



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

Volume XLVII, No. 16

An Open and Affirming Congregation

October 1, 2005

Connections at Westmoreland Church

The word “religion” comes from a Latin word which means “to bind.” That fact alone tells me that the large purpose of our faith is not about rules and tradition so much as it is discovering ourselves to be, as the Bible says, “bound together in the bundle of life.” It is about discovering who we are and Whose we are, and about making the connection between our own lives and the larger contexts in which we find ourselves.

October at Westmoreland this year will be known as “Make the Connection” month, a time when we discover and celebrate, week-by-week, the connections that our faith leads us to, and how we finally respond by giving ourselves fully to that which is larger than ourselves.

Translated, that means October is Stewardship month! For a variety of reasons, we’re starting a bit earlier, so that we can have it all wrapped up by the first of November, and then move on to Thanksgiving and Advent, knowing we are prepared for the New Year.

The October 2nd theme is “Connect With Westmoreland.” (See accompanying article.) After the service we will widen the connection a bit as we hear from Jean Lutterman, who was a delegate to the UCC’s General Synod last summer.

October 9th’s theme is “Connect with the UCC”. We will continue the conversations about what it means to be part of our forward-looking, risk-taking denomination.

On October 16th we will “Connect with the Community.” I am working with our Board of Community Action to create a special worship service, an “Action Fair” in the sanctuary.

On October 23rd, I will preach a stewardship sermon that challenges us to make the connection between our financial and spiritual lives (“where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”). The service will be followed by our first BCA Forum of the year. And the on October 30th we will celebrate “Consecration Sunday,” with our special Guest Steward, the Rev. Donna Schaper, as we bring our commitments forward and really make all these connections concrete.

It’s going to be an exciting month in which to practice our religion! Watch for details. See you in church!

Rich

Hurricane Recovery: A Long Road Ahead

As of press time, Westmorelanders have donated \$2,850.00 to the Hope Shall Bloom – UCC Hurricane Recovery Fund. (This includes checks made out to Westmoreland; individuals may have donated directly to the UCC.) The UCC effort focuses on identifying and meeting needs of people who might otherwise fall through the cracks.

If you have not yet made a donation and wish to do so – the recovery will take a long time – make a check payable to Westmoreland and note in the memo line “Hurricane recovery”. We will forward your checks to the UCC recovery fund. You may also contribute online at www.ucc.org.

Westmoreland is working to help settle a Hurricane Katrina evacuee family. While we attempt to navigate the bureaucracies involved, it would be very helpful to know if anyone knows of available temporary or permanent housing that we might use to house a family.

For more information, contact Jennie Fogarty, jennielfogarty@hotmail.com or call 301-229-2439.

Worship Topics and Themes

Sunday, October 2

“Don’t Kill the Messenger”

Matthew 21:33-46

Rich Smith preaching

World Communion Sunday

Neighbors in Need Offering

Sunday, October 9

“Why I’m in the UCC”

Matthew 22:10-14

Rich Smith preaching

Sunday, October 16

Community Action Sunday

Special Guests in Worship

Scriptural Reflections

by Rich Smith

Update: Washington Conservatory of Music

On September 18, Westmoreland celebrated our new partnership with the Washington Conservatory of Music and our joint pursuit of excellence in liturgical music, neighborhood-based musical education, and concerts to benefit our community. Over the summer, WCM purchased a house on Westmoreland Circle where they will set up their offices as soon as they receive a variance from the county. Construction at the church was completed in early September and conservatory students are having their lessons in Room 26 and the Music Room, newly subdivided for them and to better serve our church. To facilitate our partnership with the Conservatory, the Executive Committee gave me the authority to appoint a one-year Liaison Committee comprised of Gary McDavid, John Newman, and Nancy Skinner with ex-officio members, Rev. Rich Smith, Sanelma Sutton, and Amber Neuroth, to handle the many details of our relationship. The committee will meet as needed and address a broad range of issues related to our partnership with WCM. Please contact them with your praise and any concerns as we enjoy the fruits of this partnership. Mark your calendars now for a benefit concert by WCM faculty, on October 15, 8 pm, to aid New Orleans musicians who have lost their homes and livelihood from Hurricane Katrina.

Pete Davis, Moderator

Annual Bazaar

Mark **November 12** on your calendar for Bazaar Day. There will be bargains galore – treasures, jewelry, household and holiday items, books, toys and games – as well as lunch and mouth-watering baked goods. How can you help? Let us count the ways:

1. Donate your unwanted, but in good condition, items;
2. Sort and price items on October 4, 5 and 12 at 9:45 am and October 14 at 11 am;
3. Help set up anytime Wednesday – Friday, November 9, 10, 11. (Lunch is provided!);
4. Assist with sales and clean-up on Bazaar Day.

In the meantime, check the front of the stage on Sundays. We will be putting selected items from our “Collection” on display for sale now. Contact either **Ann Morales** or **Kay Jansky** if you see something you are interested in purchasing.

Thanks in advance for your help and support.

General Synod Forum

Join General Synod delegate Jean Lutterman and others after the service on October 2 as they report and reflect on the synod meeting in Atlanta, and several of the controversial resolutions that were passed, including a call for marriage equality, and the use of economic leverage as a tool to lead to Middle East peace. See video clips, hear the inside scoop, and learn what it means for us in the local church.

UCC Seminary President Testifies at Confirmation Hearing

by J. Bennett Guess

The Rev. Susan Thistlethwaite, a UCC minister and president of UCC-related Chicago Theological Seminary, testified on Sept. 15 before members of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee during the confirmation hearings of Judge John Roberts to be Chief Justice of the United States.

Thistlethwaite expressed concern that, during Roberts’ testimony, he did not offer any explicit commitment to ensuring civil rights, preserving privacy rights and honoring church-state separation, which Thistlethwaite said were foundational to the Supreme Court’s role.

“I have certainly been impressed with the incisive mind of John Roberts,” Thistlethwaite said. “That is a necessary but not sufficient credential for Chief Justice. I ask you to inquire about his passion for justice, his care for the general welfare and his concern to secure the blessings of liberty for all Americans. I ask you to inquire whether he believes in the dream that is the United States of America.”

LIVING OUR DIVERSITY: CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF OPEN & AFFIRMING IN THE UCC

Saturday, October 22, 12:30 - 6 p.m.

Sponsored by:

The Potomac Association and First Congregational Church, DC
Workshops, speakers, worship...and pizza!

In light of the UCC’s recent passage of the resolution of marriage equality, and Westmoreland’s historic support of O and A, let us have a good representation. Flyers with details are on the What’s Happening Table. For further information and to register: 202-628-4317, or www.fccuccdc.org.

Parish Notes

Congratulations to Westmorelanders **Susan Frant and Doug Hunt** who were married at Westmoreland on September 17. Rev. Rich Smith officiated.

On October 2, **Adde Johnson** will mark 50 years as a member of Westmoreland. Congratulations and welcome to the "Golden Years"!

The Church Office Needs You!

If you have two hours or more available to volunteer, our church office is in vital need of some help. Don't worry, we won't ask you produce the newsletter or the Sunday bulletin. We would like several hours of phone coverage on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday so that we can attend to some tasks that require our undivided attention. If you can offer this valuable assistance, call or email Sanelma: 301-229-7766 or ssutton@westmorelanducc.org.

The Ties That Bind

On October 2, you will have an opportunity to strengthen your ties to your faith community and your friends with a commitment to "hands on" service at the church. Choose from a wide selection of ways to help our church. If you have a lot of time, a little time, want ongoing or one-time responsibility – come and Connect with Westmoreland.

Blessing of the Animals

Our family pets provide companionship, loyalty and an endless source of entertainment. Westmoreland will hold its third annual Blessing of the Animals at the Second Sunday Sundown Service on October 9, 6 pm. Bring your pet –caged, crated or on a leash – for this special service. Note: Please enter the church through the

Christian Education

Church School: If you haven't already done so, please take the time to explore our new rooms. We are getting accustomed to them and appreciate being able to hang artwork and have a place we can call our own. Thanks to BCE and Leslie Weber for helping get the rooms in shape. We couldn't have done it without you!

Confirmation: We are still looking for mentors for the 2005 – 2006 class. The staff will provide you with support and suggestions. Not sure? Talk with a mentor from last year. Contact Amber for questions or connections.

Youth: Due to scheduling conflicts, many of the Fall Youth events have shifted- please note the changes. Contact Amber for a complete calendar.

Thursday, October 13 - YOUTH ROOM planning day. All youth (grades 6 - 12) interested in helping to redecorate Room 40 to make it into a fantastic youth lounge, are invited to come anytime between 1-6 pm. We'll look at colors, furniture, and talk about ideas! Pizza dinner will be served. If you cannot attend, but you would like to be on the planning team for the new youth lounge, please contact Amber.

Friday, October 14, 7 – 10 pm - MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH Party. Come start off the year with us! We'll have games, dessert, surprises, and more. (No dinner will be served.) Please RSVP to Amber at aneuroth@westmorelanducc.org or 301-229-7766.

Friday, October 28, 6 pm- Family Halloween Party in the Social Hall. Kids of all ages and parents invited to come in costume for some spooky fun! This party will precede the Halloween Concert at 7:30pm.

center front doors of the narthex and proceed directly downstairs to the Social Hall.

Fellowship Breakfast

Fellowship Breakfasts will be held on the first Sunday of each month through next June with the exception of January 2006. We meet in Room 35 and doors open at 8:30 am. We will try to have a program that starts at 9 am most of the time. Contributions are always welcome, but not essential. This is a great opportunity to make new friends, greet old friends and get your Sunday worship experience off to a good start. Questions? Contact John and Judy Newman: 301-949-7039 or judynewman@gmail.com.

Reading Groups

The next meeting of the Westmoreland **Women's Reading Group** will be **Wednesday, October 5, 7:30 pm** at Emma Rose Martin's home. Contact her to let her know if you will be attending: 202-537-0118. The book is **The Death of the Heart**, by Elizabeth Bowen. The November selection is **Up the Spiral Staircase**, by Karen Armstrong.

The **Wednesday Evening Book Group** will meet **Wednesday, October 12, 7:30 pm** in the Parlor to discuss **To Kill a Mockingbird**, by Harper Lee. The November selection is **Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking**, by Malcolm Gladwell.



October 1-15, 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Fellowship B'fast 8:30 am Worship 10 am Conn. w. Westmoreland 11:15	3	4 Staff 10 am and 11 am	5 Alanon 12 pm Women's Reading Grp. 7:30 pm	6 Treble Choir 6:45 pm Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	7 Alanon 12 pm AA 8 pm	8 Howell Memorial @ Asbury Village
9 Keyrgma 9 am Worship 10 am Bless the Animals 6 pm	10 COLUMBUS DAY Church office is open	11 Staff 10 am and 11 am Middle East Comm. 7:30 pm	12 Alanon 12 pm Wed. Evening Book Grp. 7:30 pm	13 Treble Choir 6:45 pm Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	14 Alanon 12 pm AA 8 pm	15

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 15	October 3
November 1	October 21

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.