



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 54, No. 1

January 1, 2007

Transition Task Force: An Interim Report

The following is excerpted from the Transition Task report to the congregation. Copies containing the full text are available in the church office.

Members of the Task Force: Joe Clayton, Gail Edie, Mary Grossnick, Jean Lutterman, and Caryn McTighe Musil

At Westmoreland's 2006 annual meeting, the congregation recommended the establishment of a Transition Task Force to review the job descriptions of the Senior Minister and other ministerial staff in light of the elimination of the Associate Pastor's position, which necessitated reconfiguring staff responsibilities. As the work of the Transition Task Force (appointed by the Executive Committee) approaches the culmination of its charge, the committee wanted to offer a preliminary update for the congregation in anticipation of our final report to the Trustees and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January.

Since April, the group has met steadily to address a series of tasks. It has reviewed all ministerial job descriptions, revised the Senior Minister's job description, created benchmarks for the newly defined responsibilities, and integrated the new job description and benchmarks into this year's annual review of the Senior Minister (to be carried out by the chair of the Personnel Committee, Elizabeth Fox, and the Moderator, Caryn McTighe Musil, in January.

The summary below describes the focus of the meetings of the Transition Task Force (TTF):

May 21 TTF met to review and clarify its charge and the process for working together in the coming months.

June 6 The TTF worked with the Senior Minister to define the positions of Minister of Children, Youth and Families, Minister of Discipleship and Director of Music, plus that of the Senior Minister's, in ways that allowed for the most creative teamwork between the four, the greatest coverage for Westmoreland needs, and attentiveness to transitional issues related to the former Briggs members.

June 26 TTF affirmed the recalibration of the Senior Minister's covenant and call to Westmoreland, with special efforts to strengthen four principal areas for the future: leadership, pastoral care, supervision and guidance, and outreach and growth. The TTF then drafted a set of benchmarks to aim for in each dimension.

Summer We refined the last elements of the benchmarks through email correspondence.

September 26 TTF sought the Executive Committee's approval, in principle, of our efforts thus far to emphasize the expectation for strong leadership and vision, continued importance of growing the church, and the larger role for pastoral care (more one-on-one involvement by the Senior Minister

Worship Topics & Themes

Sunday, January 7

Epiphany Celebration
"Home by Another Road"
Matthew 2:1-12
Rich Smith preaching
Communion

Sunday, January 14

"What to Do
When the Wine Runs Out"
John 2:1-11
Rich Smith preaching

Sundown Service

Celebration of
Dr. Martin Luther King
6 pm

Save the Dates

Budget Meeting January 14

Discussion of the proposed 2007 budget.

Annual Meeting January 21

Election of officers and board members; voting on the 2007 budget.

The meetings will take place in the Social Hall immediately following worship. Lunch will be served prior to the Annual Meeting. Child care will be provided for both meetings.

as well as his taking the lead in coordinating the multiple aspects of care offered by other ministers and by lay leaders).

October 3 Focused with the Senior Minister on taking stock of the reconfiguration of staff responsibilities with particular attentiveness to

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Meet Our New Members

Please welcome the following individuals who joined the Westmoreland congregation on December 10:

Kathy Ireland has been attending Westmoreland for several years and serves as the SOME coordinator on BCA. She is an attorney, currently an independent consultant. Kathy is married to Jay Ireland and they have two children, Andrew (14) and James (10). In her spare time she enjoys reading and Sudoku. Kathy lives in Bethesda. She is joining by reaffirmation of faith.

Kristen Donoghue and her husband, **Jon Hacker** are attorneys: Kristen works for Hogan & Hartson and Jon for O'Melveny & Myers. They have two children, David (6) and Maggie (4). Kristen enjoys skiing, golf, politics and soccer and Jon's interests are politics, biking, hiking and reading. They live in Washington, DC. They are joining by reaffirmation of faith.

Doreen Mannion works as a computer systems analyst. She is also a student at Wesley Seminary working on her Masters of Divinity and is an intern here at Westmoreland. Her leisure time interests include sports, travel and reading. She lives in Bowie. Doreen is joining by reaffirmation of faith.

Jenny Backus and **Ed Pagano** are attorneys: Jenny works as a consultant and Ed is chief of staff for Sen. Patrick Leahy. Their son, Jack, (2 1/2 months) was baptized here on November 26. Jenny likes travel, reading, scrabble, theater and skiing. Ed enjoys golf, basketball and reading. They live in Washington, DC. Jenny joins by letter of transfer from Putney Federated Church in Putney, VT and Ed joins by reaffirmation of faith.

Phoenix Affirmation Class to Resume

Rev. Bob Maddox's class, "The Phoenix Affirmations" resumes this month. Parallel classes will be held on Sunday mornings, 8:45 am in Room 35 and Mondays at 12:30 pm at Carpenter's House (beginning **January 14 and 15**, respectively). You need not have begun the class in the fall. If you wish to join, contact the office (301-229-7766) to get the book on which the class is based.

Parish Notes

Our prayers of sympathy are extended to **Elizabeth Carlson** on the death of her twin sister, Frances Kottke, in Minneapolis, MN on December 8.

Gloria Hilton, (former member of Briggs Church) and new member of Westmoreland, died on December 4 after a long illness. Rev. Maddox conducted a graveside service at 11 am on December 28 at Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Congratulations and best wishes to **Nona** and **Ken Cox** who celebrate their sixty fourth wedding anniversary on January 1.

Susan and **Fred Maynard**, who joined Westmoreland last year (and drove from Williamsburg to attend services), have relocated to Wiscasset, ME. They say they are trying hard to find a church they like as much as Westmoreland.

Ed. Note: Westmoreland Church was built based on the design of the First Congregational Church UCC in Wiscasset, ME.

Transition Task Force

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pastoral care. TTF explored with Rich the special challenge of coordinating the multiple structures of lay-led pastoral care so it interfaced appropriately with his and staff's necessary role in pastoral care.

November 8 TTF met with the Senior Minister present to translate the benchmarks into this year's Senior Minister's annual review.

December 10 Final refinements were made to the document for the Sr. Minister's evaluation, a process for the review established, and plans were discussed for an open conversation with the congregation scheduled for January 7 to answer any questions and solicit feedback.

The Transition Task Force believes that the seven-month process has been a useful one for the Senior Min-

ister and his staff and has satisfied some overall concerns about the shift in ministerial responsibilities in light of staff changes. Any member of the Transition Task Force is happy to answer private questions from members of the Congregation and we look forward to an open discussion on **January 7** in the parlor after worship.

Caryn McTighe Musil

Read All About It

Library News

A gift from **Charlotte Moore** has greatly augmented your library's small collection of hymnals. Of special interest is a copy of **The Hymnal** (1941) published by Eden Publishing House for the General Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Other hymnals new to the collection were published for the Roman Catholic Church, the Protestant Episcopal Church, the Baptist Church (the **Broadman Hymnal**), and the Presbyterian Church. Nondenominational hymnals include one published by the National Council of Churches and one published by the government Printing Office for the Armed Forces. **The New Hymnal for American Youth** (1930) was once used by young people in this congregation.



Book Groups

The Women's Reading Group will meet Wednesday, **January 3**, 7:30 pm at Ann Morales' home. RSVP to her at 301-229-7286. The book under discussion is **River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze**, by Peter Hessler. The February selection is **Ghost Light, A Memoir**, by Frank Rich.

The Wednesday Evening Book Group meets **January 10**, 7:30 pm in the Parlor to discuss **A Farewell to Arms** by Ernest Hemingway. All are invited! The February selection is **Things Fall Apart** by Chinua Achebe.

Westmorelander Authors a Book

Frances Copeland Stickles recently published **Another Sort of Pioneer, Mary Shipman Penrose** (Castle Island Publishing) the biography of a woman who served as a national leader of the YWCA movement in its efforts to empower American women. Born in 1868, and married to a Congregational minister, Penrose raised six children while devoting herself to civic efforts in Walla Walla, Washington.

Of General Interest

Several articles of interest to Westmorelanders can be found on the What's Happening Table in the Social Hall:

George Singleton's alma mater, Pfeiffer College, published an article about George's decision to attend that school and its impact on his career.

Mark Jenkins, staff writer for **Outside Magazine**, published an article in July about his friend and former Volunteer Corps member (1986-87) **Mike Moe**, now deceased, and Mike's last climbing expedition.

An October 22 **New York Times** article explores the world of modern church marketing.

Weather Closing Policy



Winter is here! In the event of inclement weather, this is the church's closing policy:

- When schools and administrative offices are closed, Rich will decide if the church office is closed. If it is closed, a message will be placed on the church voicemail system by 7:30 am.
- If a worship service is cancelled due to inclement weather, a message will be posted on the voicemail system by 8 am.

In both situations, Rich will also post the information on Westmorelandnet, (assuming there is electrical power). In addition, Channel 9 will broadcast our information along with other closings.

UCC Turns Fifty

The United Church of Christ (formed from the union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Church in 1957) will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary this June. The occasion will be marked at the General Synod, to be held in Hartford, CT June 22-26. A good part of Friday through Sunday will be devoted to celebrating the past and discussing the future at Synod in the City.

Westmoreland is planning to take a group of adults and youth to Synod. Details of the trip will be available shortly and reservations should be made by mid-March. Jeff Eagan will be leading the group. We hope a large group of Westmorelanders will plan to attend at least **June 22 - 24**. Mark your calendars now! Visit www.ucc.org.



**Annual Directory
Available for Review**

A preliminary edition of the 2007 directory will be available in the Social Hall every Sunday in January. Please review your household entry for accuracy. If you are unable to get to church, please call Janet Moyer in the church office.

January 1 - 15, 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day Office closed	2	3 Women's Reading Grp 7:30 pm	4 Choir rehearsals Pass Tones 7 Chancel 8-9:30	5	6 Yoga 9 am
7 Fellowship Bkfst 8:30 am Worship & Church Sch 10am	8	9	10 Wed. Evening Book Grp 7:30 pm	11 Choir rehearsals Pass Tones 7 Chancel 8-9:30	12	13 Yoga 9 am
14 Phoenix Class 8:45 am Worship & Church Sch. 10am Budget Meeting 11:30 am Chess Club 11:30 Sundown Service 6 pm	15 Phoenix Class 12:30 pm Carpenter Hse	16	17	18 Choir rehearsals Pass Tones 7 Chancel 8-9:30	19	20 Yoga 9 am CAP Begins 9 am WCM Conc 8 pm

Senior Minister.....Richard L. Smith
 Minister for Children, Youth and Families.....Amber Henry Neuroth
 Minister of Discipleship.....Robert Maddox
 Director of Music.....Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez
 Newsletter Editor.....Janet Moyer
Office Hours: 9 AM - 5 PM

Newsletter Deadlines

Issue Date	Deadline
Jan 15	Jan 3
Feb 1	Jan 17

Articles should be emailed to:
jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

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