



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 54, No. 13

July 1, 2007

Rachel Cloud: Going to Work for Peace

Rachel Cloud, a member of the 2006 - 2007 Volunteer Corps, has felt a call to work for peace. She will be going to Colombia, South America. On June 17, the congregation participated in a commissioning litany and pledged our support and prayers. Rachel delivered the following remarks:

First, thank you for your time and support today. Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) came out of a call, in 1984, for a nonviolent, Christian response to violence and war in our world. The question was raised "What would our world look like if we put the same energy and dedication into peace that we put into war?" Jesus tells us there are three ways to respond to violence: (1) do nothing; (2) respond with violence; and (3) actively work towards peace. So Christian Peacemaker Teams was formed to go to areas of violent conflict and war and work in Jesus' Third Way: actively work towards peace. When invited into a community, CPT reports human rights violations, accompanies people in these difficult times, and engages in nonviolent action and witness.

When you hear of violence and scary things in Colombia, when those frightening moments arise, and you look to question something, I ask that you question the systems of violence and oppression. I ask that you pray, and think about what you can do to contribute to peace in this world.

I will go forth in the next months with a calling, prayers, research and

five weeks of training. I will remember your faces, and your prayers. I will carry you with me; it will be a great joy and comfort. Thank you!

CPT asks us to memorize a Bible verse that we can recite and have with us in difficult times. I have chosen Psalm 23. Maybe when you think of me you can read it as well.

A Psalm of David

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul.

He leads me in the right paths for his name's sake

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil

for you are with me; your rod and staff, they comfort me

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy

Shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

my whole life long.

NRSV

I will send emails and be in touch. Thank you so much. Peace be with you all!

Rachel

Summer Worship Schedule

July 1

Rev. Richard Cizik
Guest Preacher
Holy Communion

July 8

Rev. Amber Neuroth

July 15

Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox

July 22

Rev. Amber Neuroth

July 29

Rev. Sharon Graham

August 5

Rev. Amber Neuroth
Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox
Holy Communion

August 12

Rev. Amber Neuroth

August 19

Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox

August 26

Rev. Amber Neuroth

Sept. 2

Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox

Amos, Hosea and Jesus

Jesus drew many of his ideas on social justice from prophets Amos and Hosea. Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox will lead a four-session discussion on them and Jesus. It is recommended that participants read the books of Amos and Hosea in the Bible, which is the basis for the discussion.

Classes: Sundays July 8, 15, 22, and 29, 8:45 am in Bob's office; and Mondays July 9, 16, 23, and 30, 12:30 pm at the Carpenter House.

Upcoming Events

July 1

Rev. Richard Cizik, Director of Governmental Affairs for the National Association of Evangelicals will preach on July 1 and lead a forum in the Social Hall at 11:30 am.

July 1

The Board of Membership and Fellowship invites you to Coffee and Croquet on the church lawn following the worship service.

July 4

Join Bob and Linda Maddox on the West Lawn of the Capitol for the holiday concert and fireworks. Meet in the church parking lot at 3 pm to carpool downtown. Bring a picnic supper and a blanket to sit on.

July 8

Westmorelander Ann Scott Tyson, journalist and correspondent for the Middle East, will lead a discussion during Coffee Hour on the situation in Iraq, where she has spent a great deal of time. Her byline appears frequently in the Washington Post.

A Note From Rich

Dear Westmorelanders --

With the summer, and my sabbatical, about half over, I wanted to say thanks for your generosity that is making my travels and refreshment easier.

We spent much of May out West visiting family. In June I attended a local conference put on by Sojourners, which included being in the studio audience for CNN's "The Situation Room", featuring Presidential candidates Edwards, Obama, and Clinton - live. Very exciting! I've also been to the Boston area and to the UCC General Synod - what a party! Makes me very proud to be UCC.

Meanwhile, my stack of books to read grows about as fast I as polish them off. In July I'll head to Vancouver, BC, and Berkeley for some classes and study time, again, made possible by the generous "purse" you sent me off with. Thank you so very much!

I trust you are all enjoying some refreshment and re-creation as well, and I'll look forward to re-engaging with this wonderful Westmoreland family in the Fall. Blessings!

Rich

From Marie Reed Learning Center: Thank You to Westmoreland

As the school year comes to an end, Marie Reed has told us that they greatly appreciate what Westmoreland has done this school year. Two certificates of appreciation recognizing Westmoreland's efforts are posted on the bulletin board outside the Social Hall.

This year, Westmoreland arranged for 70 readers to read with children at the school, and initiated a new math tutoring program in which 20 tutors participated. The church provided funds to buy food that was distributed to parents at Thanksgiving. We arranged for a tax specialist to talk to parents about income tax requirements. With assistance from the Briggs Center, Miles Batson raised over \$5,000 to purchase tables and chairs for the school library, and he assembled them along with church members and friends. The church provided funds from several literary readings to the school. Westmorelanders participated in career day at the school, and told the children about the importance of education.

These efforts are much appreciated. Over 90 percent of the children in the school come from families below the poverty line. They need help, and we are making a difference there. Thank you to everyone.

Gary McDavid

Parish Notes

Congratulations to **Abby Lenhart**, daughter of **Lynn and Tom Lenhart**, who graduated from the University of Maryland Medical School and won the Internal Medicine Prize. Abby will serve her medical residency at Johns Hopkins University Hospital.

Congratulations to **Patrick Fogarty**, son of **Jennie and John Fogarty**, who married Sara Paley on May 5 in Bethany Beach, Delaware. The couple resides in Baltimore.

Darla and Ken Lee and children, **David and Allison**, have moved. Their new address is: 327 Twin Lakes Circle, Martinsburg, WV 25405.

Our prayers of sympathy are extended to **Edrie Hough** on the death of her husband, **Dick Hough** on June 18. Dick, a former member of Briggs Church, joined Westmoreland last September. A memorial service was held at Westmoreland on June 23.

Ministries for Children and Youth

Would you like to learn something about other faith traditions? Consider teaching Neighboring Faiths, the class that our 7 - 8 grade youth will take beginning in September. They will learn about different religions, Christian and non-Christian and you, as the teacher learn along with them. The goal is to create for the class an environment open for exploration and questioning. This course is important for youth in our religiously diverse society so they may come to better understand both the depth of their own religious faith and the beliefs of those around them.

The course includes visits to other houses of worship and guest speakers representing other religions. BCE is working to prepare a strong curriculum and calendar to assist parents and teachers with the logistics of this exciting course.

In order to achieve the depth and consistency of instruction needed, we would like to recruit two principal teachers to serve for the academic year (September – May) who would teach three Sundays a month. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to serve our youth in this important capacity.

Finally, if you have friends of other faiths who would be willing to speak to the class or host the class for a visit at their place of worship, we would welcome your assistance in inviting them. Contact us with questions or to indicate your interest in teaching.

Rev. Amber Neuroth

aneuroth@westmorelanducc.org

Janis Long, BCE Chair

janis.long@USPTO.gov

For several Sundays in July we will feature on the library

table in the Social Hall during Coffee Hour books that have been newly added to our computer database of library holdings. Some of these books are recently published and others only new to our library. Still other books have been part of the collection for years or even decades, and have been added to the database only recently.

Books are added to your Elizabeth Tisdale Nordbeck Library in three principal ways: purchase with Board of Christian Education or other funds, donations by church members and friends, occasional finds among books donated to the bazaar. When our Briggs friends joined Westmoreland they brought books from their library and these volumes have been added as

Library News and Views

well. Here are some titles to look for in July:

The Prophets by Abraham J. Herschal (1962)

The Atlas of Islamic History, edited by Harry W.

Hazard, donated by Frances and Jack Stickles

Christianity for the Rest of Us by Diana Butler Bass (2006)

The Language of Faith by Robert D. Dewey (UCC

Press, 1963) For younger children **Turquoise Boy, A**

Navajo Legend by Terri Cohlene. For younger children

and supports the church school curriculum on Native Americans

Theology Today (January 2002, periodical) contains a major article by Rev. Audrey Chapman on Genetic Engineering and Theology.

Judy Newman, Librarian

Lend a Hand at the Library

Can you imagine putting the entire Elizabeth Tisdale Nordbeck Library collection on a computer database? It's a big job! Librarian, Judy Newman, has been working on it for a couple years and could use a hand. This is good project for a teenager or adult who likes using the computer and has a few hours here and there. Judy will give you the guidance needed. Contact her at judynewman@gmail.com.

Where is That Nametag?

Wearing your nametag is an immense help when you are trying to make conversation with others at church whom you do not know. If you need one, email or call Janet Moyer in the office and she will make one for you. If you have misplaced yours, please look around for it -- in the car, behind the sofa cushions, in your suit jacket pocket. To insure that your stays "found," please replace it on the nametag board in either the Narthex or the Social Hall.

Church School Numbers

Total church school enrollment (birth-12 grade): 120
Average church school attendance (birth-12 grade): 60
Number of Middle School youth: about 30
Average attendance at Middle School events: 15-20
Number of High School youth: about 40
Average attendance at High School events: about 10



**Summer
Office Hours**

9 am - 4 pm

Summer 2007

July

- Sundays** 10 am: Worship and Church School
- 1 10 am Rev. Richard Cizik, Guest Preacher
11:15 am Coffee and Croquet on the lawn
11:30 am Conversation with Rev. Cizik
- 4 9 am SOME casseroles due in kitchen
- 4 3 pm Meet to carpool to the picnic and concert on the West Lawn of the Capitol
- 8 11:30 am Discussion with Ann Scott Tyson on Iraq
- 15 10 am Gillian Fannon Baptism
- 24 10:30 am Sandwich making for Martha's Table
- 29 10 am Volunteer Corps Farewell

August

- Sundays** 10 am: Worship and Church School
- 1 9 am SOME casseroles due in kitchen
- 28 10:30 am Sandwich making for Martha's Table

Rev. Maddox will be on vacation August 6 - 15

September

- 3 Labor Day
- 5 9 am SOME casseroles due in kitchen
- 6 8 pm Chancel Choir rehearses
- 9 10 am Welcome Back Sunday

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 - 4 PM

Newsletter Deadlines

Issue Date	Deadline
Sept 1	Aug 16

Articles should be emailed to: jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

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