



# The Westmorelander

**Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ**

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

Volume 54, No. 6

March 15, 2007

## Bother Us!

Our Westmoreland Cares program has been underway for six months now, and has been working fairly well – notes are being written, phone calls made, meals and flowers delivered, receptions provided. People are being cared for, in many ways, at many levels, and a good number of Westmorelanders are involved in doing the caring. We are becoming more and more a caring congregation. But we can do better!

As overall coordination of Pastoral Care now falls to me, I am in constant touch with those who help facilitate the caring – our professional and administrative team, as well as Sue Kirk who coordinates lay pastoral care and Mary Sue Johnson who coordinates Community Cares. There seems to be some confusion as to what each of these is. Basically, Lay Pastoral Care meets long term needs, those of shut-ins, for example. Community Cares is designed to meet short-term needs, such as providing for food for a family during a crisis, or a memorial service reception.

When we in the office learn of a need within the congregation, I de-

termine the best way to address it and notify the appropriate person. If it's a hospitalization, for example, I will visit myself, or send Bob or Amber. I might also call Mary Sue and arrange for meals to be sent to the family. We have a lot of people willing to help out and extend a hand and heart, and I am most grateful!

Now, here's where we can do even better: Many times someone will call the office and preface their conversation with the words, "I hate to bother you," or "I don't want to bother the minister..." To which I say, "Bother us!" That's what we're here for; that's what we are called to do! We want to be here for you, whatever your need is, and in the end, it really is no bother at all! To which end, I remind you of my cell phone, which will find me wherever I am: 301-325-1878. If I'm in a meeting (or walking along the tow-path) leave a message and I'll get right back to you!

Thanks for helping to make us a more caring congregation!

See you in Church...

*Rich*

## Choir Concert

Accompanied by an orchestra, the combined choirs of Westmoreland Congregational UCC ▪ All Saints Lutheran Church St. Matthew Presbyterian Church present a concert featuring

Gabriel Faure's **Requiem** and movements from Handel's **Messiah**

Friday, March 30, 8 pm at Westmoreland Church

Saturday, March 31, 8 pm at All Saints Lutheran Church (Bowie)

**Proceeds from the March 30<sup>th</sup> free-will offering will benefit Bethesda Cares**

## Worship Topics & Themes

**Sunday, March 18**

"Beckoning Love"

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox preaching

**Sunday, March 25**

"Random Kindness  
and Senseless Beauty"

John 12:1-8

Rev. Rich Smith preaching

**Sunday, April 1**

**Palm Sunday**

"The Storm Before the Calm"

Selections from the

Passion Narrative

Luke 22:14-23, 56

Holy Communion

Rev. Rich Smith preaching

## Calling All Westmoreland Artists— Children and Adults



Get in touch with your inner artist! All Westmorelanders are invited to contribute up to three personal creations to the Westmoreland Arts and Crafts Exhibit, opening Palm Sunday, **April 1** in the Mabry Room. Items, which should be ready-to-hand or to-place, may include paintings, drawings, sculpture, quilts and hand-crafted items of clothing.

Please contact Martha Hill to let her know what you plan to exhibit: mhill@templeroofshalom or 202-363-6172.

## Between the Palms and the Resurrection

In a couple of weeks we will mark Palm Sunday at Westmoreland with the greatest sense of “glad tidings” since Christmas. And most of us will go right from the “feel good” sense of Palm Sunday straight to the joyous hallelujah of Easter. But consider the week between and the Maundy Thursday service of Tenebrae. As in the past, the church will be quiet, expectant. As each Bible scripture describing the events of Holy Week is read, the lights will be dimmed and one-by-one the candles will be extinguished until, finally, we reflect in the darkened Sanctuary, a symbol of the darkness that marked Jesus death on the cross. We leave the Sanctuary quietly, without speaking. The service is a reminder Jesus had to die before we could experience the wonder of his resurrection. As Amber said in her sermon on March 4, we “must dim our lights” to prepare ourselves for Jesus’ resurrection. The service of Tenebrae is preparation for the joy of Easter morning. Please join us.

**Thursday, April 5**

6:30 pm: Potluck dinner in the Social Hall

7:30 pm : Service of Tenebrae

---

## Scout Project to Renovate Marie Reed Library

**Miles Batson**, an active youth at Westmoreland, is working on his Eagle Scout project -- renovating the library at the Marie Reed Learning Center, our partner school. He and his volunteers (including 12 Westmorelanders) have cleared, cleaned and repaired the space. Would you like to be a part of this worthwhile project? You can help in two ways: Miles has raised \$2,100 toward his goal of \$4,000 to purchase new tables and chairs for the library. If you would like to donate money, make a check payable to The Briggs Center with “Miles’ Marie Reed Project” in the memo line and send or give it to Miles. There will be a second work day at Marie Reed to assemble the furniture on **March 24 or 25**. If you would like to lend some hands-on help, contact Miles at 301-830-1020.

---

## Annual Directories Available

The annual directory listing all boards, committees, members and friends of Westmoreland is available. If you have not picked one up, you may get one from the narthex or the church office.

## Update on the Worship Initiative

At our recent Westmoreland leadership retreat, February 3, approximately 50 of us got a first glance at the results of our congregation’s worship survey. The survey reflected a surprising response by over 88% of our worshipping community. We discovered that 72% of us see worship as “a time to be inspired to do God’s work of justice and love.” Those who have attended worship at Westmoreland less than a year or are visitors seem to emphasize worship “as an encounter with the presence of God.” At the retreat we began to explore how the worship survey informs what we are doing and how God may lead us into the future.

The “Feel the Spirit” Worship Initiative has more planned. We’ll offer opportunities to look more closely at our worship space, children in worship, connections between justice and worship, how we celebrate sacraments, and the ways we pray together. A group of us prayerfully explored the survey findings in a detailed way on Sunday evening, March 11, following the Second Sunday Sundown Service, that included dinner, reflection, and discussion on the Worship Initiative research.

A steering committee for this initiative is also being formed with representation from each church board. The Steering Committee will guide this initiative as the work unfolds over the next several months. Themes and theories that came out of the research meeting on March 11 will be explored in small groups, led by the appropriate board for that topic. Investigation and discussion will culminate in a church-wide retreat at a date to be announced. Even if you were unable to attend the March 11 gathering we invite you to join the steering committee, and/or explore worship practices you may personally encounter in your travels or vacation. We welcome your ideas, experiences, and involvement. And please keep the worship initiative in your heart and prayers.

*Peggy Alfonso*, Deacons

palfonso@acquisitionssolutions.com

*Robert Benton*, Deacons     *Jeff Eagan*, Moderator

rBenton@wileyrein.com     Jeff.Eagan@eh.doe.gov

---

## Delivery Dates for SOME Casseroles

April 4	July 4	October 3
May 2	August 1	October 31
June 6	September 5	December 5

## Reconstituting the Pastoral Relations Committees

The Executive Committee, at their January meeting, passed a resolution to institute Pastoral Relations Committees for each of our ordained ministers: Rich Smith, Bob Maddox, and Amber Neuroth. This resolution was a product of the January 7th meeting of the Transition Task Force. Establishment of Pastoral Relations Committees is a standard operating procedure and best practice for Protestant congregations; Westmoreland has had such Committees for much of the past half century.

As Moderator, I am issuing a call for members to serve on these committees, which are expected to meet at a minimum three to four times a year. The committee members will be expected to serve both our congregation and our clergy, providing a constructive communication channel to express and share the concerns of members and the minister. These Committees will be selected by and report to the Church Executive Committee. Annual terms (to be set) will be rotating and the Moderator will nominate the chairs. Committees will follow a standard professional protocol.

If you are interested or wish to nominate a member, please submit name and contact information, name of minister, and a short statement explaining why the nominee would like to serve. You may send it via email to [jeff.eagan@verizon.net](mailto:jeff.eagan@verizon.net), mail it to the church noted "Attention: Moderator"; or drop it in the Moderator's mailbox in the church office. The deadline is March 23. Please call or email me if you have any questions: (W) 202-586-4598, (H) 301-652-9047; [jeff.eagan@eh.doe.gov](mailto:jeff.eagan@eh.doe.gov) and [jeff.eagan@verizon.net](mailto:jeff.eagan@verizon.net)

Thanks to all who respond. We appreciate your willingness to serve your church and your clergy.

*Jeff Eagan*, Moderator

---

## Have Dinner with the Volunteers

The following dates are available for you to host the Volunteers Corp for a Thursday night dinner. These are five volunteers who are working at non-profit organizations throughout the city. They invite you to come to the volunteer house (with food) or come to your house or the restaurant of your choice. They are usually available by 7:30 pm.

March 15▪March 29▪April 12▪May 10▪May 24▪June 7▪June 21▪July 19

It is an evening you will enjoy as well as benefit from knowing these outstanding young women. Please contact me: 301-320-0579 or 301-332-8006 or [Robtjr11@comcast.net](mailto:Robtjr11@comcast.net).

*Linda Maddox*

---

### Women's Reading Group

**Snowflower and  
The Secret Fan**

by Lisa See,

Wednesday, **April 4**, 7:30 pm  
Jean Lutterman's home

---

### Wednesday Evening Book Group

**A Life in Secrets: Vera Atkins  
and the Missing Agents of  
WWII** by Sarah Helm.

Wednesday, **April 11**, 7:30 pm  
in the Parlor

## Parish Notes

We extend our prayers of sympathy to **Dick Rogers** and his family on the death of **Betty Blair Rogers**, his wife of 59 years, on March 5. Betty had been a member of Westmoreland for 35 years. A memorial service will be held at Westmoreland on Saturday, **March 31**, 2 pm.

A memorial service will be held for **Elizabeth Sechrist Carlson** on Saturday, **March 24**, 3 pm at Westmoreland.

**Lorraine Murphy** is recovering at the National Naval Medical Center from complications related to an automobile accident. Cheerful cards may be sent to her home that will then be delivered by a friend. Or you may drop them at the church office to be delivered by the ministers when they visit.

---

## Conference Minister Testifies Before Maryland Legislature

CAC Conference Minister John Deckenback testified on two social-justice issues before committees of the Maryland Legislature in recent weeks. On Ash Wednesday, Deckenback testified before House and Senate committees in support of a bill that would abolish the death penalty in the state. And on March 1, Deckenback testified before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee in opposition to SB 564, a bill that seeks to add a provision to the Maryland Constitution that would establish that a marriage between a man and woman is the only valid marriage in the state. Copies of Deckenback's statements are available on the CAC's Website at [www.cacucc.org](http://www.cacucc.org).



Prime Timers gather for lunch and fellowship on Wednesday, **March 21**, 12 Noon. Rev. Maddox will talk about his experiences in the Carter White House. RSVP to Nona Cox at 301-229-6334 or sign up in the Social Hall: Hostesses: Mabel Janes and Jo Ann Harris

**March 15 - 31, 2007**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				15  Choir rehearsals Passing Tones 7 Chancel 8-9:30	16	17 Yoga 9 am
18 Maddox class 8:30 am Worship & Church Sch 10am Child Choir 11:45	19 Maddox class 12:30 pm  Boards meet 7:30 pm	20	21  Prime Timers 12 Noon	22  Choir rehearsals Passing Tones 7 Chancel 8-9:30	23	24 Yoga 9 am
25 Maddox class 8:30 am Worship & Church Sch 10am Child Choir 11:45	26 Maddox class 12:30 pm	27  Exec Comm 7:30 pm	28	29  Choir rehearsals Passing Tones 7 Chancel 8-9:30	30  Choir Concert 8 pm (Westmoreland)	31 Yoga 9 am  Choir Concert 8 pm (Bowie)

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**

<b>Issue Date</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
April 1	Mar 11
April 15	Apr 3

Articles should be emailed to:  
[jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org](mailto:jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org)

The Westmorelander (USPS 680-780) is published semimonthly September to June by Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda, MD 20816. (301) 229-7766

[www.westmorelanducc.org](http://www.westmorelanducc.org)

Postmaster: Send address changes to **The Westmorelander**, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda, MD 20816. ■ Periodical postage paid at Bethesda, MD 20814