



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 54, No. 7

April 1, 2007

Summer 2007: Feel the Spirit in God's Creation

Rev. Rich Smith, Senior Minister, will take a study and refresher sabbatical from early May through Labor Day. Everyone wishes him the very best in this endeavor. We pray he will find exactly what he needs during these months and return in the fall full of new ideas and directions.

The theme that has emerged to frame the summer is Feel the Spirit in God's Creation. This theme, expanded from last fall, picks up concepts from our new Green Group that is working to make the church, families and the larger community more environmentally alert and aware.

The aim of the sabbatical summer is to ensure continuity, energy, substance and community-building while Rich is away. We hope for a time of personal growth in a climate of relaxed fellowship laced with a keener appreciation of creation.

On Sundays we will be continuing to explore innovative ways of experiencing God as we continue the Worship Initiative started with Rev. Sid Fowler. We will welcome strong guest preachers to the pulpit. Former pastor Gordon Forbes preaches on May 27, Memorial Day Sunday. Rev. Tim Tutt and his youth mission team from United Christian Church, Austin, Texas will lead the service on June 3. With the the Briggs Center we have arranged to have Jon Meacham, managing editor of Newsweek, noted journalist, author and analyst

of American culture, preach on June 10 and conduct a Forum afterwards. Calls are out to a few more notable speakers who could greatly enrich our Sunday worship.

Music Director, Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez, is hard at work making sure we have first class music for every service.

This summer will also be a time of community-building fellowship, including extended Coffee Hours with fun, intergenerational approaches including Coffee and Croquet on June 17, and a church-wide excursion to a Nationals game June 24. Other activities include a July 4 family picnic on the West Front lawn of the US Capitol, a play at Carter Barron Theater, outings in some of the neighborhood parks on July 21 and more.

While we hope you and yours attend Westmoreland every Sunday from May through September, if you do visit another church during these months, notice how they conduct worship, make mental notes on interesting programs and generally observe anything you believe might be helpful to Westmoreland.

Bob Maddox and Amber Neuroth will share staff leadership responsibilities during the sabbatical. Generally, Rev. Maddox will focus on worship and administrative details, working hand-in-hand with committees and boards. Rev. Neuroth will continue her leadership with children, youth and families and will also coordinate pastoral care ministries. *Cont'd on page 2*

Worship Topics & Themes

Lent and Easter Services

**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

Sundown Service
6 pm

**Thursday, April 5
Maundy Thursday**

Potluck Dinner 6:30 pm

Service of Tenebrae 7:30 pm

**Sunday, April 8
Easter Sunday**

Sunrise Service,
6:30 am Memorial Garden

Festival Service 10 am

"Christ is Risen -

No Bones About It!"

Luke 24:1-12

Communion and Halleljuah Chorus



*The Easter offering funds
grants distributed by the
Board of
Community Action.*

Sunday, April 15

“No Doubt About It...
Lessons From Thomas”

John 20:19-31

Doreen Mannion preaching

Summer 2007 continued from page 1:

Through experiencing anew God's creation in its many expressions and splendors, we can all find fresh ways to feel and experience the Spirit this summer!

We welcome your prayers, input, participation, and spirit throughout this time. Call Jeff Eagan, Bob Maddox and/or Amber Neuroth with your ideas and suggestions.

In God's Peace,

Rich Smith, Jeff Eagan, Amber Neuroth, Bob Maddox, Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez, Board of Membership and Fellowship and a host of others

Sin, Forgiveness, and Evolutionary Psychology

After the worship service on **April 29**, Pete Welch will lead a discussion in the Parlor on the evolutionary basis for two basic concepts of our faith: sin and forgiveness. One human drive is a drive for status within one's group, and is a source of sin. A second human drive is a drive for inclusion within the group and creates our longing for reconciliation with others, that is, forgiveness. These drives are so basic that they are found in most primate species.

We are at risk of being Sunday Christians in an intellectual sense, that is, on Sunday believing that personal relationships (good and bad) are central to people's happiness, but on Monday viewing human happiness materialistically.

Pete has a PhD in economics, but finds the developing field of evolutionary psychology much more insightful. He has taught adult education courses at both Georgetown and Johns Hopkins Universities.

Pete Welch

Shop on 5% Day

Whole Foods Market (5269 River Road, Bethesda) will donate 5% of their proceeds on **April 4** to benefit Bethesda Cares and A Wider Circle. Bethesda Cares serves the needs of homeless people in the Bethesda area. A Wider Circle offers outreach programs to meet the basic needs of families across the area.

Westmoreland Arts and Crafts Exhibit

Opening Sunday, April 1
Coffee Hour in the Mabry Room

What is the Community Care Program at Westmoreland?

The Community Care program at Westmoreland will soon have its one-year anniversary. This program serves the functions of our former Neighborhood Support Group. As the name implies we are here to support our church community and it will take a commitment from all of us to continue this effort of caring for each other. We need your help to maintain our momentum.

Community Care is responsible for **short-term** logistical support to members in times of illness, crisis, or joy (birth/adoption). Support includes the following:

- Rides to and from doctors appointments
- Provide and/or deliver meals to a member's home
- Provide food for a memorial service held at Westmoreland
- Serve/set up/clean up at memorial service held at Westmoreland
- Drive family member to or from airport/hotel for memorial service
- Temporary emergency child care

Mary Sue Johnson is the Coordinator of the program. There is a Manager for each month of the year. When Mary Sue receives information from the staff on the member in need of our assistance, she alerts the monthly Manager who then finds a volunteer(s) to cover the support required. We have compiled a resource book of volunteers to make this task easier and we solicit additional help via Westmorelandnet.

We can be very proud of our congregation because many of you have stepped up to the call when asked to help. Members on the receiving end of your support have expressed their thanks many times over. Rich and the staff are grateful that they are supported by your efforts to help in the care of our congregation.

This kind of care is the backbone of our community. Please take a moment to consider volunteering. **We are in immediate need for one manager for May of this year.** We need additional managers for June and August 2008. Please e-mail or call me with your questions and join us in Community Care.

Mary Sue Johnson

301-320-2515

marysuejohnson@aol.com

Poetry Reading

The poetry reading to be held Friday, **April 13**, 7:30 pm in the Social Hall, includes readings by three poets.

Jean Nordhaus' fourth full-length volume of poetry, **Innocence**, won the Charles B. Wheeler Prize. The author of three other volumes of poetry, she has published work in numerous publications and teaches poetry workshops at the Writer's Center in Bethesda. A poem from **Innocence** appears in **2007 Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses**.

Dwaine Rieves' first book of poetry, **When the Eye Forms**,

won the Tupelo Press Award and was published in 2006. His poems have appeared in many journals, including medical journals. In 2002 he received a fellowship from the DC Commission on the Arts. He practices public health medicine in Washington, D.C.

J.D. Smith has been awarded a 2007 Fellowship in Poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts. He has published two collections of poetry, **The Hypothetical Landscape and Settling for Beauty**. His children's book, **The Best Mariachi in the World**, is forthcoming in 2008.

A free-willing offering will be taken to benefit the Marie Reed Learning Center.

Come to a Spring Fling!

The Empty Nesters, Parents Group and Millennium Families invite all Westmorelanders to a spring hors d'oeuvres and wine party on Saturday, April 21, 7 pm in the Social Hall.

Join us for an evening of conversation, food and laughter. Please bring either two bottles of wine, or a favorite appetizer for 10. The Board of Membership and Fellowship will provide non-alcoholic beverages and dessert. Child care, including movies and a pizza dinner, will be available for a small fee.

RSVP by Sunday, April 15 to one of the following individuals, indicating what you will bring and if you need child care. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mary Grossnick, grossnick@verizon.net, 301-986-7933

Jeanine Derr, jeaninederr@aol.com, 301-654-3057

Leslie Weber, LMWeber@rcn.com, 301-718-7844

Baseball Meets Spirituality

Doreen Mannion, one of our seminary interns, has been chosen to be the Women's Chapel Leader for the Bowie Baysox, the Minor League team for the Baltimore Orioles. The Women's Chaplain is available to meet the spiritual needs of the women as well as to help them with secular concerns such as learning about their community. Depending on interest, Doreen hopes to hold a weekly Bible study.

Baseball Chapel, founded in 1973, is an international ministry recognized by Major and Minor League Baseball. The official mission is "To bring encouragement to people in the world of professional baseball through the Gospel so that some become disciplined followers of Jesus Christ." To find out more, visit www.baseballchapel.org.

Parish Notes

Jean McKellar Howell died peacefully at Wilson Healthcare Center on March 10 with her three daughters present. Jean was 92 years old and a member of Westmoreland for 45 years. A memorial service for her was held on Saturday, March 31, 2 pm at Asbury Methodist Village.

Frances Coston died at Grand Oaks on March 14 at 94 years of age. She had been an Associate Member of Westmoreland for 31 years. A service was held at Gawler's on March 24, with Rev. Maddox officiating.

Winifred Hansen Hamilton "Winnie", 90 years old, died on March 13 in Virginia. She had been a member of Westmoreland for 41 years. A memorial service will be held at a date to be announced.

Please keep the following individuals in your prayers:

Mary Lois Williams is in Sibley Hospital recuperating from injuries suffered in a fall.

Margaret Fable is in hospice care at Carriage Hill of Bethesda.

Westmoreland Church Retreat September 28 - 30

Camp Wabanna, Edgewater, MD
www.campwabanna.org

This clean facility is located on the water and features boating, hiking, a zip line and a climbing wall.

If we have 100 people signed up for the retreat, Camp Wabanna will give Westmoreland the entire facility for the weekend. Day visitors are welcome. Registration packets will be mailed out soon.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.



April 1 - 21, 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Palm Sunday Fellowship Bkfst 8:30 am Worship & Church Sch 10am Sundown Worship 6 pm	2	3	4 Women's Reading Group 7:30 pm	5 Maundy Thursday Potluck Dinner 6:30 pm Worship 7:30 pm	6 Good Friday	7 Yoga 9 am
8 Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 am Festival Service 10am	9 Church Offices Closed	10 Mid-East Comm. 7:30 pm	11 Wed. Evening Book Grp 7:30 pm	12 Choir rehearsals Passing Tones 7 Chancel 8-9:30	13	14 Yoga 9 am WCM Concert 8 pm
15 Worship & Church Sch 10am Child. Choir 11:45	16	17	18 Prime Timers 12 Noon	19	20	21 Yoga 9 am Spring Fling 7 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
April 15	Apr 3
May 1	Apr 18

Articles should be emailed to:
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