

# The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

Volume XLVI, No. 6

An Open and Affirming Congregation

March 15, 2005

## Invitation to Easter Vigil

A little noted, but important event of Holy Week, is the Easter Vigil, the final part of the *Triduum* (Latin for three days: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday). The service is rich in symbolism, reaching back to the Hebrew Bible and up through the New Testament.

The Easter Vigil begins in darkness with the Service of Light: a fire started as a symbol of Christ the Sun of Justice rising from death. The new fire is passed on to the largest candle ever used in the church—the Paschal candle – a symbol of the pillar of fire in the wilderness. From the Paschal candle, individual candles are lit throughout the church and all the lights are turned on.

The Service of Word provides readings spanning creation, Abraham's offering of Isaac, Ezekiel's vision of the valley of the dry bones and Christ the New Creation.

The third and fourth segments of the service consist of Baptism and the Reaffirmation of Faith, concluding with a joyful celebration of the Eucharist, or Holy Communion.

I encourage you to join us at the celebration of the Easter Vigil as part of your journey through Holy Week. The service is held at the Franciscan Monastery, 1400 Quincy Street, NE, Washington, DC. We will meet outside the doors of the Monastery at 7:30 pm for the service that begins at 8 pm. For directions, the web site is [www.myfranciscan.com](http://www.myfranciscan.com) or contact me at [SvedeliusR@aol.com](mailto:SvedeliusR@aol.com).

Melinda

### Holy Week Schedule at Westmoreland

#### Palm Sunday, March 20 at 10 am

All children's choirs singing.

#### Maundy Thursday, March 24 at 7:30 pm

Service of Tenebrae with communion.

#### Holy Saturday, March 26 at 8 pm

Easter Vigil. Meet at the Franciscan Monastery at 7:30 pm  
Sign up with Melinda Reed by calling 301-229-7766  
or e-mail: [svedeliusr@aol.com](mailto:svedeliusr@aol.com).

#### Easter Sunday, March 27

Sunrise Service at 6:30 am

Breakfast following in room 35

Easter Festival Service at 10 am

Communion, music for organ and brass.

### Worship Topics and Themes

#### Palm Sunday, March 20

"Grand Entrance, Graceful Exit"

Matthew 21:1-11

New Members Received

Rich Smith preaching



#### Easter Sunday, March 27

"God is Still Shouting,"

Matthew 28:1-10

Holy Communion

Rich Smith preaching

## Flowers for Easter

Honoring and remembering loved ones by giving flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter is a cherished tradition at Westmoreland.

This year, hydrangeas are available for \$12, lilies for \$9, and tulips for \$8. Checks should be made payable to Westmoreland Church with "Easter flowers" on the memo line. **The deadline for orders is March 21.**

Please indicate the number and type of plant you wish to donate and the names of those you wish to remember or honor so they may be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

After the 10 am service on Easter, you may take your plant(s) home, or the Deacons will deliver them to those unable to come to church.

## Parish Notes

Congratulations to **George Singleton**, who won the 2005 Fujifilm Masterpiece Award for Portraiture from the Maryland Professional Photographers Association for his photograph of a young man wearing a hat, entitled "Terrell". Fujifilm honors photographers who create images of excellence and distinction using its film.

Our sympathy and condolences are extended to **Liz Fritsch** on the death of her mother, Margaret Blee, on February 16, in Washington, DC; **Alice Saylor** on the death of her father, Fred Crane of Glencoe, IL on February 28; and the family of **Nancy Mrozinski**, a member of Westmoreland since 1981, who died at home on February 28.

## Gatherings

The **Empty Nesters** are getting together for a potluck at the Pielemeiers' on **Saturday, March 19, at 6:30 pm**. Please contact Nancy (202-537-3677 or nancy\_pielemeier@abtassoc.com) and let her know if you can come and whether you can bring an appetizer, salad or other side dish, dessert, or drinks.

Join the **Prime Timers** on **Wednesday, March 16 at 12 noon** for good food, friendly conversation and Bru Brubaker's slide presentation, *Wild Flowers of the Smokies*. The cost is \$5. For reservations and assistance with transportation, call Nona Cox at 301-229-6334, or sign up with Nona during the Coffee Hour or at the What's Happening Table. Hosts: JoAnn and George Harris.

## United Church News

### UCC Releases Ad on 50 Top Blogs

By *J. Bennett Guess, News Director*

Hailing web logs as the "next great revolution in journalism," the United Church of Christ released its network-rejected "bouncer ad" on nearly 50 of the most widely-read blogs. The UCC's blogads will run for two weeks on a mix of liberal, moderate and conservative sites, including many of the most prominent political, cultural and religious blogs. A blog - short for "web log" - is basically an online journal that, typically, is updated daily with chronological postings by the site's author.

The UCC's new blogad utilizes a series of still photos from the denomination's 30-second television commercial - rejected twice as "too controversial" by the major broadcast television networks - to entice blog visitors to "see the ad the networks didn't want you to see." An estimated 1 million people will view the UCC's banned ad through the blog advertisements, said the Rev. Robert Chase, director of communications for the 1.3-million-member denomination.

"While many are still unaware of it, the blogosphere has emerged as the next great revolution in journalism," Chase said. "In the tradition of this nation's earliest pamphleteers, bloggers are sharing news and information as a mark of a truly free society, not as something that can be controlled and manipulated by multi-national corporations."

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### Tsunami Aid: It's Not Too Late

You may make a direct donation in support of the UCC's tsunami relief efforts. Make checks payable to Wider Church Ministries, marked in the memo portion for "Tsunami Relief" and mail them to: United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115.

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### Music and Arts at Westmoreland

Come along for **Tea and Music at Strathmore** on **Tuesday, May 17 at 1 pm** to hear harpists Sue Richards and Sharon Knowles. The cost is \$17. A carpool will be organized to provide transportation. Sign up with Sanelma at 301-229-7766 (ssutton@westmorelanducc.org) or on the bulletin board in the Social Hall by **March 21**.

Join the fun and singing—be a part of the **Children's Musical** to be held on **Sunday, April 24** during the worship service. Contact Mackenzie Albert at 301-229-7768 or malbert@westmorelanducc.org. The musical will be followed by a brunch sponsored by the Board of Membership and Fellowship.

On **Sunday, April 3 at 4 pm**, **The Music, Art & Poetry of Jazz**, a festival of jazz, will feature poetry by local poets, music by the award-winning Rick Whitehead trio, an art exhibit to include photos, sketches, paintings, fabric and sculpture, and a reception. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit Shaw Community Ministries.

## Westmoreland Hosts Middle East Forum

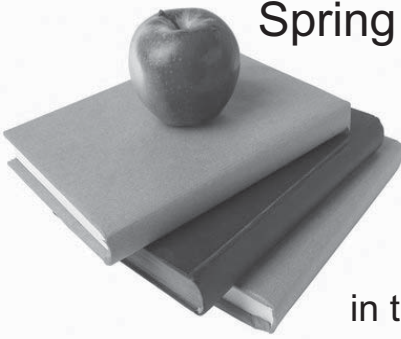
On Saturday, March 5, a distinguished roster of religious leaders, academic scholars and community activists met at Westmoreland to explore the present social, economic and political conflicts in the Middle East.

Nearly 200 people attended this all-day, inter-faith event to discuss ways the religious community can work together to bring about peaceful solutions to the current Israeli-Palestinian dispute and to prevent further violence and social unrest in Iraq, Afghanistan and other regions of the Middle East.



1. Dr. Dale Bishop; 2. John Newman, Ruth Avery (seated) Bob Boynton, Leon Goodson (standing); 3. Gordon Forbes, Imam Dr. Bashar Arafat Last; 4. Jean Lutterman

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### Spring Book Sale

Saturday  
April 30  
10 am–2pm  
in the Social Hall

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### March 15 - March 31, 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>16</b> Lent Class 11 am  Alanon 12 pm	<b>17</b> Choirs 6:15, 7 and 8 pm	<b>18</b> Alanon 12 pm  Mid School Movie Night 6:30 pm AA 8 pm	<b>19</b> Cap Sharing 10 am Empty Nesters 6:30 pm Guitar Concert 8 pm
<b>20</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> B'fast 8:30 am Worship & Church School 10 Childrens Choir 11:15 John's Gospel 11:30 Opera 6 pm	<b>21</b> Boards meet 7:30 pm	<b>22</b> Staff 10 am and 11 am  AA 7:30 pm	<b>23</b> Lent Class 11:00 am  Alanon 12 pm	<b>24</b> Maundy Thurs. Service 7:30 pm  Chancel Choir 8:30 pm	<b>25</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> Alanon 12 pm AA 8 pm	<b>26</b> Easter Vigil 7:30 pm
<b>27</b> <b>EASTER</b> Sunrise Service 6:30 am Festival Service 10 am	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Staff 10 am and 11 am  AA 7:30 pm	<b>30</b>  Alanon 12 pm	<b>31</b> Choirs 6:15, 7 and 8 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
April 1	March 21
April 15	April 4

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

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