



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 54, No. 12

June 15, 2007

Rev. Richard Cizik to Preach

Rev. Richard Cizik is Director of Governmental Affairs for the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), the main evangelical association in the country. His responsibilities at NAE include, among others, setting its policy direction on issues before Congress, the White House and the Supreme Court, and serving as a national spokesperson for issues of importance to evangelicals.

Why, some would ask, have we invited a prominent evangelical minister to Westmoreland when we clearly differ on some of the hot button social issues? Rev. Cizik has taken the point among the evangelical community on new and intensified concern for the environment, enduring prolonged criticism from some leading religious conservatives including James Dobson and the late Jerry Falwell. Along with — maybe ahead of the typical issues many conservative Christians

espouse — Rev. Cizik and his board of directors have begun to preach that if we don't soon save the planet, we will have no need to save souls.

Westmoreland's Green Group, aware of Rev. Cizik's position on environmental issues, and the criticism he endures for his strong views, encouraged the Cizik invitation to preach here.

growing and greening our faith

Dr. Robert Maddox and Rev. Cizik have known each other since the Carter White House days and have found common

ground on attitudes and approaches toward some subjects while disagreeing on some of the flag concerns of the evangelical community.

Rev. Cizik will preach on **Sunday, July 1** at 10 am and then conduct a forum following the worship service. Our Green Group plans to follow up his visit to Westmoreland with some specific social justice ac-

Church Retreat Moves Forward

The site and dates are set. The registration packets have been mailed to the congregation. Now the ball is in your court! Put the dates on the family calendar, fill out the registration form and send it with your deposit to the church. You will be all set to join our exciting all-church retreat at Camp Wabanna in Edgewater, Maryland **September 28 - 30**. There will be sun, boating, hiking, playing, singing, praying, talking and eating at this beautiful waterside retreat center.

Housing is being assigned on a first-come-first-served basis so be sure to send in your registration early.



Worship Topics & Themes

Sunday, June 17

“Life *Through* the Faith of Jesus”

Gal 2:15-21

Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox

Father's Day

Sunday, June 24

“Listening for God While Driving on the Beltway”

1 Kings 19:1-15

Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox

Sunday, July 1

Rev. Richard Cizik

Guest Preacher

There is Still Time to Send a Child to Camp

There are just a few days left to get a check in to send a child from the Shaw Community to one of two summer camps: Camp Friendship, a day camp within the city community; and Camp Letts, a two-week overnight camp on an inlet of the Chesapeake Bay.

To donate to either camp, please write your checks payable to **Shaw Community Ministry** and mail them to Caryn McTighe Musil, 8600 Irvington Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20817 by **June 18**.

Your donations make a big difference in the lives of children living just a few miles away. Thank you.

Caryn McTighe Musil
Barbara McDowell
SCM representatives

BCA Grants Awarded

The Board of Community Action recently made its spring distribution of grants. Each of the following organizations was awarded \$1000:

Pregnancy Aid Centers - Women's health clinic serving poor women in Pr. George's Co.

American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA)

Health care/education for populations in Gaza, West Bank, Lebanon and Jordan

Behrhorst Partners for Development - Outreach and development projects for rural highlands of Guatemala

Maasai American Alliance - Health care, sanitation and medical facilities for Maasai in Kenya

Presbyterian Education Board - Education for poor children and youth in Pakistan

Shaw Community Ministry - Education, after-school program for youth

CollegeTracks Inc. - College search and application assistance for low-income and first generation immigrant students

Awarded \$500:

Barbara De Souza Mission - Family health programs for the needy in San Paulo, Brazil

The Board's funds are generated from the Christmas and Easter collections as well as the proceeds from the Bazaar. Thank you for your generosity, which makes these grants possible.

Prime Timers Wrap Up the Year

All Westmorelanders 65 and over are invited to the monthly Prime Timers gathering on Wednesday, **June 20**. Begin with appetizers at noon followed by lunch in the Social Hall. Cost: \$7. George Singleton will show the DVD of his guest appearance with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. This last luncheon before the summer break is a great opportunity to visit with your friends in a relaxed, leisurely atmosphere. Sign up in the Social Hall or call Nona Cox at 301-229-7766.

Women's Reading Group

The group will not meet during July and August. The September selection is **Team of Rivals** by Doris Kearns Goodwin. It's 754 pages of text so get going!

Summer Reading for the Beach and for the Fall Retreat

June 17 is the last Sunday that suggested "beach reading" will appear on the library cart in the Social Hall. (But I can be persuaded to help you find adult and children's selections in the church library, where you will find me on Sunday mornings.) Look especially for two of John Dominic Crossan's books: **Excavating Jesus: Beneath the Stones, Behind the Texts, The Key Discoveries for Understanding Jesus in His World** and **The Historical Jesus: the Life of a Mediterranean Jewish Peasant**.

Christianity for the Rest of Us by Diane Butler Bass is being recommended by the Retreat Committee as summer reading and especially for those who plan on attending our fall retreat. The library has two copies that I will put on the library table in the Social Hall during Coffee Hour. The book is widely available at Borders and Barnes & Noble (stores and online) and at Amazon.com. If you have any problems obtaining a copy of the book contact me. One of the missions of your church library is getting books into the hands of (and ideas from books into the minds of) the congregation.

Judy Newman

judynewman@gmail.com

Call for School Supplies

Community Ministry of Montgomery County (CMMC) collects new school supplies, and backpacks to hold them, for needy children. Please find copies of the "Wish List" on the What's Happening Table in the Social Hall. Place supplies and backpacks in the labeled box on the stage by **July 14**.

Try to Remember...

IONA Senior Services is offering a six week workshop, **Boost Your Brain: Strategies for Coping with Memory Loss**. There is still time to enroll if you act quickly. This workshop, led by a social worker, takes a holistic approach to memory loss. Participants learn medical, nutritional, stress-reduction and practical steps to manage changes in memory. The workshop is intended for people with early stage memory loss and their caregivers. If you or someone you know can benefit from this information, call 202-895-9448 to register. Cost: \$35.

Partnership Candle: A Symbol of Unity and Peace

The origins of the partnership candle, lit each Sunday in solidarity with Christ Episcopal Church in Nazareth, Israel, can be traced to the early 1990s. When Becca Williamson returned from two years as a missionary intern in Jerusalem, she urged the Middle East Committee to seek a church partnership to deepen our connection with the area. Dale Bishop, then Middle East Global Ministries director, helped us select Christ Church. It satisfied the committee's primary focus on Palestine with the added challenge as a surviving Christian church in the Jewish state of Israel. In 1993 its then-pastor, Riah Abu El-Asal, visited Westmoreland, preached, met with church leaders, and was a guest in our homes. He

and then-pastor Gordon Forbes devised the weekly partnership candle lighting service and prayer for peace as a way of thinking about each other specifically and sharing our concerns.

During the intervening years some person-to-person exchanges have been possible. Riah has visited us twice, once after he was elevated to Bishop of Jerusalem. Gordon Forbes visited Christ Church during a sabbatical and over time a dozen or so Westmorelanders have been able to go. Bob Maddox and Marla Schrader, a Global Ministries missionary in residence who lives nearby, have begun planning a group trip to the area. That trip will include a visit to our partner church.

Westmoreland reaches out to our partner church and its neighborhood in other ways. BCA's grant program frequently includes a gift to the church or, at the church's request, to the affiliated school for supplies and scholarships. The school, which twenty years ago was K-6, now includes all grades through high school.

The high school and the whole campus are named for Bishop Riah. The small original school building is now St. Margaret's hostel for pilgrims. Westmorelanders are encouraged to visit the school's excellent web site (www.brecn.org) to learn more about this fine institution that serves Christian and Muslim students.

Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation

Hunger is a year round problem in our area. So before you pack up for the beach or the mountains, consider helping out with one of the two food programs that Westmoreland supports.

Martha's Table provides sandwiches for the homeless. Come to the church kitchen at 10:30 am on the last Tuesday of the month to help make sandwiches. We always have a good time as we prepare ham and cheese and peanut butter sandwiches while sharing ideas

small and large.

So Others May Eat (SOME) needs our tuna noodle casseroles on the first Thursday of each month. The recipe is on the website and pans are in the Social Hall. If you are unable to make a casserole, please consider donating cereal and juice. All donated items may be left in the freezer and kitchen **any day of the month** for delivery on July 4 and August 1. Let Kathy Ireland (301-654-2446) know if you can drive. Have a good vacation!

Parish Notes

Kudos to **Miles Batson** who received his Eagle Scout award in a ceremony on June 3 at All Saints Episcopal Church.



Congratulations to **Scott Nelson** who graduated from Brown University with hon-

ors and with a double major in Classics and Geology. In September he will begin work at the Desert Development Center, American University in Cairo, Egypt where has a Presidential Internship.

On June 2, **Priscilla Mason** marked fifty years as a member of Westmoreland.

Be a Sunday Morning Greeter

The Board of Membership and Fellowship (BMF) would like to ensure that we have greeters to welcome members and visitors to our church each Sunday. Serving as a greeter provides an opportunity to meet other members of the congregation as well as demonstrate our hospitality to prospective members.

Please contact Becky Brindle (301-299-1706 or beckybrindle@msn.com) to let her know when you might be available and she will confirm a date. Greeting is an easy way to contribute - the only requirements are a warm smile and arrival at church by 9:45 am on Sunday.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve the congregation.



Summer Events

June 24: Play Ball! Trip to a Nationals game after church.

July 1: Coffee and Croquet on the lawn after church.

July 4: Picnic and concert on the West Lawn of the Capitol 4 - 9:30 pm

June 15 - 30, 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					15	16 Yoga 9 am
				Choir rehearsal Chancel 8-9:30		
17 Worship & Ch. School 10	18 Boards meet 7:30 pm	19	20 Prime Timers 12 Noon	21 Choir rehearsal Chancel 8-9:30	22	23 Yoga 9 am
24 Worship & Ch. School 10 am Nationals Game 11:30 am	25	26 Sandwich making 10:30 am Exec Comm 7:30 pm	27	28	29	30 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
July 1	June 14
Sept 1	Aug 16

Articles should be emailed to:
jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

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