



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

Volume XLVII, No. 18

An Open and Affirming Congregation

November 1, 2005

Holiday Plans Begin at Westmoreland

November is the month of transitions! It begins with crisp breezes blowing the last of the colored leaves out of the trees and ends with grayer skies and threats of the first snowfall. It begins with the liturgical year winding down, moving from All Saints Day to Thanksgiving and then the lighting of the first Advent Candle, and anticipation of Christmas holidays. It begins as one month and ends as quite another.

Melinda will be leading the All Saints Sunday service, as we remember all those of our Westmoreland family of faith who have died in the past year. Amber, who is getting closer to her own ordination next year, will be preaching on November 13. And on Thanksgiving Sunday, I will be leading a service focusing on Thanksgiving Hymns, a festival of singing our thanks. During the month we will also have two baptisms and have a chance to receive new members.

I'll also be making a trip west, kind of a busman's holiday, to give the "Charge to the Minister" at the ordination of Nicole Lamarche, my "student" from Tucson who recently graduated from Pacific School of Religion and who is now serving as an Associate Minister in Wellesley, Massachusetts. I'll also travel to Tombstone to provide some music at the church I served as they mark their centennial, and to Phoenix for a high school reunion and a family wedding. Whew! At least all these things were miraculously scheduled in the same week! Sorry to miss the Bazaar, but my apple pies will still be there and

for sale! And I'll be back in plenty of time for Thanksgiving, the first we will have spent in Maryland.

It's not too soon to think about Christmas, which falls on a Sunday this year. The Board of Deacons has decided that our service that day will be at 1 pm to give families a chance to have an uninterrupted Christmas morning, and come to church while the turkey is in the oven! More later about our plans, but mark your calendars now – **1 pm on December 25th**. It's a busy time for all of us, and I trust in our busy-ness we will not forget to be grateful. See you in church!

Rich

South Asia Earthquake Relief

Westmoreland Church is planning to create a special relief fund to be disbursed to victims of the recent earthquake in the mountainous regions of Kashmir, Pakistan and India. The funds collected will be channeled through two highly responsible and efficient private relief agencies in the region -- Islamic Relief and Edhi Foundation. As many of you know, the number of deaths associated with this calamity is estimated to be between 20,000 and 40,000, with some 1 to 2 million rendered homeless, even as cold weather returns to the region in the coming months. Given the current state of animosity towards our country in that part of the world, it would be particularly appropriate for US-based institutions to send relief funds to an Islamic region undergoing great hardships at the present moment.

Islamic Relief - Islamic Relief (IR) is an international relief and development charity, which aims to alleviate the suffering of the world's poorest people. It is an independent non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in the UK in 1984 by Dr Hany El Banna. As well as responding to disasters and emergencies, Islamic Relief promotes sustainable economic and social

(See Relief, page 2)

Please... When you send a check to the church, note in the memo line what the check is for – pledge, special contribution, e.g. hurricane relief, flowers etc. We have been getting checks with no notations and have no idea for what the money is intended! Thank You.

Worship Topics and Themes

Sunday, November 6

All Saints Sunday

Communion

Remembering the Departed

Saints of Westmoreland

Melinda Reed, preaching

Sunday, November 13

"Can We Risk It?"

Matthew 25: 14 – 30

Amber Neuroth preaching

Rally for Immigration Justice

Westmorelanders are invited to support affordable housing and immigrant rights issues with Action in Montgomery (AIM) at **7:15 pm, Wednesday, November 2** at Bethesda Presbyterian Church (7611 Clarendon Street, near the intersection of Wilson, Arlington, and Old Georgetown streets. Parking is available next door at Bethesda Elementary School, 7600 Arlington Road). This rally will challenge and hold accountable Lt. Governor Michael Steele, County Executive Doug Duncan, and other elected officials to create a local federal immigration office and to require developers to build more affordable housing for working and lower income families. Join Sue Kirk, Jeff Eagan, Volunteer Corps members, and other Westmorelanders in working for social justice in our county. For rides or more information, contact Sue at 301 907-9244 (W), skirk5@juno.com or Jeff at 301 652-9047 (H), jeff.eagan@verizon.net.

Hurricane Relief Concert Benefits Musicians

In cooperation with Westmoreland, the Washington Conservatory of Music faculty members presented the Hurricane Katrina Relief Concert on Saturday, October 15. One hundred percent of the \$4,033 in proceeds went directly to musicians via the American Federation of Musicians' Gulf Coast Relief Fund (that will match funds dollar for dollar) and the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra Relief Fund. Your generous donations were gratefully accepted. If you were unable to attend the concert and still wish to contribute, please make checks payable to: Westmoreland Congregational UCC -- Memo: Musicians Hurricane Relief. Congratulations and much thanks to the Washington Conservatory of Music faculty for an evening of superb and inspiring performances, which finished with a moving jazz rendition of the "When the Saints Come Marching In."

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Support Earthquake Relief Efforts

development by working with local communities - regardless of race, religion or gender. weblink: <http://www.islamic-relief.com/>

Edhi Foundation - Edhi Foundation's activities include a 24 hours emergency service across the country [Pakistan] through 250 Edhi centers which provide free shrouding and burial of unclaimed dead bodies, shelter for the destitute, orphans and handicapped persons, free hospitals and dispensaries, rehabilitation of drug addicts, free wheel chairs, crutches and other services for the handicapped, family planning counseling and maternity services, national and international relief efforts for the victims. weblink: <http://www.paks.net/edhi-foundation/>

Please send checks to Westmoreland Congregational Church, designated for the South Asia earthquake relief fund. For further information, contact Karim Ahmed at ahmed@ncseonline.org or at 202-530-5810 Ext. 210.

Music Director Search

The committee completed a review of over 50 resumes and recently conducted seven phone interviews. During the next few weeks, they will interview in person the top three candidates. The committee hopes to have a candidate to present for congregational approval by the beginning of the year. Questions may be directed to committee chair Keller Staley at 301-263-0223 or kstaley@TMS-HQ.com.

Parish Notes

Congratulations and happy birthday to **Margaret Fable** who celebrated her 90th birthday on October 23 and to **Mable Janes** who turned 93 years young on October 20. Both women were honored at the Prime Timers luncheon on October 19.

Megan Aileen Fannon, daughter of **Stacey and Casey Fannon**, was baptized by Rev. Rich Smith at Westmoreland on October 16.

Focus on "Giving" this Thanksgiving

Please help the Shaw Community Ministry with furnishing Thanksgiving dinners to needy families and seniors in the inner-city Shaw community. You may help by providing a Thanksgiving basket (or bag) of the following non-perishable food items or equivalents: 2 boxes of stuffing mix, 2 cans of green beans, 2 cans of sweet potatoes, 2 cans of any fruit, 2 cans of cranberry sauce, 2 boxes of macaroni and cheese, 1 box of muffin mix, and 1 box of cake mix. You may leave your contributions on the Social Hall stage **November 13 - November 20**. Or, you may help by making a financial contribution toward Thanksgiving turkeys and other perishable items. Checks should be made out to Shaw Community Ministry and left in the church office or mailed to Barbara McDowell, 3607 Whispering Lane, Falls Church VA 22041.

Book Groups

The Women's Book Group meets on **November 2 at 7:30 pm** at Charlotte Moore's home to discuss *The Spiral Staircase* by Karen Armstrong. The December selection is *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith. The **Wednesday Evening Book Group** meets **November 9 at 7:30 pm** in the Parlor to discuss *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking* by Malcolm Gladwell.

Hallelujah!

Handel's *Messiah* is one of the best-loved musical compositions of all time. In this six-week study we will absorb ourselves in the Christmas portion of the oratorio. Since the entire text of the composition of the oratorio comes straight from the King James Version of the Bible, this study pays close attention to the scripture as well as the music. The good news is that you do not have to be an expert in either the Bible or the music to benefit from this course. The six sessions will include: Introduction, Comfort, Comfort My People, Who May Abide the Day of His coming?, For Unto Us A Child is Born and Glory to God in the Highest.

Dr. Bob Maddox of Briggs Church will lead parallel sessions at **Wednesday noon and then Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM in the Parlor, November 9 – December 14.** The noon sessions (12:00-1:30) will be brown bag lunch and the evening sessions (7:00-8:30) will be potluck.

It is recommended that everyone purchase the Kerygma study book, *The Bible and Handel's Messiah* at \$17. A wonderful companion book is *Messiah: The Gospel According to Handel's Oratorio*, by Roger Bullard, at \$18, available through your local bookstore. Please register for the course with Sanelma Sutton at 301-229-7766 or ssutton@westmorelanducc.org so she can order the study book.

Port O' Call: Alexandria

Join the Westmoreland Adventurers for a tour of Woodlawn Plantation and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House with lunch (on your own) at Mount Vernon Inn. Depart Westmoreland at 9:30 am **November 10**, return at 3:30 pm. Ticket: \$13. Sign up with Sanelma in the church office: 301-229-7766 or ssutton@westmorelanducc.org.

Christian Education

We've had a very successful first session of Sunday school this year. Thanks to all the teachers! We learned about Old Testament stories including Creation, Noah's Ark, and Abraham and Sarah. We've also done special service-learning projects: playing a refugee displacement game to empathize with evacuees and making health kits for Church World Service. We also created a gorgeous Rainbow of Promise. This session we are focusing on Moses and the Ten Commandments. Our next **Community Sunday, November 6**, will focus on Native Americans and UCC outreach to them.

Art Class - Amber Neuroth and Bob Maddox will be co-teaching a class from **3:30 pm - 5:00 pm Wednesdays** this Fall for 3rd – 6th graders. We will be exploring faith concepts in different works of art. The goal is to enrich faith through imagination and reflection. We also hope to create some art in response to what we have learned. The cost is free and open to anyone so tell your friends at school! Register with Amber at 301-229-7766 or aneuroth@westmorelanducc.org

Youth - Youth (grades 6 - 12) are invited to join the Design Team for the new Youth Room in Room 40! We had a great first meeting on October 13, which generated lots of terrific ideas. Help make the vision a reality! Contact Amber if you are interested. On **Friday, November 18** meet at Westmoreland at 7:30 pm to attend a Potomac Association lock-in at Little River Church in Annandale, VA for DC area high school students. Saturday we will participate in the DC Walk for the Homeless and return to Westmoreland by 1 pm. Join us **Sunday, November 20** following church for the Middle School trip to see *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. Following lunch at church and a discussion of the spiritual aspects of the Harry Potter stories, we will go to a local theater to screen the movie.

FIFTH ANNUAL PRE-HOLIDAY PALESTINIAN EMBROIDERY SALE

*Friday, November 18, 5 – 8 pm and
Saturday, November 19, 10 am – 2 pm in Room 35*

You can purchase beautiful and unique items, ranging from key chains to dresses, made by Palestinian women in refugee camps and cooperatives around the Middle East who are struggling with bleak economic prospects. Often the only wage earners, they desperately need markets for their embroidery to provide income for their families. Enjoy their beautiful work and know that your purchase will directly benefit these women.

The Palestinian Embroidery Project works with refugee cooperatives supported by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the YWCA and American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA).



November 1-15, 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Staff 10 am and 11 am	2 Alanon 12 pm	3 Treble Choir 6:45 pm Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	4 Alanon 12 pm AA 8 pm	5
6 Fellowship B'fast 8:30 am Worship 10 am	7 Boards meet at 7:30 pm	8 Staff 10 am and 11 am Mid East Comm. 7:30 pm	9 Alanon 12 pm Messiah Study 12 pm and 7 pm	10 Treble Choir 6:45 pm Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	11 Alanon 12 pm AA 8 pm	12 Bazaar 10 am
13 Worship 10 am Chess Club 11:15 am Confirmation 3 pm Worship 6 pm	14	15 Staff 10 am and 11 am				

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
November 15	November 7
December 1	November 15

Articles should be emailed to:
jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

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