



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

Volume XLVI, No. 13

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Summer, 2005

Snapshot of Summer

While I can't really predict the future, I can tell you that the next couple of months will be rather full. I hope we all will get some rest and rejuvenation time, but God "neither slumbers nor sleeps," and apparently, neither does the church! Some items---

By now you have probably heard the news that our Minister of Music Mackenzie Albert has submitted her resignation, and that her last Sunday with us will be July 17. We're certainly grateful for the musical gifts she has shared with us this past year, and offer her every good wish for the future. In the short run, our church staff will make sure that the musical bases are covered for the summer, and the Deacons and Executive Committee are already springing into action to take the steps to form a new Search Committee and find the very best musical leadership for our church. Even though it's summer, we'll be hard at work!

The United Church of Christ General Synod will be meeting in Atlanta July 1-5. Attending from Westmoreland will be Jean Lutterman, a delegate representing the Central Atlantic Conference. Our Christian Education Director Amber Neuroth will also be going as a visitor, accompanying her husband Mike who will be there as national staff. Westmoreland's presence will be felt in other ways as well, as the delegates consider a resolution supporting the International Criminal Court, which we

proposed along with First Congregational Church DC. Westmorelanders have also been involved in crafting and promoting resolutions calling for support of ministries to our campuses of higher education and for marriage equality. You can follow the proceedings of the Synod online at ucc.org - a unique way to spend your Fourth of July weekend!

Our own Tom Lenhart graduated from Harvard Divinity School last month, and has been approved for "ordination pending call." Tom will be preaching at Westmoreland on July 24th, something you won't want to miss if you're in town. Judge for yourself how well he's made the transition from lawyer to minister.

For our "5th Sunday" service in July, I'm putting together an ensemble to present the story of Moses and the Exodus as told through gospel/spiritual/bluegrass songs, what I call "Get Down, Moses: the Songs of Soil and Soul." Let me know if you'd like to sing or play - we'll rehearse on Saturdays July 16, 23 and 30.

During the Month of August and through Labor Day, we'll be joined in worship by members of Briggs Memorial Baptist Church. Their minister, Bob Maddox, will act as liturgist or preach on those five Sundays, and they will participate as ushers and greeters as well. Let's offer them a warm Westmoreland welcome!

On June 28 your staff spent the afternoon in a planning day, looking

Summer Worship Schedule

July 3

Rich Smith
Holy Communion

July 10

Rich Smith

July 17

Melinda Reed
Healing Service

July 24

Tom Lenhart

July 31

Rich Smith
5th Sunday Service

August 7

Melinda Reed
Holy Communion

August 14

Melinda Reed

August 21

Bob Maddox
Healing Service

August 28

Bob Maddox

September 4

Bob Maddox

at the calendar for next year, trying to avoid "train wrecks" to be sure, but more importantly, making sure there is room on the schedule for all kinds of great ideas, programs and events. So it appears that summer is just a warm-up. See you in Church!

-Rich

Conference Passes Resolutions

Rich Smith, Melinda Reed, Amber Neuroth and Caryn Musil represented Westmoreland at the annual meeting of the Central Atlantic Conference, June 10 – 12. The conference delegates voted to approve the following resolutions:

Temporary Protected Status for Indonesians and Sri Lankans already in the United States, enabling them to have work authorization, pay taxes and send money home to communities devastated by the tsunami;

Support and endorse the spirit of the resolution calling for marriage equality submitted to Synod XXV by the Southern California, Nevada Conference (which calls for equal

marriage rights for couples regardless of gender and to share equally in the rights and responsibilities and commitment of legally recognized marriage) and call for more detailed biblical and theological reflection in that resolution;

Become a Fair Trade Conference by calling on congregations to hold educational events about the effects of buying Fair Trade; by purchasing Fair Trade products when practical; by promoting Fair Trade in the community: for example, requesting that local supermarkets sell Fair Trade products. The full text of the resolutions can be found on the CAC website: www.cacucc.org.

Christian Education News

Thanks to all who helped with the Youth Sunday Service and All-Church Picnic on June 12. It was wonderful to see the worship skills of our children as they conducted the service. Following the service, everyone enjoyed the BCE - supported picnic. The 5-6 grade Tie-Dye Shirt Sale generated lots of fun and raised over \$200 for UNICEF!

Summer Passport: Grades 1 – 6 meet together in Room 26 on Sundays after the Children's Time for Summer Passport. Children receive a passport stamp for each Sunday that they attend in the summer. The theme this year is: Parables and Other Ways of Understanding God, each Sunday focusing on a different parable or story that teaches us about God. We still have some open teaching opportunities in August for anyone willing to lend a hand!

Children's Ministries in the Fall: Even though we're just starting summer vacation, the Fall will be here before you know it! And we need teachers and students to sign up for an-

other exciting year of Church School. Teaching commitments are six weeks long, beginning September 11. Please let Amber know if you are interested. We will be sending out forms for the next church school year for parents to pre-register their children. Please return the forms promptly, so we can effectively prepare for the classes. Each child must be registered to attend church school.

Youth Volunteer Opportunities: We could use a lot of help in the CE office getting ready for next year. There are so many ways you could help: organizing supplies, filing, creating. Please contact Amber if you are interested in coming in for an hour, a day, a week... there's no limit!

High School Youth Planning Day: On Wednesday, July 20, we would like some youth leadership to join Amber for dinner and planning of next year's high school activities, Church School curriculum, and the new Youth Room! Please contact Amber with questions or to RSVP for dinner.

An Appreciation

Those of us who have enjoyed Prime Timers all year wish to thank **Nona Cox** (and her trusty aide, **Ken**) who has chaired the group, hosted, hustled, and made sure we were graciously fed and entertained. Thank you, Nona!

Parish Notes

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to: **Marjie Craig**, her son and daughter-in-law, on the recent death of Margie's 22 year old grandson, Thomas James Craig; **Dottie Slater**, whose brother died recently; **Sarah Smith**, whose father, Charles C. Smith, died on June 17 in Tiverton, RI; and **Mary Grossnick**, whose very close friend, Katrina, died on June 19.

Congratulations to **Bob McCartney** who was recently appointed editor of the Washington Post Metro section.

Is God Political?

On Monday, July 11, Melinda Reed will hold a book discussion on Jim's Wallis' book *God's Politics*. A 7 pm potluck dinner will precede the discussion in room 35. Cornel West, author of *Race Matters* and *Democracy Matters*, has this to say about Wallis' book: "Jim Wallis is the major prophetic evangelical Christian voice in the country. He refuses to allow the religious Right to have a monopoly on morality and spirituality; he also calls for the secular Left to speak to the critical issues of personal meaning and individual values. His message is put forward with urgency and insight rarely seen in our cynical time. I hope and pray his voice resounds across this land". Come for a time of fellowship, and a lively discussion about faith and politics.

Westmoreland Volunteer Corps Celebrates 20 Years

In its 20-year history, the Westmoreland Volunteer Corps (WVC) has had 100 volunteers. Nearly a quarter of them returned June 17 – 19 for a richly rewarding reunion weekend.

A Friday evening cookout at the Pielemeiers' was a homecoming for many who delighted in seeing familiar faces. On Saturday morning, **Julian Bond** offered an inspiring keynote address about the power of volunteerism, noting that his volunteer participation in the civil rights movement—"the largest spontaneous volunteer effort in American history"—changed the course of his life. Subsequent panelists took on related topics including evaluating the impact of WVC and ways to evolve. An entertaining evening of music and skits gave everyone chances to share creativity and fond memories.

Gordon Forbes's Sunday sermon praised the founding board, the church, and all 100 volunteers for their devotion and commitment to bridging chasms between societal and physical opposites, and for doing Christ's work close to home. Founding members and key participants received commemorative plaques: **Jean Lutterman, Bunty Ketcham, JoAnn Harris, Charlotte Rogers, Gordon Forbes**, and in absentia: **Jim Thurber** and **Jim Weaver**. Bunty Ketcham collected, analyzed, and published "20 Years in Service: Reflections on Westmoreland Volunteer Corps" based on responses from former volunteers, board members, and agency representatives. Based on Bunty's document, **Andrea Stevens** wrote and **Wulah Cooper** designed a new brochure "Starting a Volunteer Corps." Copies of both are available at church, and will soon be posted online.

Special thanks to: **John Pielemeier** (committee chair); **Susan Youker** and **Jennie Fogarty** (invitations); **Ann Morales, Carolyn Emigh**, and **JoAnn Harris** (lunch & dinner); **Jim Thurber** (program); **Jean Lutterman** (music, photo display); and **George Singleton** (plaques).

Andrea Stevens, Chair, WVC Board



Keynote Speaker Julian Bond



Singing on Saturday Night

Briggs Joins WCUCB for Worship

You may be seeing some new faces in church this summer! Rich Smith notes that, "Our neighbors to the north, Briggs Memorial Baptist Church, have recently sold their building to a Korean Baptist congregation, and while they are still worshipping in the building they are operating out of a house next door to the property. They are a theologically liberal group, affiliated with the Alliance of Baptists, which has close relations with the UCC." The Board of Membership and Fellowship has extended a warm invitation to Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox and the congregation of Briggs Memorial Baptist church to join us in worship during August. Members of Briggs congregation may be greeting with us and reading the lectionary. We are delighted to have Rev. Maddox preach for us as well. Please welcome our neighbors!

**Christian Education—
Save the Dates**

August 27, Teacher training, 10AM; September 11: Church School Resumes and 1st Confirmation Session, 3:30pm; September 18: Youth and Parents Meeting, 11:30AM.



July–August, 2005

Standard Summer Week on the Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship 10 am		Staff 10 am and 11 am	Alanon 12 pm		Alanon 12 pm AA 8 pm	

Special Notes:

- Monday, July 4: Office closed
- Monday, July 11: Potluck/Bk. discussion
- Monday, July 18: Boards meet
- Wednesday July 20: Youth Planning
- Saturday, August 27: Teacher training

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
September 1	August 8

Articles should be emailed to:
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