



# The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

Volume XLVI, No. 5

An Open and Affirming Congregation

March 1, 2005

## Middle East Expert Headlines Forum

### Dr. Bishop Preaches at Westmoreland

Here's a pop quiz for you: How many bishops are there in the United Church of Christ?

- A) 39 (one for each of the 39 conferences).
- B) None (we don't have bishops in the UCC).
- C) 412 (number of Methodist and Episcopalian Bishops who joined the UCC in retirement).
- D) 2.

If you guessed "D" you are correct! One of them is the head of a non-geographical conference known as the Calvin Synod, made up of primarily Armenian churches. Currently the **Rt. Rev. Louis Medgyesi** serves as their bishop.

The other bishop is better known to Westmorelanders, as he has visited and spoken here before, and

that would be **Dr. Dale Bishop**, formerly Executive Minister of the UCC's Wider Church Ministries, and now Director of Relationships and Resources for Interreligious Understanding at Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT. Earlier Dale was in charge of the Middle East desk at what was the United Church Board for World Ministries.

Dale speaks Farsi, but on **March 5 and 6** he will be speaking to us in plain English, as he keynotes our "Religious Forum on the Middle East" and preaches. So come hear my favorite "bishop" as he brings his knowledge and unique insights. Another good reason to...

...see you in Church!

*Rich*

### Worship Topics and Themes

**Sunday, March 6**

John 9:1-41

Dr. Dale Bishop, preaching  
Holy Communion

**Sunday, March 13**

"A Grave Situation"

John 11:1-45

Rich Smith preaching

### Set Your Limits

**The Freedom of Limits**, a parenting class taught by educator **Allan Shedlin**, is from his Parenting Clashpoints series, which addresses issues identified by kids and confirmed by parents as predictable clashpoints in the dynamic process of lifelong parenting. Although clashpoints may be uncomfortable, they provide opportunities to reinforce values and to model ways for resolving conflict. The key is not to avoid them, but rather make the most of these growing opportunities. This class is open to parents, grandparents, and anyone who interacts with children from infancy through adulthood.

Join us on **Sunday, March 13** from 11:30 am-1 pm to explore the paradox: "The Freedom of Limits". Childcare and refreshments will be provided.

You can register at the Christian Ed table during coffee hour or by contacting Amber at 301-229-7766 or [aneuroth@westmorelanucc.org](mailto:aneuroth@westmorelanucc.org).

### Volunteer Corps Celebrates 20 Years

This year the Westmoreland Volunteer Corps celebrates its 20th Anniversary and a major celebration is being planned for **June 17-19**. All former volunteers and all Westmorelanders are invited.

The weekend will include Friday dinners to bring together returning volunteers and their WCUC friends, a Saturday program with lunch, a Saturday evening potluck dinner with music and skits, and a Sunday service to include participation of former volunteers.

We need your help. Please join us in planning for this exciting event by contacting the "lead" person for one of our planning groups: **Susan Youker** (Invitations/Follow-up), **Mary Grossnick** (Friday Dinners), **Jim Thurber** (Saturday program/lunch), **Jean Lutterman** and **David Batson** (Saturday evening music/skits), **Carolyn Emigh** and **Joanne Harris** (Saturday evening potluck dinner), **John Hatch** (Sunday Service), **Ann Morales** (Homestays), **Andrea Stevens** (Publications), **Bunty Ketchum** (Questionnaire) and **John Pielemeier** (Fundraising).

## Buddy, Can You Spare a Casserole?

For some 20 years, Westmoreland's BCA has had a commitment to provide one breakfast a month for **So Others Might Eat (S.O.M.E.)** a soup kitchen downtown that provides hundreds of meals every year to individuals in need. For many years, every month the freezer in our kitchen was full of nutritious casseroles and we sent cereal, breads and juice as well.

Over the years our congregation's contributions to this effort have sharply declined. Many times in the last several years there have been fewer than 6 casseroles in the freezer on delivery day.

*Here is the challenge:* Can you or your family contribute just one casserole a month and put it in the freezer? Given the abundance which most of us enjoy, we can meet this challenge! Easy recipes are available on the What's Happening Table. Don't cook? Boxes of cereal, juice and store-bought breads are welcome. The people who depend on us for breakfast the first Thursday of the month will truly appreciate your generosity.

## Contacting Westmoreland Staff

### Rich Smith, Senior Minister

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Day off: Monday

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### Debbie Parker, Sextant

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## Gatherings

**Middle School Movie Night** at Westmoreland is **Friday, March 18, 6:30 - 9 pm.** Come for dinner, movies, games, and fun! All youth in grades 6 - 8 are welcome!

The next **Empty Nesters** get-together will be an almost-Spring potluck at **John and Nancy Pielemeiers' on Saturday, March 19, at 6:30 pm.** Please contact the Pielemeiers at 202-537-3677 to let them know if you can come and whether you can bring an appetizer, salad or other side dish, dessert, or drinks.

**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@wesmorelanducc.org](mailto:ssutton@wesmorelanducc.org).

## 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 *The Crucible*, by Arthur Miller.

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.

## Success Stories

The Souper Bowl Event was a great success on many levels! We had fun and fellowship at the home of **Joe Clayton** and **Lisa Alexander**. AND, we collected a whole carload of canned goods and raised \$100 in donations for S.O.M.E., which the youth chose as the recipient. Thanks to all who helped make this event a success. The Book Drive for Christ Episcopal in Nazareth, Israel resulted in a nice collection of children's books for their school's English library. At the same time, it helped build a stronger connection between kids at Westmoreland and kids across the globe.

## Called to Teach

God could be calling you! Our children need your gifts as teachers for both Spring sessions (March-April and May-June). If you previously signed up to teach for one of those sessions, please sign up again. Visit the CE table, call, or email Amber ASAP at [aneuroth@westmorelanducc.org](mailto:aneuroth@westmorelanducc.org).

## Carnivale!

A festive evening of food, fun and terrific items awaits you at the live and silent auction to benefit the **Westmoreland Children's Center** on **Saturday, March 12 at 7 pm.**

Tickets are \$45 per person at the door and include dinner and cocktails. All proceeds benefit the The Laura A. Bondareff Fund to provide scholarships to children who otherwise might not be able to afford childcare. Great items for purchase include: weekend getaways, spa treatments, dinner at Pomegranate, and box seats for the Mystics! For tickets or to donate an item or service, please call **Alison Chase** at 301-263-9026.

## RELIGIOUS FORUM ON THE MIDDLE EAST

Saturday, March 5, 2005

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

Westmoreland Congregational  
United Church of Christ

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.

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](http://www.westmorelanducc.org). Or, contact Jean Lutterman (301-767-1006) or Karim Ahmed (301-963-3340) of the Middle East Committee. A \$15 contribution is requested.



**Dr. Robert Funk**, founder of the Jesus Seminar, preached at Westmoreland on February 20. Dr. Funk signs a copy of his book for **Pete Davis**.

Long-time member of Westmoreland **Ginny Bogardus** was honored at the coffee hour on February 20. We all wish her well on her move to Goodwin House in Alexandria, VA.





**March 1 - March 15, 2005**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> Staff 10 am and 11 am  AA 7:30 pm	<b>2</b> Lent Class 11 am Alanon 12 pm  Book Club 7:30 pm	<b>3</b> Choirs 6:15, 7 and 8 pm	<b>4</b> Alanon 12 pm  AA 8 pm	<b>5</b> Middle East Forum 9 am
<b>6</b> Worship & Church School 10 Childrens Choir 11:15 John's Gospel 11:30 Loss of Love Class, 6 pm Young Adults, 6 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Staff 10 am and 11 am  AA 7:30 pm	<b>9</b> Lent Class 11:00 am  Alanon 12 pm	<b>10</b> Choirs 6:15, 7 and 8 pm	<b>11</b> Alanon 12 pm  AA 8 pm	<b>12</b> WCC Auction 7 pm
<b>13</b> Worship & Church School 10 am Childrens Choir 11:15 am Parenting Seminar 11:30 am Worship 6 pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Staff 10 am and 11 am  AA 7:30 pm				

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*Director of Christian Education* .....Amber Henry Neuroth  
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**Newsletter Deadlines**

<b>Issue Date</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
March 15	March 7
April 1	March 25

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

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