



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

Volume XLVII, No. 1

An Open and Affirming Congregation

September 1, 2005

“The Church Goes First”; UCC Leads the Way

In the 1969 British film version of *The Royal Hunt of the Sun*, the famous explorer Pizarro and his men are confronted with a deep abyss in the mountains of Peru. Between the two peaks stretches a flimsy rope bridge. The bravest men among them tremble in fear. Pizarro looks over the men and in the rear stand the clergy. He issues a summons: “The church goes first.” Although the movie audiences inevitably howl with laughter at the sight of the men in robes scrambling out across the bridge, the image should speak powerfully to our understanding of what it means to be the United Church of Christ, throughout our history, and especially now.

We have been the ones to go first in ordaining women, in ordaining a person of color, in ordaining an openly gay man, and now, with the passage of the General Synod resolution on marriage equality, we have continued that tradition. At times we may feel like those friars over the abyss, but I am convinced that what we do will eventually build the bridge that will lead to a more just future! And we know that even out there where others fear to go, “God IS Still Speaking.”

As we gather for a new church year, with meetings, programs, meals, classes and decisions, let’s not lose sight of what we’re really about. See you in Church!

Rich

Welcome Back to Church

On **Sunday, September 12** the Board of Membership and Fellowship will host its annual “Welcome Back” Luncheon in the social hall following worship. The Board cordially invites everyone to attend the luncheon to enjoy greeting familiar friends after a long and relaxing summer, and to become acquainted with new friends. Can you bring a salad or a dessert to share? Please help make this luncheon a delightful feast! Contact Sarah Smith at 301-907-0714 or email her at ssmith@lowellschool.org if you will be sharing your culinary gifts.

Embassy Row Unity Walk Marks 9/11

Please join 1,000 people on **September 11** in the Unity Walk down Embassy Row, when religions will put aside their differences and open their doors in a display of unity on 9/11. The walk will begin at 2 pm at Washington Hebrew Congregation and end at the Islamic Center. The purpose of the walk is to bring people together to send a profound message from Washington, D.C. to the rest of the country that if we are to overcome fear, we must learn to love our neighbors. The Walk will conclude

Worship Topics and Themes

Sunday, September 4
Bob Maddox, preaching
Holy Communion

Sunday, September 11
“Grace Beyond the Dark Side”
Psalm 103:8-13,
Romans 14:1-12,
Matthew 18:21-35
Rich Smith, preaching
Welcome Back Brunch

Second Sunday Sundown Service - 6 pm

Return of the Sundown Service
On the second Sunday of each month, Westmoreland offers an alternative worship service S4 – Second Sunday Sundown Service at 6 pm. This service is informal (come dressed as you are), child-friendly, short (45 – 50 minutes), and features guitar accompaniment, interactive liturgy and communion. We invite you to join us.

at the Islamic Center with prayers and gift giving. Significant houses of worship in Washington, D.C. that are participating include Washington Hebrew Congregation, the National Cathedral, Annunciation Catholic, the Islamic Center, the Interreligious Conference, InterFaith Conference, United Religions Initiative, Points of Light Foundation, Seeds of Peace, and more. Further information is available at www.dcunitywalk.com.

Gearing Up for the Bazaar

Westmoreland's annual Bazaar will be held **November 5**. White Elephants have been coming in for weeks. While we appreciate receiving your collections, there are some things we just don't sell or we can't store. We cannot accept large items such as coffee tables, dressers, desks, luggage etc. And please remember we do not accept clothes. (Place clothes in the green bin in the parking lot.) We would appreciate it if contributions could be brought in boxes, especially if the items are fragile. Otherwise we lose too many interesting items to breakage.

We started late with our White Elephant sorting and pricing. As a result we need even more help with this task than usual. Please contact Kay Jansky, Ann Morales or Bonnie Hetzel if you have some time to help, even if it is only one time for a few hours. We can schedule sorting/pricing sessions at your convenience. No experience is necessary.

Quality Childcare is Affordable

It's hard to raise a family and make ends meet in the Bethesda area. Westmoreland Children's Center understands and provides discounted tuition to children with household incomes under \$90,000 per year and additional needs-based scholarships for those with household incomes under \$55,000.

Scholarships have been provided for over 30 years through the Laura A. Bondareff Scholarship Fund, established to honor the memory of the former WCC student by offering educational experiences that might otherwise be out of reach.

Scholarships are available for families living or working near WCC and can be applied to all WCC programs. WCC will start receiving applications on **November 1** for the 2006-2007 school year. Enrollment fills up quickly.

If you, or a family you know, might be interested, call or write for more information or an application: 301-229-7161, wccofficemanager@aol.com, or www.WestmorelandChildrensCenter.com.

Book Club News

The **Women's Reading Group** will meet on **Wednesday, September 7** to discuss *My Sister's Keeper*, by Jodi Picoult. The group will meet at Ann Morales's house. Please call or e-mail Ann to let her know if you plan to attend.

The **Wednesday Night Book Group's** selection is *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*, by Walter Isaacson, to be discussed **Wednesday, September 14** at 7:30 pm in the Parlor. We will also select readings for the 2005-2006 season; book suggestions are welcome. Questions? Contact Maryn Goodson: 301-652-6843 or mpgoodson@comcast.net.

Parish Notes

The Church Directory is Available If you forgot to pick up a 2005 church directory when they became available, there are some copies in the Narthex. Please report any errors in the directory to jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to...

The family and friends of **Helen Gundel Campbell**, who died on June 24. Helen had been a member of Westmoreland for 49 years.

Doug Gaddis, and his father Kenneth, on the death of Doug's mother, Nancy Robinson Gaddis, July 31 in Owensboro, Kentucky.

Congratulations to...

Lori and Sam Applegarth on the birth of **William Gordon Forbes Applegarth**, July 1. The happy grandparents are Jan and Gordon Forbes.

Julie Shelton and **Patrick Martin**, who were married at Westmoreland on August 6. Julie is the daughter of Linda and Ed Shelton.

Godspeed to...

Kristen and Tony Zuco and their children as they relocate to Raleigh, North Carolina. Call the church office if you would like their contact information.

UCC Supports Equal Marriage Rights for All

On July 4, 2005, at the 25th General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Atlanta, delegates voted to adopt the resolution, "Equal Marriage Rights for All" Resources are available at www.ucc.org to help facilitate conversations and study throughout the church and society on this complex and challenging matter which has important implications for individuals, families and the wider community. They are intended to get people of faith talking about the purposes of marriage, looking more closely at how marriage has evolved and changed through time biblically and socially, exploring the theology of marriage, and critically discerning the appropriate roles for the church and the state in marriage.

Library News

We have been slowly adding to the large print offerings in the Elizabeth Tisdale Nordbeck Library. The latest is an **Extra Large Print New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs**. Come check it out if you think you or someone you know might be interested. Like all books in the library, your librarian would be happy to help you with details if you would like to purchase a copy.

Your library has books featuring a wide variety of viewpoints. We also add books to the collection on the recommendation of congregation and staff. **Exodus**, by Dave Shiflett, fits both purposes. Subtitled, **Why Americans are Fleeing Liberal Churches for Conservative Christianity**, it is a little less polemic than the blurb by Chuck Colson and the extreme examples featured on the dust jacket. A back cover quote says "The United Church of Christ's General Synod endorsed homosexual ordinations in 1983, which was not so great an offense, to some at least, as were references to God as both Mother and Father (suggesting a supernatural sexual identity crisis) and the likening of the Almighty to "a Bakerwoman."

Judy Newman, Librarian

Prime Timers Get Together

Join Westmorelanders age 65 and over for fellowship, lunch and occasional programs on the third Wednesday of each month. This group of lively and interesting seniors will meet on Wednesday, **September 21** at 12 noon in the Parlor. Cost of lunch is \$7. Sign up with Nona Cox (301-229-6334) or on the What's Happening Table in the Social Hall.

Christian Education News

Hey, kids, we've missed you this summer! After that great summer vacation, all the staff and teachers are ready to see you come back. A special thanks to all the teachers and kids who participated in Summer Passport.

Our new digs: Hopefully by the time this is printed, Room 26 (on the Social Hall level) has been converted into four Church School rooms. Tentatively, we will be using these rooms for Godly Play (Pre-K and K), Bible Quest (Grades 1 - 4) and Neighboring Faiths (7th Grade). We will be converting Room 40 into the new Youth Room in which Living Your Faith (Grades 8 - 12) will meet on Sundays. Please take the time on **September 11**, our opening day, to explore the new rooms!

We need teachers: We are looking for dedicated and caring teachers for all levels of Children's Ministry. We prepare the lesson plans for you, and teams of two teachers teach each class. We try to make it as easy as possible. Come explore your gifts for ministry by sharing with Westmoreland's children. Please email/call Amber (aneuroth@westmorelanducc.org) ASAP because we still need Fall teachers.

We need mentors: Being a mentor to a member of the Confirmation class (grades 8 and 9) is an excellent way to get involved with Westmoreland and our youth. It is so important to help these rising members to get acquainted with the larger community beyond their families and Church School. We find the best way to do that is to connect them with a member just like you! The staff will provide you with a lot of support and suggestions. The first social event for confirmands and mentors is **November 13** at 4:30 pm. Please contact Amber if you are interested in being a mentor. Parents and confirmands, may request a particular person from the congregation with whom to be matched.

Dates to remember:

September 10, 10am - Teacher training, to include emergency training, liability issues, and an orientation to our new space. If you know you will be teaching at all in the upcoming year, this is the session to attend.

September 11, 10 am - Church school begins for all ages.

September 11, 3:30 pm, Room 40 - First meeting of the Confirmation Class.

September 18, 11:30 am - Youth and Parents Meeting. This meeting is required if your child will be participating in youth activities (Grades 6-12) in the upcoming year. The child and at least one parent must attend this meeting or do a make-up session with Amber. We will go over the calendar for the year, talk about the Mission trip and fundraising, look at the new youth room and discuss a covenant for its use. We hope to see you there. It's going to be a great year!



September 1-15, 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Alanon 12 pm AA 8 pm	3
4 Worship 10 am	5 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	6 Staff 10 am and 11 am Exec. Comm. 7:30 pm	7 Alanon 12 pm Women's Book Group 7:30 pm	8 Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	9 Alanon 12 pm AA 8 pm	10 CAP 9:00 am Teacher Train- ing 10:00 am
11 Worship 10 am Welcome Back Brunch 11:15 am Confirm. 3:30 pm Worship 6:00 pm	12	13 Staff 10 am and 11 am	14 Alanon 12 pm Mid East Comm. 7:30 pm	15 Chancel Choir 8:00 pm Wed. Book Group 7:30 pm		

Senior Minister.....Richard L. Smith
 Associate Minister
 for Parish Life.....Melinda Reed
 Director of Christian
 EducationAmber Henry Neuroth
 Newsletter Editor.....Janet Moyer

Office Hours: M-F 9am - 4pm

Newsletter Deadlines

Issue Date	Deadline
September 15	September 6
October 1	September 18

Articles should be emailed to:
jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

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