



# The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 54, No. 2

January 15, 2007

## A Prayer for the New Year

In honor of our outgoing Moderator, **Caryn Musil**, I would like to share part of a New Year's prayer from an author I greatly admire, who was also once Caryn's pastor, Ted Loder. He speaks of the New Year as a "teetering time, [a] time in the balance, [a] time of waiting," and prays,

"...make me aware of moments, moments of song, Moments of bread and friends, Moments of jokes (some of them on me) Which for a moment deflate my pomposities.... Moments when broken things get mended, with glue or guts or mercy or imagination;

Moments when splinters shine and rocks shrink, Moments when I know myself best, Not because I am so awfully important, But because you are so awesomely God... O Patient God, make something new in me, in this year, for you."

In this past year God has indeed made something new of all of us, and we look forward to discovering what surprises lie in store for 2007. May it be a year of magnificent moments!

See you in Church! **Rick**

## Worship Topics & Themes

**Sunday, January 21**

"Body by Jesus"

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Rich Smith preaching

Annual Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, January 28**

"Love is Something You Do"

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Bob Maddox preaching

## Annual Meeting

Read All About It

The Annual Meeting will be held on **January 21** in the Social Hall immediately following the worship service. To stave off hunger pangs, we will hold a "Super Coffee Hour" – lots of finger foods. We are asking that everyone participate by bringing something that day:

- If your last name begins **A to H** bring a **savory item** (e.g. little sandwiches, cheese and crackers, chips & dip etc.)
- If your last name begins **I – R**, bring **fruit or veggies**
- If your last name begins **S – Z**, bring a **sweet** (cookies, sweet bread, brownies etc.)

The Board of Membership and Fellowship will provide beverages. There will be child care

## Exploring Worship at Westmoreland

The entire congregation is invited to attend an initial conversation with **Dr. Sid Fowler** and the church staff as we begin a four-month adventure in exploring worship and spiritual formation at the church. This meeting takes place on Wednesday evening, **January 17**, 7:30-9 pm in the Parlor.

The meeting is just one of several ways that Sid will collect information and opinions. To be sure that your comments are included, fill out the survey that was distributed in the worship services on January 7 and 14. If you didn't get to church, it is available in the church office and the Narthex. Sid will also be observing worship and meeting with various small groups.

Dr. Fowler holds the Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity, Duke University and a Doctorate in Education and Religion from Columbia University/Union Theological Seminary, New York City with extensive experience working with UCC national staff and churches in worship and spiritual formation.



**Never place a period where God has placed a comma.**



## Nordbeck Library Celebrates UCC Anniversary

In honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UCC in 2007, the January Library Table in the Social Hall features books concerning the history of the UCC and the denominations that came together to form it.

Prominently displayed are the seven volumes of **The Living Theological Heritage of the United Church of Christ**. These books bring together the key documents that the theologians and historians of our faith draw upon. Volume One contains pre-reformation material while Volume Seven, titled **United and Uniting**, includes the documents created in the period leading up to the formation of the UCC to the present.

As the roots of our particular congregation are Congregational, most of the early books are about that denomination. However, **A History of the Evangelical and Reformed Church** by David Dunn and others reminds us that less than a decade after the union of the Reformed Church and the Evangelical Church in 1934 church leaders began conversations about a union with the Congregational Christian Churches.

One of our books is itself historical! If you look on the title page of **History of American Congregationalism** by Gaius Glenn Atkins and Frederick L. Ashley you will see the stamp of the Library of Mount Pleasant Congregational Church, which moved to Westmoreland Circle in 1949 and was renamed Westmoreland Congregational Church. Information about the move and the people who made the move may be found in **Mount Pleasant Memories -- Westmoreland Beginnings** (1985) and **Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ: A Centennial History** (1986).

*Judy Newman*, Librarian

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## Desperately Seeking...Volunteers

Well, maybe we're not "desperate", but we sure are in need! If you have a flexible work schedule and/or just a little while to give us, the church office needs volunteers for the following times:

About 2 hours on **Wednesday** and **Thursday** mornings to do some simple office tasks and answer the phone.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could join our excellent current "unpaid staff": Ann Morales, Judy Newman, Sally Fox, and Alice Duncan.

Many thanks to them and to the recently "retired" Ruth Ann Gieser.

## Roger Revisited

On January 21, our present Director of Music, Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez, will conduct the Chancel Choir in "The Family of God" composed by Roger Ames, a former Director of Music, and commissioned in 1985 for the Westmoreland Centennial in 1986.

Roger was with Westmoreland from 1972 when he filled a new position as Fellow in Music where he initiated many of our innovative musical efforts. He was charged with giving particular attention to the development of musical activities for youth. In addition, he initiated a format for the contemporary service held in the mid-1970's. He was Director of Music 1976 -1978 and he continued to compose, including his well-known "Amistad Opera".

## Winter and Lenten Educational Opportunities

### Winter

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.

### Lent

Revs. Rich Smith and Bob Maddox are planning Lenten studies, Rich contemplates a series of two to four conversations around the history and theology of the United Church of Christ to be offered both during the day and the evening.

Bob Maddox is projecting a four-week examination of the Easter narratives in the four gospels on Sunday mornings and Monday afternoons. Time and exact dates are to be arranged and announced in the bulletin and future Westmorelanders.

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## Sandwiches for Martha's Table

After the Christmas break, we will again be making sandwiches for Martha's Table on **Tuesday, January 30**, 10:30 am in the WCUCC kitchen. If you have just a little time to spare, join the energetic team of sandwich makers for one hour. Bob Maddox is the delivery captain.

## Leadership Retreat to Focus on Worship

The major focus of the annual Leadership Retreat for all **board members and officers** will be how our spirituality is reflected in worship and activities at Westmoreland. The session on worship will be led by Dr. Sid Fowler, former Minister for Worship, Liturgy and Spiritual Formation with the national offices of the UCC. (See the article on page 1 and the December 15 issue of the Westmorelander.) The retreat, **Saturday, February 3, 9 am - 12 noon** (coffee and pastry at 8:30) is particularly important as it will attempt to integrate cross-board interests in worship and is a rare opportunity to work with an expert who brings a wide-ranging perspective to the subject of worship strategies. Bring your thoughts and your energy to the retreat.

In addition to the session on worship we will present some exciting proposals for summer 2007. Be prepared for some surprises!

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## Youth Trip to Hartford

In anticipation of our taking a group of youth to the General Synod in Hartford, Connecticut June 22 – 26 for the anniversary celebration of the UCC and a mission project, the Potomac Association has organized an informational meeting for youth and their parents. The meeting will be held **Sunday, January 28, 3 pm** at Christ Congregational Church in Silver Spring. You will be able to ask questions about the travel arrangements, housing and the nature of the service project. Please contact Amber to let her know you will be attending: [aneuroth@westmorelanducc.org](mailto:aneuroth@westmorelanducc.org) or 301-229-7766.

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## “Green at Westmoreland” to Hold a Second Session

Interested in environmental issues but don't know where to start? Start right here at home... and church. Be part of an ad hoc group forming around the concept of helping Westmoreland Church and families make fresh commitments to environmental responsibility. Join us on Monday **January 15, 7:30 pm** in Bob Maddox's office.

The **Passing Tones** sing a beautiful anthem for the Baby Jesus on Christmas Eve.



## Parish Notes

Congratulations to **Bunty Ketcham** and her new husband Dr. Morton Schussheim on their marriage on December 28. They are alternating living at both residences.

**Bob and Linda Maddox** will participate in a University of Georgia symposium on the thirtieth anniversary of the inauguration of Jimmy Carter as President, January 18-20, 2007. Dr. Maddox will also lead the invocation at a luncheon at which Mrs. Rosalynn Carter will

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## Coffee Hour Needs YOU

If you enjoy the refreshments available at Coffee Hour, **please sign up to host for one Sunday**. The food need not be elaborate; the focus of the time is fellowship. But a few sweet and savory items add to our time together. Hosts are needed beginning January 28 through the remainder of the year. Sign up on the Membership and Fellowship bulletin board in the Social Hall or contact Pamela Mertz at 301-229-0972 or [mertzmd@aol.com](mailto:mertzmd@aol.com).

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## Book Clubs

Join one of Westmoreland's book groups for lively discussions and fellowship:

The Wednesday Evening Book Club meets on **February 14, 7:30 pm** to discuss **Things Fall Apart** by Chinua Achebe.

The February selection of the Women's Reading Group is **Ghost Light, A Memoir** by Frank Rich. Meeting details to be announced.



**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 15 - 31, 2007**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>15 Martin Luther King Day</b> Office closed <b>Green Grp 7:30</b> <b>Ex. Comm 7:30</b>	16	<b>17 Prime Timers</b> 12 Noon <b>Worship Discussion</b> 7:30 pm	18  <b>Choir rehearsals</b> Pass Tones 7 Chancel 8-9:30	19	20 <b>Yoga 9 am</b>
<b>21 Phoenix Class</b> 8:45 am <b>Worship &amp; Church Sch</b> 10am  <b>Annual Meeting</b> 11:30 am	<b>22 Phoenix Class</b> 12:30 pm Carpenter Hse	23	24	25  <b>Choir rehearsals</b> Pass Tones 7 Chancel 8-9:30	<b>Vol. Corps Retreat</b>	
<b>28 Phoenix Class</b> 8:45 am <b>Worship &amp; Church Sch.</b> 10am  <b>Vol. Corps Ret</b>	<b>29 Phoenix Class</b> 12:30 pm Carpenter Hse	<b>30 Sandwich making</b> 10:30 am	31	1  <b>Choir rehearsals</b> Pass Tones 7 Chancel 8-9:30	2	3  <b>Leadership Retreat 8:30</b>  Yoga 9 am

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
Feb 1	Jan 17
Feb 15	Feb 1

**Articles should be emailed to:**  
**jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org**

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