



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

Volume XLVI, No. 4

An Open and Affirming Congregation

February 15, 2005

Dr. Robert Funk to Preach at Westmoreland

The most exciting, revolutionary event in the field of religion that has occurred since I was ordained to the ministry 28+ years ago has unquestionably been the appearance of the Jesus Seminar.

You have heard me speak many times about their work, and their conclusions about who Jesus really was and what he authentically said. Their work has had profound impact upon my theology, preaching, and the way I practice my faith.

Now we have a marvelous opportunity—thanks to our neighbors at Briggs Baptist Church and their pastor Bob Maddox. Robert Funk, founder of the Jesus Seminar and its chief spokesperson, will be in town, had an opening in his schedule, and will preach here at Westmoreland on Sunday, February 20! He will no doubt be provocative, which is why it will be good to also have a discussion with him following the service.

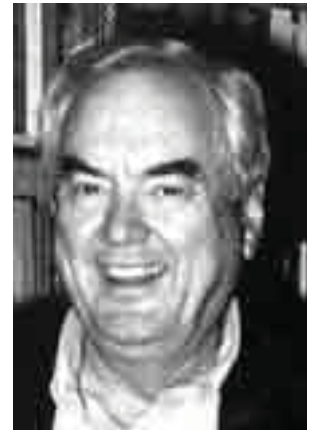
Bob's credentials are very impressive. He is a distinguished teacher, writer, translator and publisher in the field of religion. A Guggenheim fellow and senior Fulbright scholar, he has served as annual professor of the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem and as chair of the Graduate Department of Religion at Van-

derbilt University. He is a recognized pioneer in modern biblical scholarship, having led the Society of Biblical Literature as its executive secretary from 1968–1973.

His many books include *The Five Gospels: The Search for the Authentic Words of Jesus* (1993), *The Acts of Jesus: The Search for the Authentic Deeds* (1998) (both with the Jesus Seminar), *Honest to Jesus* (1996), and *A Credible Jesus* (2002).

For me, however, Bob Funk's most important credentials—his willingness to follow the search for truth, no matter where it takes him, and share his discoveries—have made me become a Christian all over again! That's why I am thrilled that we will have a chance to hear him, and meet him up close.

We're in for an exciting day! So I hope that on February 20 especially, I'll...see you in church!



Rich

Immigration Justice: A Call to Action

Westmoreland's Immigration Justice Initiative is taking shape out of discussions at the February 5th Leadership Retreat. A Public Affairs Forum is planned for early April. We're working with Congressman Van Hollen and others to establish a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) sub-office on Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring. Longer range goals include improving access to health care for immigrants, working with Congress to head off punitive legislation which is already underway, formulating an immigration justice resolution for the 2007 Synod, and settling refugee families. Westmoreland's Immigration Justice Task Force will be established soon to lead our effort. To avoid scattering our shots and reinventing the wheel, Moderator Pete Davis is asking all Westmorelanders: 1) Do you know any immigrants who need help? 2) Do you have any immigration expertise? 3) What immigration organizations do you already participate in or know of? Contact Pete directly at pete@daviscap.com as soon as possible.

Worship Topics and Themes

Sunday, February 20

Robert W. Funk, founder

The Jesus Seminar
Healing service with
communion
following worship

Sunday, February 27

"Encounter at the Well"

John 4:5-42
Rich Smith preaching

Arts News

Enjoy an afternoon of piano music when **Louise Kupelian** plays love songs on **Tuesday, February 15 at 10:30 am** at the Sibley Memorial Hospital Chapel. Reservations are required: 202-364-7602.

Join us for a pleasant evening of poetry on **Friday, February 18 at 7:30 pm** in the Social Hall. Three poets will read from their work.

Moira Egan, author of *Cleave*, is the winner of the Washington Writers' Publishing House poetry competition for 2004. A Pushcart Prize nominee, she directs the creative writing program in a public high school in Baltimore and teaches at The Writer's Center in Bethesda.

Sunil Freeman is the author of two books of poetry, *That Would Explain the Violinist* and *Surreal Freedom Blues*. He directs the workshop program at The Writer's Center in Bethesda.

Patricia Gray, author of *Rupture*, was awarded the Academy of American Poets Prize. She coordinates the Poetry at Noon reading series at the Library of Congress.

A free-will offering will be taken to benefit Shaw Community Ministries.

Looking ahead...

The Poetry of Jazz, scheduled for **Sunday, April 3 at 4 p.m.**, will be held in conjunction with a jazz concert and the opening of an exhibit of art depicting jazz. Poets and artists wishing to submit their work should contact Sanelma Sutton at 301-229-7766 or ssutton@westmorelanducc.org.

For Young Adults

The Board of Membership and Fellowship is launching a new small social group for singles and couples ages 20–40, without children. Emily Musil, recently returned to the area, has agreed to be the coordinator. The initial get together will be a potluck dinner on **Sunday, March 6 at 6 pm** in the church Parlor. Contact Emily (202-491-3867 or emusil@ucla.edu) or sign up at the Coffee Hour by March 4 and let her know what you will bring—main course, side dish, dessert or wine. Bring your ideas and your enthusiasm.

Book Club News

The next meeting of the Westmoreland **Women's Reading Group** will be on **Wednesday, March 2**. We will meet at 7:30 pm at the home of Jean Lutterman, 7501 Democracy Boulevard, Apt 139B. Please RSVP to her at 301-767-1006. The book we are reading is *Adam Bede*, by George Eliot.

The **Wednesday Evening Book Group** will meet **March 9 at 7:30 pm** in the Parlor to discuss *Nine Hills to Nambonkaha: Two Years in the Heart of an African Village*, by Sarah Erdman. Everyone is welcome.

Cancellation Notices

Church closings are announced on Channel 9 and WTOP radio (1500 AM). E-mail and voicemail announcements will be made by 7:30 am. In addition, **Judy and John Newman** have volunteered to call those members who don't get e-mail announcements about the Sunday service being cancelled. Just sign up in the Social Hall after church or let Judy or John know if you want to be called (301 949-7039).

Gatherings

The **Prime Timers** luncheon will be held on **February 16 at 12:00 pm** in the parlor for fellowship and nibbles, followed by lunch in the social hall at 12:30. The hostesses this month are **Pat Squire** and **Jean Lutterman**. The cost is \$5. For reservations and help with transportation, please call either Pat at 202-686-4126 or Jean at 301-767-1006, or sign up with them during Coffee Hour or at the What's Happening Table. Reservations should be made by noon on Monday, February 14. We hope to see all Westmoreland seniors over 65 at the luncheon.

The **Millennial Families** will meet on **February 26 at 5:00 pm** for "Saturday Sundaes" at Brad and Leigh Case's house in McLean. We'll meet have pizza at 5:30 or so and then...make your own sundaes. Please RSVP to Leigh at Leigh.Case@USPTO.GOV.

The next **Fellowship Breakfast** will be on **Sunday, February 27 at 8:30 am** in room 35. Hopefully, the weather will be kinder to us this time, as Amy and Ralph Wooden will be serving waffles made from their family recipe. Doors open at 8:30, but come any time before 9:30 to get some good food and good fellowship. Contributions appreciated, but not necessary. Questions? Contact John Newman at 301-949-7039 or jdnewman@westmorelanducc.org.

Adult Education

Rev. Audrey Chapman will lead an adult education course on the Gospel of John, which will be held on four Sundays in Lent (**February 13, 27 and March 6, 13**) at **11:30 am** in Room 35. The course will focus on the text of the Gospel and the relevance of its theology for our faith.

Reading one of Raymond Brown's studies of the Gospel of John – *An Introduction to the Gospel of John* or *The Community of the Beloved Disciple* – will enrich your study, but is not required. The text to be studied for February 13 is John 4 and 5 from the New Revised Standard Version of the New Testament.

Making Spirits Bright

Vera Johnson-Bowlding, Associate Director of Sasha Bruce Youthworks, Inc., wrote to “thank Westmoreland Congregational UCC for selecting 15 children from our Aftercare, Zocolo, and Charter School programs to extend your hearts to this Christmas. The gifts and your kindness were felt and truly appreciated by the families and our staff.”

Thanks from the Volunteer Corps Board to our volunteer at Sasha Bruce, Samantha Gallo, for the suggestion that we contribute and to all members of the congregation who did so.

WVC Newsletter Online

The Westmoreland Volunteer Corps newsletter is available online at the church website: www.westmorelanducc.org. Print out the newsletter and read about our wonderful group of volunteers and the services they are providing in our community.

Resolving Conflicts, Achieving Peace

RELIGIOUS FORUM ON THE MIDDLE EAST

Westmoreland Church will host an interfaith conference—**Resolving Conflicts, Achieving Peace: Religious Forum on the Middle East**. This forum will bring together a distinguished group of religious leaders, academic scholars and community activists of different faiths and political backgrounds to search for ways to resolve current conflicts and achieve peace and justice in one of the most troubled regions of the world today.

The forum's keynote speaker is **Dr. Dale Bishop** of Hartford Seminary, who was formerly the Middle East director of Church World Service, National Council of Churches. (Dale was also executive minister of the UCC's Wider Church Ministries). The second principle speaker is Dr. Shibley Telhami, Anwar Sadat professor of peace and development at the University of Maryland, College Park.

In addition, the forum will have a number of knowledgeable and experienced speakers and discussion leaders, including **Ambassador Philip Wilcox, Jr., Dr. Zaid Asali, Lewis Roth, Rev. Dr. Susan Andrews, Rev. Gordon Forbes, Imam Yahya Hindi, Rabbi David Shneyer, Imam Dr. Bashar Arafat, Rabbi Daniel Swartz, and Rev. Dr. David Smock**, who will participate in plenary panels and breakout workshops that address different spiritual, social, economic and political aspects of the Middle East.

Saturday, March 5, 2005

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Westmoreland Congregational
United Church of Christ**

A \$15 contribution is requested.

Reservations are required.

To obtain more detailed information on the forum's program and to register for the event, please refer to the Westmoreland Church website: www.westmorelanducc.org.

Contact Jean Lutterman (301-767-1006) or Karim Ahmed (301-963-3340) of the Middle East Committee.



February 15 - February 28, 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		15 Staff 10 am and 11 am AA 7:30 pm	16 Lent Class 11 am Alanon 12 pm Book Club 7:30 pm	17 Choirs 6:15, 7 and 8 pm	18 Alanon 12 pm Poetry Reading 7:30 pm AA 8 pm	19
20 Worship & Church School 10 am Childrens Choir 11:15 am Loss of Love Class 6:00 pm	21	22 Staff 10 am and 11 am AA 7:30 pm	23 Lent Class 11:00 am Alanon 12 pm	24 Choirs 6:15, 7 and 8 pm	25 Alanon 12 pm AA 8 pm	26
27 Fellowship B'fast 8:30 am Worship & Church School 10 am Childrens Choir 11:15 am John's Gospel Class 11:30 am	28					

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

Office Hours: M-F 9am - 4pm

Newsletter Deadlines

Issue Date	Deadline
March 1	February 20
March 15	March 7

Articles should be emailed to:
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