



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

Volume XLVI, No. 7

An Open and Affirming Congregation

April 1, 2005

Westmoreland: Are We Thriving ?

At a recent lecture, Marcus Borg mentioned a study conducted by the Lily Foundation on the characteristics of thriving congregations. If I can read my own scribbled handwriting correctly, they are:

1. A progressive and inclusive theology
2. A way of being in touch with tradition that is life-giving, not stifling
3. A way of practicing faith where attention is paid to worship, prayer and relationships

4. A commitment to outreach that includes active concerns for justice and peace.

We could discuss each one of these at some length, but the important question is, "How do these describe Westmoreland?" What do we do well? And what do we want to do better? I have been reflecting on this as well, and would welcome your input, especially as we begin planning our next program year.

See you in Church! —*Rich*

Westmoreland Considers Housing Washington Music Conservatory

Westmoreland has been approached by the Washington Conservatory of Music (WCM) about the possibility of leasing space for the Conservatory from Westmoreland. WCM, which has operated for many years at Briggs Memorial Church, is losing its lease, and is looking for a new home in the community it has long served. In light of Westmoreland's historic commitment to music and the arts, the Board of Trustees views the proposal as one worthy of our serious consideration.

Members of Trustees have been actively canvassing numerous Westmoreland "stakeholders" to see what synergies might grow out of a relationship with WCM and whether WCM's needs for space would be consistent with our own uses. So far, we have identified several exciting

ideas for cooperative endeavors—from music instructors providing accompaniment during services to youth jazz-fests to offering a fun and safe weekend activity for local youth. Potential issues have also been identified, and we are working with WCM to see how they might be resolved.

Members of Trustees met with the Boards on March 21 to seek input. To broaden input from the Congregation, we will hold an information sharing and gathering meeting Sunday, April 10, 11:30 am. Kathy Judd, Executive Director of WCM, also invites Westmorelanders to tour WCM's current facilities to get a sense of what they do and how they do it. The staff at WCM can be reached at 301-320-2770. Contact Doug Hallward-Driemeier, Bob Boynton or Sue Kirk for more information.

Worship Topics

Sunday, April 3

"Personal Faith"

Psalms 16; I Peter 1: 3-9

Communion

Melinda Reed preaching

Sunday, April 10

"On Turning 39

For the 16th Time"

2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Rich Smith preaching

Sundown Worship moved to

April 17 at 6:00 pm

Book Lovers Alert

The second annual **Spring Book Sale** will be held **Saturday, April 30 from 10 am – 2 pm**. The **Preview Party** for Westmorelanders is **Friday, April 29 at 6:30 pm**. A bottle of wine or a dessert is the "admission fee". Contributions in all book categories are welcome. Books should be in good condition -no missing covers or pages. If you are donating something you believe deserves special pricing, please alert Judy Newman. Unsold children's books will be donated to our partner school, Marie Reid Learning Center and the Pregnancy Aid Center. If you know of an organization that could use unsold books, and you can pick them up on Sunday, May 1, contact Judy at 301-949-7039. These are good items; their next reader just didn't make it to the book sale!

Fellowship Gatherings

Nancy and David Batson will host the **Parents' Group** (primarily parents of middle school and high school aged children) at their home, 5526 Uppingham St. in Chevy Chase, on **Saturday, April 9 at 7 pm**. Please RSVP to Nancy to let her know what you will bring to the potluck dinner (nbatson@erols.com or 301-907-8826).

The **Women's Reading Group** meets **Wednesday April 6 at 7:30 pm** at Joyce Robinson's home, 5101 River Road, #1118 to discuss *Adam Bede*, by George Eliot.

The **Wednesday Evening Book Group** will discuss *Good Faith*, by Jane Smiley, on **Wednesday, April 13 at 7:30 pm** in the Parlor.

A potluck dinner to launch the **Young Professionals** group (singles and couples, ages 20–40, without children) has been rescheduled for **Sunday, April 17 at 7 pm**, in the Parlor, immediately following the evening worship service. Westmorelanders, their friends and significant others are warmly invited to attend. Contact the coordinator, Emily Musil, (202-491-3867 or emusil@ucla.edu) and let her know what you will bring.

Are you thinking of moving to smaller quarters? You need to downsize, but it's so overwhelming! Come to the next **PrimeTimers** luncheon on **Wednesday, April 20 at 12 pm** and you will leave with all the information you need to get started. **Busy Buddies**, specialists in downsizing and moving, will outline a program that includes the tasks and a timeline

for tackling the job. Meet in the Parlor at noon for nibbles and conversation, followed by lunch at 12:30 pm. Please RSVP to Nona Cox at 301-229-7766. Let her know if you need transportation. Or, sign up on the sheet on the What's Happening Table in the Social Hall.

Parish Notes

Congratulations to **Doris and Jim Gammon**, who will mark 50 years as members of Westmoreland on April 10.

If you would like current address and phone information for **Virginia Bogardus**, please contact the church office.

John H. Pickering, a member and supporter of Westmoreland since 1957, died on March 19. His funeral service was held at Washington National Cathedral on March 23.

Rev. Melinda Reed will lead a **Contemplative Retreat** at Hallowed Retreat Center in Comus, MD on **May 11–13**. The cost is \$149/night, double occupancy and includes five meals. To register, contact Sanelma Sutton at 301-229-7766. Questions? Contact Melinda at 301-229-7766 or svedeliusr@westmorelanducc.org. **Registration ends April 3.**

White Elephants for the Fall Bazaar have already begun arriving in the kitchen. We are always glad to receive contributions that are in good, clean, saleable condition. **We cannot accept large items.** We have no space to store them and must pay to have them carted away.

Christian Education

The High School Youth Lock-In was a tremendous success with youth and leaders playing games, watching a movie, and practicing for a dramatic reading in church. We hope to see even more at the next **Lock-In planned for May 20 from 7-10 pm**. Join us for the fun, including relays, flashlight tag, video games, movies, and fellowship. Middle School Movie Night was also a resounding success with 14 youth in attendance! Keep your eyes out for more events in May and June.

On March 13, we had a fruitful parenting class, "The Freedom of Limits," led by parenting educator Allan Shedlin. Allan and participating parents and grandparents shared questions and insights with one another. It was a time to realize how much we all have in common when it comes to the challenges of parenting!

Meet Our New Member

Gerrie Gieser joined Westmoreland on March 20. Gerrie is a scientist and drug reviewer for the Food and Drug Administration. In her leisure time she enjoys cooking, hiking, reading, visiting museums and doing volunteer work. Gerrie is already active at Westmoreland counting the Sunday morning offering. She and her husband, **Paul**, live in Silver Spring.

God is Still Speaking,

Did you know that 2,259 churches—that's nearly 38 percent of all UCC churches—have joined the God is Still Speaking campaign? More than \$400,000 has been raised through the sale of GISS items.

BCA Grant Applications Due May 2nd

Applications for the spring round of community action grants are due in the church office **May 2**. The grants will distribute contributions made through the Easter offering and Spring Book Sale. They support organizations providing services such as job training, hunger relief, housing, or health care, particularly those in which Westmoreland members are active or offer opportunities for ecumenical cooperation. About two-thirds of the grants go to groups in the Washington, D.C., area and one-third to groups in other countries.

The Board of Community Action (BCA) makes grants to about ten groups twice each year. They range from \$500 to \$1,000. Applications are available on the What's Happening Table in the Social Hall and at www.westmorelanducc.org under grant guidelines. Questions? Contact Barbara Baldwin (bbaldwin@yahoo.com) or Fran Irwin (franirwin@aol.com).

Immigration Justice in the U.S.

"Immigration Policy in the U.S.: Are We Heading in the Right Direction?" is the subject of a **Public Affairs Forum** to be held on **Sunday, April 17 at 11:30 am** in the Social Hall. The forum will be chaired by **Chris Sale**, a member of Westmoreland, who has worked extensively on immigration issues.

The principle speaker will be **Doris Meissner**, former Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and currently a senior fellow at the Migration Policy Institute. She will present a critical overview of current problems associated with immigration law and regulatory enforcement in the U.S. In addition, a panel consisting of local government representatives and an immigration attorney will discuss challenging problems faced by immigrant families who have recently moved to the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Child care will be provided.

What You Need to Know About Alcoholism

The **Washington Pastoral Counseling Service** will offer a workshop entitled *Alcoholism and Families: Outline and Process* on Saturday, April 23 from 9 am–12 noon in the Parlor.

The session, lead by **Rev. Linda Lebron**, will cover the definition and signs of alcoholism, its effects on individuals and families, treatment of alcoholism and spiritual aspects of alcoholism.

For more information about alcoholism and a guide to helpful resources, visit the Alcoholics Anonymous web site at www.aa.org.

Furnishings Needed for Young Mothers

The Mother and Baby Program of **Sasha Bruce Youthworks** helps young mothers achieve independence by supporting them in finding transitional housing. The program is urgently in need of furniture (sofas, chairs, beds, dressers, cribs, tables) and housewares for several apartments.

If you are downsizing or redecorating and have such items available, please contact **Samantha Gallo**, a Westmoreland Volunteer Corps member, at 202-675-9340, Ext. 26. She will arrange for pick-up.

UCC to Convene General Synod

The **Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ** will meet on **Friday, July 1 through Tuesday, July 5**, in Atlanta. Our theme for this time together is "Come Listen, Go Serve, God is Still Speaking."

General Synod is the biennial meeting of the United Church of Christ. Delegates from Conferences, Covenanted Ministries, and a broad range of interest groups meet every two years to consider the business of the church and its relationship with the wider world. Because every UCC congregation is self-governing, its resolutions speak "to" but not "for" the local church.

The meeting will be held in the Georgia World Congress Center and will be hosted by the UCC's Southeast Conference. The Rev. Norman Jackson, moderator, and Annie Wynn Neal and Eric Smith, assistant moderators, join us in this call to the official delegates and other participants. We invite all members and friends of the UCC to attend.

Visitors may register for General Synod, arrange housing and select sponsored meals online on at: www.ucc.org/synod

For information, please contact Lee Foley, minister for governing body relations, at 216/736-2192, foleyl@ucc.org or the administrator of the General Synod, Edith Guffey, at 216/736-2110, guffeye@ucc.org, both at 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115-1100.

The Art of Jazz

- reception
- musicians
- artists
- poets



Sunday April 3 at 4 pm



April 1-16, 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Alanon 12 pm AA 8 pm	2
3 Worship & Church School 10 Childrens Choir 11:15 am Jazz Fest 4:00 pm	4	5 Staff 10 am and 11 am AA 7:30 pm	6 Alanon 12 pm Women's Book Group 6:30 pm	7 Choirs 6:15, 7 and 8 pm	8 Alanon 12 pm AA 8 pm	9
10 Worship & Church School 10 Childrens Choir 11:15 Cong. Mtg. 11:30	11	12 Staff 10 am and 11 am Mid East Comm. 7:30 pm AA 7:30 pm	13 Alanon 12 pm Book Group 7:30 pm	14 Choirs 6:15, 7 and 8 pm	15 Alanon 12 pm Palestinian Em- broidery Project 5-8 pm AA 8 pm	16 Palestinian Em- broidery Project 10 am - 2 pm

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
April 15	April 6
May 1	April 20

Articles should be emailed to:
jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

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