



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 54, No. 5

March 1, 2007

Spiritual Spring Training

On the cold, gray day that I am writing this my spirits are lifted by thoughts that the baseball season is not that far off! As a new stadium rises near the Anacostia, and reports come from Florida on the state of the Nats, I am reminded of something a colleague once wrote: "Lent is Spring Training for the Soul... It is a time to exercise long unused spiritual muscles, a time to sharpen the eye to better see opportunities, a time to hone the reflexes to respond to needs, a time to strengthen legs for a second mile, a time to empower arms for the heavy lifting of discipleship, a

time to become better prepared for Opening Day (another name for Easter!)"

Whether your Spirit is renewed through baseball, or the promise of a Spring Day, or through the traditional Lenten disciplines of prayer, study and good works – or a combination of all of these, I hope this will be an extraordinary time which will result in your being more alive, and more ready to receive the Good News of Easter, not that many days away!

See you in Church!

Rich

Worship Topics & Themes

Sunday, March 4

Second Sunday in Lent

"Lunch Counters and Sunday Picnics"

Luke 5:27-39

Rich Smith

Chancel Communion

Sunday, March 11

Third Sunday in Lent

"Soul Thirst"

Psalm 63:1-4, Isaiah 55:1-9

Rich Smith preaching

Chancel Communion

Second Sunday

Sundown Service - 6 pm

Three Choirs...One Voice

A letter from:

Grace Cho, Music Director
All Saints Lutheran Church
Bowie, MD

Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez,
Dir. of Music

Westmoreland Congregational UCC
Maurice Boyer, Music Director
St Matthew Presbyterian Church
Silver Spring, MD

Dear friends,

Over a meal a few days before Christmas, we -- Grace, Alejandro and Maurice -- came upon the idea of organizing a joint concert that would involve our three choirs and would take place around Easter. We thought it would be a wonderful opportunity for our three different Christian communities to be-

come acquainted and work together to make music, and, by the same token, give something to those in need in our community. After some thinking, we settled on two masterpieces ideally suited for the Lent-Easter season: Gabriel Fauré's deeply reflective *Requiem* and movements from Handel's *Messiah*.

It will thus be our Lenten journey to explore these rich masterpieces and share them with you, our respective communities. But also it is our wish to be the hands of Christ in our community at this central time in the church year.

All proceeds from the concert at Westmoreland Congregational UCC will go to Bethesda Cares. Those from the concert at All



Sunday, March 11

Set your clock AHEAD one hour
before you go to bed
Saturday, March 10

Saints Lutheran in Bowie will benefit a local charity in that community.

The project will culminate in two performances, which will involve 50-60 singers, two soloists and an orchestra. The first concert will take place at Westmoreland on Friday, **March 30**, at 8 pm. The second will be at All Saints Lutheran in Bowie on Saturday, **March 31**, at 7 pm.

We hope you will join us.

Yours in Christ,
Grace, Alejandro and Maurice

Westmoreland Arts and Crafts Exhibit

Opening at Coffee Hour on
Palm Sunday, April 1, 2007
Mabry Room (35)

All Westmoreland artists and crafters are invited to contribute up to three ready-to-hang or to-place items, which can range from paintings and drawings to quilts and hand-knit sweaters. Your personal creation is what we are looking for. Children and adults are included. Please contact Martha Hill to let her know what you plan to exhibit: mhill@templerofofshalom or 202-363-6172.

Ministries for Children and Youth

Sunday Childcare is Expanded

On Sunday, February 18, Westmoreland began offering childcare starting at 9 am for young children (0-6) in the nursery. This expanded childcare schedule will enable parents to attend an adult education class, practice with the choir, or attend an early meeting. If there is interest, we may be able to expand to activities for older children in this hour as well. Please contact Rev. Amber Neuroth with your interest and feedback.

Take in a Movie: "Amazing Grace"

On February 23, the movie "Amazing Grace", based on the story of British MP William Wilburforce who worked tirelessly to end the slave trade in England, opened at theaters across the country. The movie also tells the story of transformed slave ship captain John Newton who wrote the familiar hymn by the same name. At the jazz service on February 18, Westmorelanders joined in a rousing version of "Amazing Grace" accompanied by the Rick Whitehead Trio. Following worship, Rev. Rich Smith showed the film's trailer in the Parlor. Complete the story by taking your family to see the movie.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days

March 9 - 12,
Doubletree Hotel, Crystal City, Virginia

Workshops on domestic and international policy
Ecumenical worship services ▪ Advocacy training
Educating Congressional leaders
Register at www.advocacydays.org

Prayer

Father, Mother, God,
thank you for your presence
during the hard and mean days,
for then we have you to lean upon.

Thank you for your presence
during the Holy Days, for then we are able
to celebrate you and our families
and our friends.

For those who have no voice,
we ask you to speak.

For those who feel unworthy,
we ask you to pour your love out
in waterfalls of tenderness.

For those who live in pain,
we ask you to bathe them
in the river of your healing.

For those who are lonely, we ask
you to keep them company.

For those who are depressed,
we ask you to shower upon them
the light of hope.

Dear Creator, You, the borderless
sea of substance, we ask you to give to all the
world that which we need most – Peace.

Maya Angelou

Tell Your "Life Story" at School

Shaw Community Ministry is launching a Saturday Academy to encourage inner-city youth to widen their horizons. One of our activities will be providing the young people an opportunity to speak with individuals with interesting careers, travels, hobbies, or other life experiences. You don't have to be a rocket scientist, lion tamer, or FBI agent in order to participate. We welcome medical professionals, civil servants, former Peace Corps volunteers, musicians and artists (professional or amateur), and others to share their stories informally for an hour or so on a Saturday morning. To volunteer, or for more information, contact Westmoreland's Shaw Community Ministry representatives: Barbara McDowell (703-354-8432) and Caryn McTighe Musil (301-493-4571).

Library News

Books for the Lenten and Easter seasons, while no longer on the Library Table at Coffee Hour after March 4, will remain on the Library Cart at the back of the Library through Easter. These include the three volumes entitled **Imaging the Word** (United Church Press) that present images and words (mostly poetry) to illustrate the passages of the **Revised Common Lectionary**. Sid Fowler, who at the time the books were published, was Editor for Curriculum Resources of the United Church Press, wrote the Foreward for each volume.

I have included a copy of the **Book of Common Prayer**. Although it is the official liturgy of the Episcopal Church, Christians of many denominations occasionally use its prayers for private devotions. **The Easter Story**, published by the National Gallery of Art, is a book families will enjoy looking through together.

On March 11 we will feature books that our seminary intern, Amanda Tomkins, brings to our attention. Amanda's home church in Ohio recently took her into "care." This is a step toward ordination in the United Church of Christ.

Judy Newman, Librarian

The UCC at Fifty: A United and Uniting Church

First in a series of articles excerpted from **Shine: God's People**

"As we celebrate the fifty-year journey as a united and uniting church, remember with gratitude the vision that our mothers and fathers in the faith held in trust for us. We now hold that vision in trust for our children.

In 1957 and the years immediately following the union, the coming together of our congregations, including those of the Convention of the South, represented an important embrace of diversity in this new family. Today, however, we experience an even greater breadth of tradition as we include in our common life congregations of the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa, of the Church of South India, and so many others. Their faith, commitments, history, and culture enrich the whole of the United Church of Christ.

Christians from other denominations in the United States have also shaped us. The United Church of Christ currently includes almost five hundred federated congregations. These are local churches formed across denominational lines and which share in the lives of two or more traditions.

We know that the unity of the church is always for the sake of the mission and ministry of the church. When Jesus prayed "that they may all be one," he didn't finish the sentence by saying "so that their choirs might be bigger," or "so that they might have enough kids for a youth group," or "so that they might be able to afford a custodian." He prayed "that they may all be one that the world might believe..."

As a united and uniting church we know that difference is to be celebrated and can be sustained in a body committed to relationship. Differences can never be an excuse for division, even when it is difficult."

United Church of Christ, 2006; *Sidney D. Fowler*, Editor

Parish Notes



Congratulations to **Alice Saylor** (now Alice Hogarty) who married **Tom Hogarty** on February 14th in Annapolis (despite the ice storm!). Alice is at the same address in Bethesda. Tom will be back and forth between Wyoming and Bethesda until he completes the sale of his practice in July, 2008.

Book Groups

The Women's Reading Group

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter

by Carson McCullers, **March 7**, 7:30 pm, Bonnie Hetzel's home.

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Wednesday Evening Book Group

Things Fall Apart

by Chinua Achebe and **House of the Spirits** by Isabel Allende, **March 14**, 7:30 pm in the Parlor.

Middle East Film Rescheduled

The Middle East Committee meeting, scheduled for **March 13** at 7:30 in the parlor, will include the screening originally planned for the canceled February meeting. The film, "Outlawed: Extraordinary Rendition, Torture, and Disappearances in the 'War on Terror'", was produced by "Witness," in association with a long list of human rights groups, such as ACLU, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the National Council of Churches. Jean Athey, a representative of the Washington Region Religious Campaign Against Torture (WRRCAT), will introduce the film and lead a discussion afterward. She will focus on moral and religious issues related to the topic.



Lenten Class

Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox will lead a three-session class on the Easter Story as told in the Gospels. Parallel classes will be held 8:30 am on Sundays (Bob's office) and 12:30 pm on Mondays (Carpenter House) beginning Sunday, March 11.

March 1—15, 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Choir rehearsals Passing Tones 7 Chancel 8-9:30	2 Middle Sch Youth 6 pm	3 Yoga 9 am
4 Fellowship Bkfst 8:30 am Worship & Church Sch 10am Child Choir 11:45	5	6	7 Women's Reading Grp 7:30 pm	8 Choir rehearsals Passing Tones 7 Chancel 8-9:30	9	10 Yoga 9 am
11 Daylight Savings Worship & Church Sch 10am Chess Club 11:30 Child Choir 11:45 Even Worship 6pm	12	13 Mid-East Committee 7:30 pm	14 Wednesday Evening Book Group 7:30 pm	15 Choir rehearsals Passing Tones 7 Chancel 8-9:30		

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
Mar 15	Mar 2
April 1	Mar 11

Articles should be emailed to:
jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

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