



# The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

Volume XLVI, No. 9

An Open and Affirming Congregation

May 1, 2005

## Habemus Papam?

The white smoke poured out, the bells tolled, and a robed figure appeared on the balcony to introduce an even more resplendent figure with those ancient words meaning, "We have a pope." I don't recall being introduced by the Search Committee with quite as much flair; after all, Roman Catholics do know how to do ritual!

Over the past quarter century many Protestants, as well as those of other faiths, have been able to say in all sincerity, "We have a pope." John Paul II reached out in ways that were very inclusive and brought people of the world together in one human family. Obviously as Protestants we do not give the pope any authority over our spiritual or ecclesiastical lives, but in many ways, as when he spoke out for justice and for peace, he spoke for us as well. His deep personal faith was an example for us, even when we disagreed with his positions on specific issues.

I am not encouraged by the selection of this particular man who is taking the name Benedict XVI, for in his previous position he has promoted a rigid orthodoxy, and sidelined many courageous theologians whom I have found to be an inspiration. He does indeed seem to place periods (or even an exclamation point!) where we would see commas. Still, who can say how God will use him in his new position? And if God is still speaking, it will take more than this to drown out the voices of progressive faith.

In the end, we are a part of "the church universal." So let us pray for Benedict XVI and our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters, and play well our own unique role in the family of faith.

See you in church! *Rich*

## Westmoreland and Marie Reed: Building a Thriving Partnership

One year ago, we began a partnership with Marie Reed Learning Center, and have signed a formal partnership agreement with them, which hangs in the narthex.

Last spring, we sent 10 readers to the school to read with a child for one hour, one day a week. In one year our efforts have produced approximately 60 new readers for the school because church members have gone out to law firms, consulting firms, government agencies, and embassies and brought them in as readers at the school. This is the multiplier effect of building on relationships that we have in the community to extend our reach.

We have also done many other things with the school this year:

- Sponsored a hat, coat, and glove drive in the fall,
- Contributed many Harry Potter books,

*(continued on p. 2)*

## Worship Topics

**Sunday, May 1**

Communion  
Melinda Reed preaching

**Sunday, May 8**

Mothers Day and Music Sunday  
"What Would Your Mother Say?"  
John 17:6-19  
Rich Smith preaching

**Sunday, May 15**

Pentacost, Confirmation Sunday  
"That's the Spirit!"  
Acts 2:1-21  
Rich Smith preaching

Sundown Worship  
6:00 pm

## On the Move

By the time this issue of the Westmorelander is published, Pam and I will have moved to our new home located on the border of Potomac and Rockville.

The new address and phone number will be available in the office, though for a year our old phone number will roll over.

After we complete a less-than-extreme makeover, we'll invite you all in for an "open house."

*Rich*

(from p. 1)

## Building a Thriving Partnership

- Assisted with the Thanksgiving food drive and contributed Christmas gifts for the kids,
- Raised funds for the school in a Giant Foods dedicated school purchase program,
- Our 5th and 6th graders have participated in a letter exchange with 5th and 6th graders from the school,
- Vice Principal Dayo Akinsheye and Counselor Violaine Dumorne presented a Mission Moment here, and Violaine joined the church, and
- Sue Kirk arranged for free tickets to the horse show and approximately 500 free tickets to the circus.

The school is very pleased with the relationship, and I would like to pass on to you the gratitude they have expressed to me this past year. This has been a successful outreach effort.

Our new project is to send some school children to camp this summer at Moss Hollow, operated by Family and Child Services of DC for at-risk children. FCS will handle the transportation and the school counselors will select students who will benefit most from the camp. Our role is to support the effort. The cost to us is \$300 per child for one week. We are asking the BCA for funds to send three children to camp. Individuals in the congregation may participate by contributing to sponsor a child for a week or get together with others to sponsor a child.

Anyone interested in helping the children at Marie Reed may do so in several ways: by contributing one hour a week to read with a child (or encouraging their office or agency to begin a reading program at Marie Reed), by making a financial contribution to support a child at summer camp, or by contributing ideas about how we can use our resources to help these children. If you would like to know more about Marie Reed or would like to pass on a good idea, please give me a call or send an email.

Thank you for caring. *Gary McDavid*  
202-408-7003(H), 301-320-3657(W)  
*gmcdavid@sonnenschein.com*

## Give a Little Time—Get a Big Reward

If you've ever wondered what you can do to be of real service to Westmoreland Church, but want something that takes very little time, consider being an usher! Ushering requires arriving at church between 9:30 and 9:45 am and staying a few minutes late to straighten up hymnals and recycle bulletins.

Most ushers serve one or two mornings every six months. If you miss an entire month due to vacation, business, or other commitments, we hope you can help out six months later. If you teach church school, consider ushering in your "off season". This is something you can do with your spouse or partner. You don't have to dress up, just look presentable. Consider this: in July and August, most people dress more casually for church, anyway; so do the ushers. What are the rewards? Ushers get to smile and greet their friends, hand out bulletins, help people (who need it) to their seat, and be one of the first people visitors to the Church meet. To learn more or sign up, contact Ralph Wooden at [Ralph@thewoodenpost.com](mailto:Ralph@thewoodenpost.com) or call 301-652-0705.

## Book Clubs

The next meeting of the **Women's Reading Group** will be on **Wednesday, May 11 at 7:30 pm** at the home of Emma Rose Martin. Please RSVP to her at 202-537-0118. The group will discuss *Herzog* by Saul Bellow.

The **Wednesday Evening Book Group** will meet on **May 11 at 7:30 pm** in the Parlor to discuss *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. All are welcome.

## Trustees Resolution on Computer Equipment

The staff, treasurers, librarian and Board of Christian Education have computers at church dedicated for their use. Most of these computers are hooked up to a network that provides internet access, e-mail and other services. The church has service providers that are called upon when repairs or upgrades to church computers and the network are required. Several recent incidents involving unauthorized additions of equipment or software to some of the church computers suggest that a policy pertaining to such activities be established.

Forthwith, all additions, modifications, updates and installations of equipment, accessories or software to the church's computers or network are to be done only by authorization by the Church Administrator who will coordinate requests from the aforementioned individuals, and communicate with the Trustees as appropriate. Cooperation from everyone is needed to minimize the cost and upkeep of our church computer and network resources, and to avoid compromising the important activities that are conducted with this equipment.

## Assistance Needed for Bone Marrow Tests

Abby Lenhart's roommate at the University of Maryland Medical School in Baltimore, **Audrey Segal**, has aplastic anemia. This rare and often fatal disease is being treated at NIH, and a bone marrow transplant may be attempted in the next few weeks as a last resort. Unfortunately, no match was found among Audrey's family members, so Audrey has asked her classmates to be tested, but the \$65 cost of the tests are beyond what most of her classmates can afford. To partially offset the cost, Abby hopes to raise \$4,500. Please pray for Audrey, and if you feel so moved, write a check to Westmoreland with her name on the information line as soon as possible.

## Karen Davis in Recital

The Arts at Westmoreland will present **Karen Davis**, pianist, in a benefit recital on **Sunday, May 15, at 4 p.m.** Karen will perform works by Bach, Mozart, Liszt, various South American composers, plus rags and cake walks. A graduate of the University of Illinois School of Music and The University of Maryland, Karen studied at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. She has performed as a soloist throughout Europe and the United States. The concert will benefit Shaw Community Ministries.

## Parish Note

Congratulations and best wishes to **Alice and Tillman Saylor** on the birth of their first grandchild, **Ivan Frederick Minier**, born April 11, in Madison, Wisconsin.

## Library News

We continue to slowly add to the large print collection in the Elisabeth Tisdale Nordbeck Library. The two latest acquisitions are: **God's Politics**, by Jim Wallis and **A Touch of His Wisdom: Meditations on the Book of Proverbs With Original Photographs**, by Charles Stanley. Neither of these duplicate books in the regular collection and all are invited to check them out. Large print books are especially handy for reading while on a stationary bicycle or similar exercise equipment.

The Wallis book is subtitled: *Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It* and begins: "Many of us feel that our faith has been stolen, and it's time to take it back. In particular, an enormous public misrepresentation of Christianity has taken place." The photographs in the Stanley book make it a particularly good choice to acquire in the larger format.

It is difficult to find suitable books in large print so if you have any suggestions e-mail them to [judynewman@gmail.com](mailto:judynewman@gmail.com).

## 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.

## Christian Education Corner

**May 1: Community Sunday Spring Flower Planting** for Grades 1-6! We will be planting flowers on the Massachusetts Avenue side of the church. Please send kids in appropriate clothing and with trowels, if you have them. We'll begin at 10am. We would also appreciate additional parent volunteers to help or supervise, so contact Amber if you are interested.

**June 12: Youth Sunday** is the last official day of the Church School year. The youth will plan and conduct the worship service. It is also Teacher Appreciation, and everyone is invited to the all-church picnic after church. Mark your calendars for this special day in our community.

**May-June: "Afternoons with Amber"**- As the year winds to a close, we will be having fewer scheduled youth events, but if you are in Middle School or High School, you can still spend time with Amber, our Youth Director. You can sign up alone or in groups just to hang out, have dinner, watch movies, or whatever you want! She'll even come watch you play in a sporting event or music recital. Available afternoons are: May 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19, 22 and June 5, 7, 8, 9, 21, 22, and 23. Please call Amber at 301-229-7766 to set up a time.



**May 1-15, 2005**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Worship & Church School 10 am Childrens Choir 11:15	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Staff 10 am and 11 am  AA 7:30 pm	<b>4</b> Alanon 12 pm	<b>5</b> Choirs 6:15, 7 and 8 pm	<b>6</b> Alanon 12 pm  AA 8 pm	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Worship, Church School and Confirmation 10 am Childrens Choir 11:15	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Staff 10 am and 11 am  AA 7:30 pm	<b>11</b> Alanon 12 pm Wed. Eve. Book Club 7:30 pm  Women's Book Group 7:30 pm	<b>12</b> Choirs 6:15, 7 and 8 pm	<b>13</b> Alanon 12 pm  AA 8 pm	<b>14</b> Confirmation Dinner 6 pm
<b>15</b> Worship & Church School 10 Childrens Choir 11:15 Karen Davis Concert 4 pm Worship 6 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**

<b>Issue Date</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
May 15	May 3
June 1	May 17

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

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