



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

Volume XLVI, No. 8

An Open and Affirming Congregation

April 15, 2005

Successes to Celebrate

I want to bring to your attention two events worth celebrating with Westmoreland connections.

One event is the end of the **Taco Bell boycott**. The four-year boycott ended on March 8 with the announcement that the restaurant's parent company would take momentous steps to improve the income and working conditions of those who pick tomatoes for Taco Bell. The UCC had endorsed the action, addressing conditions that were first brought to light some fifty years ago in an Edward R. Murrow documentary, "Harvest of Shame." Erin Balleine, who was our Youth Director three years ago, has since been working with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers in Florida, helping to enlist youth in the cause. Once students at college campuses began boycotting, things began to change. As a result Taco Bell will pay the workers a penny a pound more for the tomatoes they pick, which will significantly improve their pay. To learn more about this victory for farm workers, you can go to www.ciw-online.org. And now you can go to Taco Bell, as well!

In other good news, our own **Will Irwin** is being honored by the United Church of Christ Friends of the Howard University School of Divinity at the James Floyd Jenkins Pillar Awards Luncheon, to be held at the Greenbelt Marriott on April 23 at high noon. The luncheon is in support of the American Missionary Association Endowed Chair and the PhD program at the Howard University School of Divinity. Each year a group of local and national church leaders are honored for their contributions to society, and we're proud that Will is among them! Tickets are \$50. I plan to go, so if you're interested in being part of a Westmoreland table, let me know!

See you there....and in church! *Rich*

Remembering Pope John Paul II

John Paul II had an enormous impact on his church and our world. John Paul II was a global traveler who carried his message throughout the globe. He knew the impact of the media on our everyday lives. At an earlier time in his life, I'd even dare to suggest that he might have smiled at the UCC's Bouncer ad -- even if he disagreed. And, yes, there were those places where we disagreed.

My favorite picture of John Paul II was taken at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. He stands alone where so many have come to pray over the centuries. One hand firmly grasps his cane, while the fingers of his other hand explore the cracks of the wall as he bows to pray. It was an act of respect and healing all at once. Sadly, there are many more divisions in our human community that are still in need of healing and reconciliation.

(continued on p. 2)

Worship Topics

Sunday, April 17

"It's Not Easy Being Green"

Psalm 104

Healing with Communion

following the service

Rich Smith preaching

Sundown Worship

6:00 pm

Sunday, April 24

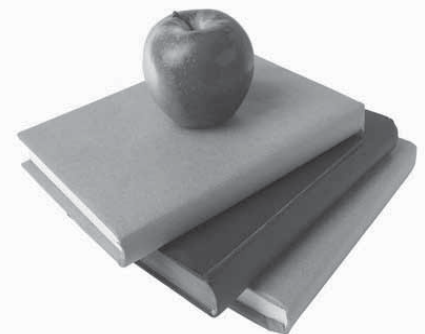
"The Unworldly Peace of God"

Philippians 4:4-9; John 14: 23-27

Rich Smith preaching

The Children's musical, *Rescue in the Night*, the story of Daniel in the lion's den, **has been rescheduled for Sunday, May 22** at the 10 am worship service.

Spring Book Sale



Westmoreland

Preview: Fri. Apr. 29, 6:30

Public Sale: Sat. April 30,
10-2 in the Social Hall

John Paul II

(from p. 1)

I shook hands with him when he visited Baltimore. It was a brief encounter during an ecumenical prayer service. It was my turn in the rotation to chair the local bishops and denominational executives group. I was given the opportunity to greet the Pope on behalf of the ecumenical community. In my few moments I thanked him for the ecumenical spirit of Cardinal Keeler, who had introduced me, and expressed our gratitude for his visit.

Earlier this week I was with the Cardinal. He was already preparing himself for what we all knew was inevitably ahead.

In the coming days I hope you will reach out to our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters to acknowledge their grief as they ponder John Paul's legacy and prepare for the selection of new leadership.

John Deckenback
UCC Central Atlantic
Conference Minister

God Is Stillspeaking,

The United Church of Christ has concluded its Lenten ad campaign for the Stillspeaking Initiative. Our national organization took a leap of faith in deciding to run the campaign even without all the necessary funding in hand. If you would like to support this effort, it's not too late! Give online at www.ucc.org or send a check payable to "United Church of Christ" (note "Stillspeaking Initiative" on the memo line) and mail to: The Stillspeaking Initiative, UCC Financial Development Ministry, 700 Prospect Avenue E, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100.

Library News

While we are regularly adding books to the Elizabeth Tisdale Norbeck Library both by donation and purchase we would like to bring three recent acquisitions to your special attention because they reflect the broad range of books you will find in the library.

Credo, by William Sloan Coffin, is a collection of quotations ranging in length from a few words to a few sentences. According to Coffin's introduction they reflect, "conclusions reached during a lifetime of continuous education."

The Acts of Jesus, The Search for the Authentic Deeds of Jesus, by Robert W. Funk and the Jesus Seminar, is the companion volume to *The Five Gospels, The Search for the Authentic Words of Jesus*, by the same author. It is also in our library. Among the provocative conclusions reached by the Jesus Seminar and outlined in the newer book are that Jesus was born in Nazareth, not in Bethlehem, that he was executed as a public nuisance, not for claiming to be the Son of God, and the empty tomb is a fiction.

Martin Luther, by *Christian Century* columnist Martin Marty, is one of the latest volumes in the Penguin Lives Series. In fewer than 200 pages, this biography concentrates on Luther the man and his struggles rather than the movement he founded.

UCC Honored for Communication Excellence

By J. Bennett Guess, News Director

The UCC received eleven awards from the Religion Communicators Council at its annual award presentation on April 7—making it one of the RCC's top-recognized denominations for work in print and video communications and public relations. *United Church News*, the UCC's denominational newspaper, received first place awards of excellence for the year's best news story and best feature story.

Gatherings

Parents' Group—Potluck at the **Batson's** home on **Saturday, April 16** (new date) at 7:00 pm. RSVP to Nancy at nbatson@erols.com

Young Professionals—Singles and couples, ages 20–40 without children. Potluck Dinner on **Sunday, April 17** at 7 pm in the Parlor. RSVP to Emily Musil at emusil@ucla.edu.

PrimeTimers—Westmorelanders age 65 and over will meet on **Wednesday, April 20** at 12 noon. Cost of lunch: \$5. RSVP to Nona Cox at 301-229-6334.

Upcoming Youth Events

The **High School Lock-in** has been rescheduled for **April 22–April 23 from 7 pm – 10 am**. Please come for a fun time of relays, flashlight tag, video games, movies, and fellowship together! Bring \$5 to contribute for pizza.

Middle School Night with the Nationals is scheduled for **Saturday, April 30**. Join us to watch the new Washington baseball team take on the New York Mets. We'll meet at the church at 5:30 pm to carpool. Estimated cost: \$15. Please call (301-229-7766) or email Amber immediately (aneuroth@westmorelanducc.org) if you want to go because the tickets are selling out fast!

Take a Volunteer Vacation

Planning a summer vacation? Working on your vacation might seem like the last thing you would want to do. But consider this: What if you could have fun, immerse yourself in another culture, and rejuvenate your spirit while making a difference? Cost of these vacations vary, with some programs picking up most of the costs except air fare. And virtually all organizations allow time for you to take in the sights. (Brian Moyer went on a photography safari last summer while volunteering in Tanzania with Cross-Cultural Solutions and earned college credits for an independent study of the small village to which he was assigned.) Here are some possibilities:

Cross-Cultural Solutions (www.crossculturalsolutions.org) Work with children and the elderly in South American, Russia and Africa.

Habitat for Humanity (www.habitat.org) Build housing for those in need and serve in support positions in the Jimmy Carter Project (domestic) and the Global Village program (abroad).

Earthwatch Institute (www.earthwatch.org) Take a conservation expedition in the U.S. or abroad.

For additional ideas, see the article on the What's Happening Table in the Social Hall.

Immigration Forum

The next public affairs forum, *Immigration Policy in the U.S: Are We Heading in the Right Direction?*, will be held on **Sunday, April 17 at 11:30 am** in the Social Hall. The guest speaker is **Doris Meissner**, a former Commissioner of the INS. The event chairperson is **Chris Sale**.

Music and the Arts at Westmoreland

An Evening of Poetry will be held on **Friday, April 15 at 7:30 pm** in the Parlor.

Ann Knox, author of a new poetry chapbook, *The Dark Edge*, and two full-length books of poetry, is a long-time editor of the literary journal *Antietam Review* and has taught at the Writer's Center in Bethesda.

Liz Rees is the author of two chapbooks: prize-winning *Balancing China* and *Hard Characters*. Her poems appear on "Artists' Benches" at the Bethesda 8 Trolley stops in Bethesda as part of a Montgomery County Arts and Humanities Program. She teaches in the Maryland Poets-in-the-Schools Program, and at the Professional Development Program at the Kennedy Center.

On **Sunday, May 1 at 4 pm**, Westmorelander **Karen Davis**, will present a benefit **piano recital**, featuring works by Mozart, Liszt, Granados and some American Rags.

At both of these events, a free-will offering will be taken to benefit **Shaw Community Ministries**.

The recent program, **Music, Art and the Poetry of Jazz** raised \$936 for **Shaw Community Ministries**. Through the generosity of Westmorelanders and the community, Music and Arts has raised \$5,876 for outreach programs in the 2004–2005 year.

Congratulations to poet **Nan Fry**, coordinator of the poetry readings, who was honored by having her poetry appear on an artist's bench at one of the Bethesda 8 trolley stops.

Mother's Day Embroidery Sale!

The **Embroidery Project**, sponsored by the Middle East Committee, invites you to its fourth annual **Mother's Day Sale** of embroidery from Palestinian refugee camps and cooperatives in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. We will be selling a large variety of items with a wide price range—from hand embroidered, beaded wool scarves to colorful coin purses. The sale will be held **Friday, April 15 from 5-8 pm and Saturday, April 16 from 10 am-2 pm**. For further information please call or email **Pamela Mertz** at 301-229-0973 or mertzmd@aol.com.

Brunch, Anyone?

The **Board of Membership and Fellowship** invites Westmoreland members and friends to **brunch after church on Sunday, April 24** in the social hall. Come chat with friends and enjoy delicious breakfast casseroles, fruit, and pastries. If you would like to contribute a casserole, please email Shelley Shorb at shellshorb@aol.com or call 202-243-3053.

Your Hearts and Hands

Community Ministry of Montgomery County (CMMC) recently opened two group homes for older homeless women—most of whom have lived on the streets or in shelters for years—to begin a new life. The women are learning to manage their health, maintain their living space, plan and make meals, and participate in volunteer or work-practice activities.

Would you like to become a part of these women's lives? To learn more, call Cindy Hall at 301-907-8022.



April 15-30, 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					15 Alanon 12 pm Palestinian Embroidery Project 5-8 pm AA 8 pm	16 Palestinian Embroidery Project 10 am - 2 pm
17 Worship & Church School 10 am Childrens Choir 11:15 Forum 11:30 am Worship 6 pm 20-40 Club 7 pm	18 Ch. Council 7 pm Boards 8 pm	19 Staff 10 am and 11 am AA 7:30 pm	20 Alanon 12 pm PrimeTimers 12 pm	21 Choirs 6:15, 7 and 8 pm	22 Alanon 12 pm AA 8 pm	23 Alcohol Workshop 9 am
24 Worship & Church School 10 Childrens Choir 11:15 BMF Brunch 11:30 am	25	26 Staff 10 am and 11 am Exec. Comm. 7:30 pm	27 Alanon 12 pm	28 Choirs 6:15, 7 and 8 pm	29 Alanon 12 pm Book Sale/ Reception 6:30 pm AA 8 pm	30 Book Sale 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
May 1	April 17
May 15	May 6

Articles should be emailed to:
jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

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