



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

Volume XLVII, No. 15

An Open and Affirming Congregation

September 15, 2005

In Appreciation of Three Lives

On the evening of September 3, in Arlington, Virginia, **Chief Justice William Rehnquist** died. At about the same time, across the continent in Santa Rosa, California, **Dr. Robert Funk**, founder of the Jesus Seminar, also passed away. Each was around 80 years old, and each had a profound impact on not only his chosen field but also far beyond.

Justice Rehnquist had a very human side. He came to Tucson, Arizona every spring to speak at the University's College of Law. During one of these visits a professor from the School of Music was asked to come play piano for a party at which Rehnquist was the guest of honor. Some guests wanted to sing. And sing they did, all kinds of old show tunes and "war horses." At the end of the evening the professor was given a "tip", a \$1,000 bill presented by none other than Justice Rehnquist, who

reportedly sang with great gusto!

It was barely six months ago that Westmoreland's pulpit was graced by the presence of Bob Funk. As I said at the time, it was a real honor to have him here, as the work of the Jesus Seminar is the most important development to impact the field of religion during my lifetime. The approach to "Jesus Scholarship" he fostered, and the Jesus he uncovered, have made it possible for many people I know to embrace Christian faith all over again. And one of my main missions, as I enter my 30th year of professional ministry, is to apply these learnings to the practice of Christian faith within the church, so that it's not merely academic, but real!

Earlier on the same day on which Rehnquist and Funk died, long-time Westmorelander **Bob Howell** died as well. He was not as famous (or infamous) as either of the others, but

Worship Topics and Themes

Sunday, September 18
"What Have YOU Got to Complain About?"
Exodus 16:2-15,
Matthew 20:1-16
Rich Smith preaching
Welcome for the Washington Conservatory of Music

Sunday, September 25
Melinda Reed preaching
Volunteer Corps Welcome

he was beloved by many of us, and his life touched those who loved and knew him just as profoundly. He, too, will be missed, and he, too, takes his place among the great communion of saints who surround us and live within the heart of God.

See you in Church! *Rich*

Hurricane Katrina Recovery Efforts: How You Can Help

Ralph France II, President of the Board of Directors of the Central Atlantic Conference writes: "As you know, Katrina is a disaster of unparalleled dimensions. Numerous requests for assistance have been flowing into the Conference offices as well as most of our churches. Assistance is needed now in numerous areas, including those accepting displaced persons and our churches and related churches in the New Orleans and Mississippi areas." While the aid needed will go on for many months, if you wish help now, he recommends the following:

- The national office of the UCC is collecting cash donations through the website www.ucc.org. We strongly recommend this as an effective way to channel assistance as the national office knows where the greatest needs are located. If you don't want to contribute online, make out a check to Westmoreland marked for disaster relief, and we will forward checks to the national office weekly.

- Barbara Kamara, VP of the Board of Directors, CAC, is coordinating the child care for all families with children who comes to the Washington, DC area. She can be reached at 202-727-1839 or barbara.kamara@dc.gov.

The WCUC Executive Committee is discussing how we can render assistance both short- and long-term. Plans are in the works to hold a benefit concert in conjunction with the Washington Conservatory of Music in October. We are also looking into the possibility of resettling an entire family. Details will be forthcoming. In the meantime, keep everyone – victims, rescue workers and leaders – in your prayers.

Welcome to the 2005-2006 Volunteer Corps!

On Labor Day weekend, five young women from around the country and Canada came to Westmoreland to begin a year of work in social services and simple Christian living. **Marissa Gunn**, from Bedford Heights, Ohio, is a graduate of Juniata College, and will work at Bread for the City SE as a social services case manager. **Lauren Hare**, a graduate of Smith College from Mequon, Wisconsin, will work as a children's outreach educator with the D.C. Rape Crisis Center. **Katelyn Macrae**, from Saco, Maine, a graduate of Colgate University, will work with N Street Village as a program assistant at Bethany Women's Center. **Laura Sauder**, from Regina, Saskatchewan, graduated from the University of Regina, and will work at Bethesda Cares as an outreach social worker trainee. **Valentine Woods**, from Raleigh, North Carolina, a graduate of Elon University, will work as a social services case manager at Bread for the City NE.

On **Sunday, September 25**, we will formally welcome this new group to our church community. Following worship, everyone is invited to the Volunteer Corps House at 4514 Western Avenue, for an open house. If you would like, bring a housewarming gift in the form of a gift certificate in any amount from an area grocery store or restaurant. Or look at the list on the What's Happening table for items that might make the Volunteers' year of simple living a little easier. Get to know these delightful young people. And when you have an extra ticket to a ball game, concert or play, call the Volunteers: 301-229-0304.

The Volunteer House could use a few pieces of furniture. If you are moving or redecorating and looking for a new home for your used-but-in-good-condition furniture (beds, dressers, small desks, easy chairs), please contact the house manager, Ed Moyer (301-652-5973/edmoyer@verizon.net).

Arts Adventures Begin

The Arts Committee opens a new season by offering an adventure: Attend an October 12, 11 am matinee at Arena Stage to see **Passion Play, a Cycle**. In this cycle of three plays, three historic tellings of the Passion Play provide an examination of truth, love, loyalty and belief through the ages – Elizabethan England, Nazi Germany and post-Vietnam America. Depart Westmoreland at 9:45 am, return around 4:15 pm. Tickets: \$48 single/\$35 group. Contact Sanelma in the church office now so she may order tickets: 301-229-7766 or ssutton@westmorelanducc.org.

Westmoreland Church hosts high quality concerts throughout the season presented by local groups. Check their websites for dates and times:

The John Marlow Classical Guitar Series – www.marlowguitar.org

The Washington Conservatory of Music – www.washingtonconservatory.org

Partnership with Marie Reed School Continues

Last spring, Westmoreland Church received an award from Marie Reed Learning Center for the great volunteer effort our members have put forth at the school. At the award ceremony, the school Principal, Dr. Sparrow, said "thank you, thank you, thank you" to Westmoreland for the great contribution it has made to the school and its children. Now, the school year is beginning again, and we hope you will consider reading with a child at lunch time or otherwise contributing to help the children at Marie Reed. After church on September 18, we will be in the Social Hall talking to Westmorelanders about the opportunities to work with the school this fall. Please stop by and talk with us.

-Gary McDavid

Parish Notes

Congratulations to Westmorelanders **Shelley (Shorb) Baker and Glenn Carroll** who were married on August 27.

Former Westmorelander **Florence Steele** died at Asbury Methodist Village on September 4. Florence was member of Mt. Pleasant Congregational and Westmoreland for 48 years when she transferred to Seneca Valley Church in 1984.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to **Jean Howell** and family on the death of her husband, **Bob Howell**, on September 3 at Asbury Methodist Village. Bob, who had been a member of Westmoreland for 44 years, is remembered for the many tasks he quietly and faithfully performed to help maintain our building. A memorial service will be held on October 8 at Asbury.

Music Director Search

The Music Director Search Committee has received over 40 resumes to date for the position. Many candidates look very strong and include a mix of highly- and less-experienced individuals with a variety of interests and skills. Members of the committee will cull this list in the next few weeks, conduct phone interviews, then conduct personal interviews with the last few candidates. The members of the committee include: Rick Alfonso, Keller Staley, Ruth Avery, Doug Gaddis, Pam Owens, Tom Russell, Sarah Wilson and, as ex officio members, Rich Smith and Sanelma Sutton. Questions can be directed to any member of the committee.

Bible 101

From September 25 through October 30, Rev. Bob Maddox, minister of Briggs Memorial Baptist church, will teach an adult education class at Westmoreland entitled Your Bible: The Study Begins. Its aim is to acquaint people in a broad way with the diverse collection of material that makes up the Bible. Some topics include how the Bible came to be, the differences between the Old and New Testaments, how it has been handed on, how to study the Bible and its place in our lives. The six class sessions will be held 9 – 9:50 am on Sundays in the Parlor. Bob promises a lively and interesting course. For those many Westmorelanders who have professed to have very little knowledge about the Bible – this is for you! Contact Sanelma in the church office (301-229-7766 or ssutton@westmorelanducc.org) to register and purchase the resource book.

Christian Education

Church School: Please take the time to visit our newly reconfigured Church School area! Room 26 has been converted into four classrooms for pre-K through grade 7. Room 40, the new Youth Room, will be used on Sundays for grades 8 – 12.

Confirmation: Consider being a mentor to a member of the 2005 – 2006 Confirmation class: We want to connect each confirmand 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, 4:30pm. Please contact Amber if you are interested.

Calendar: **September 18, 11:30am:** Mandatory Youth and Parents Meeting for all youth (grades 6 - 12). We will be discussing the new youth room, the calendar for the year, and a mission trip. **September 23, 7pm:** High School Youth lock-in. **October 1, 8am:** Middle School Service Project: apple picking in Winchester, VA to help needy people. **October 7- 8:** Confirmation Retreat- more information to follow soon.

Westmoreland's Annual Fall Bazaar

The Bazaar will take place **Saturday, November 12** (note the date change) from 10 am - 2 pm. We have already begun collecting, sorting and pricing, but we need more items – your good stuff - and more help.

Among the items we collect are linens (please indicate the size), blankets, comforters, Christmas decorations, kitchenware (small appliances, cutlery, utensils, dishes, -china, plastic, stoneware – glasses, pitchers) items for the home office, toys, puzzles (must have all pieces and the box secured) cache-pots, flowerpots, gardening equipment, jewelry, vases, electronics, and books. **We do not take clothes or large items** (we have no storage place for them), or anything containing fuel or flammable liquid. Items contributed should be clean, in working order, and, if at all possible, should include any manuals. Donations can be left inside the kitchen door. Remember, all the money we raise goes to the Board of Community Action, which uses it to fund grants to non-profits.

Help is needed to sort and price; no experience is necessary. For questions call Kay Jansky 301-365-4805, Ann Morales 301-229-7286 or Bonnie Hetzel 301-229-8895. We look forward to seeing you.

Calling All Bridge Players!

Do you enjoy playing bridge? Then get a partner, spouse, friend or neighbor and join the Westmoreland Bridge Marathon this year. The group will be set up in late September. Members play once a month from October through May, round-robin, on a flexible schedule in each others' homes. Each game is set up by the participants to suit their schedule. Participants make a small donation (\$12 per person per year) to support a Church project. The group welcomes new members. Contact coordinators Alice and Tillman Saylor at (301) 320-6673 or e-mail: thesaylors@verizon.net to let us know you are interested, or if you have any questions.



September 15-30, 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				15	16 Alanon 12 pm AA 8 pm	17
18 Worship 10 am Welcome Wash- ington Cons. Parent/Youth Meeting 11:30 am	19 Church Coun- cil 7 pm Church Boards 8 pm	20 Staff 10 am and 11 am	21 Alanon 12 pm Prime Timers 12 pm	22 Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	23 Alanon 12 pm Youth Lock- in 6 pm AA 8 pm	24
25 Kerygema 9 am- Worship 10 am Welcome Volun- teer Corps	26	27 Staff 10 am and 11 am	28 Alanon 12 pm	29 Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	30 Alanon 12 pm AA 8 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
October 1	September 21
October 15	October 3

Articles should be emailed to:
jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

The **Westmorelander** (USPS 680-780) is published semi-monthly September to June by Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda, MD 20816. (301)229-7766

www.westmorelanducc.org

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Westmorelander, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda, MD 20816.