocated here from California. Mary will soon begin graduate studies at the University of Maryland and enjoys gardening in her spare time. Jon is exploring local opportunities in the computer field and is an enthusiastic fly fisherman. Jon and Mary live with their sons, **Dennis** (17) and **Mark** (11), in Rockville. They join by letter of transfer.

(Are you interested in joining Westmoreland? Contact Rich Smith or Janet Moyer.)

Book Club News

The Women's Reading Group will meet **February 2 at 7:30** at the home of Alice Saylor, 6203 Wellborn Drive, Bethesda, MD 20816. Please RSVP to her at 301-320-6673. The book we are reading is *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini.

The **Wednesday Evening Book Group** previously scheduled for February 9 will meet **February 16** in the Parlor. The book is *The Children of Henry VIII*, by Alison Weir.

Leadership Retreat

All officers, board members and representatives to outside organizations are encouraged to attend the annual Leadership Retreat on **Saturday, February 5 from 9 am–12 pm** in the Social Hall.

A Morning Conversation with Dr. Marcus J. Borg

Briggs Church and its Carpenter's Institute are sponsoring a conversation with Marcus Borg, a biblical scholar of international reputation known for his skill and passion of spirit in helping the world rediscover Jesus of Nazareth.

Author of the best-selling book, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, Dr. Borg has chosen to work within the framework of the emerging church. His stated aim is to help people "be true Christians in the contemporary world."



Friday, March 4, 2005

9:30-11:30 AM

Briggs Church

5144 Massachusetts Avenue

A \$15 contribution to Briggs Church is requested.
Reservations are required.

Contact Dr. Robert Maddox: Robtjr11@comcast.net
or call 301-229-7725.

Check This Out: Recent Library Acquisitions

The New Interpreter's Bible—Index Volume complements our recently completed set. It contains ten specialized indices, reference lists, and a complete list of abbreviations used in the twelve volumes. While the editors emphasize that the book is not a concordance, which would cite every instance of a word, it is probably more useful than a concordance as the indices only note substantive references.

Creating a Healthier Church, Family Systems Theory, Leadership and Congregational Life, by Ronald W. Richardson, was a recent gift. Directed to all who serve the church in some leadership capacity, the book offers a theory about human behavior that applies to the human community of the church as well as practical ideas and guidelines.

Large Print Collection: *The After-50 Cookbook*, by Donna Hamilton. (The criteria for choosing books for our large print collection are much broader than that used for the regular collection.) The large print collection is housed to your left as you enter the library. Feel free to check out a book you think might interest a homebound parishioner whom you visit.



February 1 - February 15, 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Staff 10 am and 11 am AA 7:30 pm	2 Alanon 12 pm	3 Choirs 6:15, 7 and 8 pm	4 Alanon 12 pm AA 8 pm	5 Leadership Retreat 9 am Harter Memorial Service 2 pm
6 Worship & Church School 10 am Childrens Choir 11:15 am Youth Souper Bowl Party 4 pm	7	8 Staff 10 am and 11 am AA 7:30 pm	9 Ash Wednesday Lent Class 11 am Alanon 12 pm Worship 7:30 pm	10 Choirs 6:15, 7 and 8 pm	11 Alanon 12 pm AA 8 pm	12
13 Worship & Church School 10 am Childrens Choir 11:15 am Confirmation Class 3:30 pm Worship 6:00 pm	14	15 Staff 10 am and 11 am AA 7:30 pm				

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
February 15	February 8
March 1	February 20

Articles should be emailed to:
jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

The **Westmorelander** (USPS 680-780) is published semi-monthly September to June by Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda, MD 20816. (301)229-7766

www.westmorelanducc.org

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Westmorelander, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda, MD 20816.