



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 54, No. 14

September 1, 2007

Fresh Ideas for a New Year

In my sabbatical travels this past summer, I spent time at two seminars on the West Coast, reading more books than I'd read in the previous six months and taking two classes which were supposed to be quite different. The first, in Vancouver, BC, was taught by an Episcopal priest from San Francisco, whose primary method of communicating was poetry. The title of the course was "The Betrayal of God by Religion," and the reading included books by Marcus Borg on the one hand and best-selling atheist Christopher Hitchens on the other. In Berkeley, the course was taught by a UCC minister from New York, who communicated through wonderful stories, many of them her own adventures. The course was titled, "Where Have all the Coffins Gone?" In addition to reading William Sloan Coffin's biography, we looked at a number of models for doing "public ministry." Both were fascinating and inspiring courses, and I now have pages of

notes that will translate into new ideas for preaching and ministry at Westmoreland in the year ahead.

The really interesting thing, though, is that in the end, both courses were really about the same thing, namely, "What does it mean to be a Christian NOW?" I suppose that's always the question we face in every age and every Sunday, as we gather to worship as a community of faith and become re-sourced for our work in the world and our lives of faith.

I am looking forward to being with you all once again, beginning on Welcome Back Sunday, September 9th. It's going to be a "full Fall", as we continue to grow and green our faith, explore the ways we worship, and reach out to serve our community and our world in ways that make a difference - transforming our lives and our planet for the better. I'm ready and excited and I hope you are, too!

See you in Church! **Rich**

Goodbye and Godspeed, Amber

Rev. Amber Neuroth, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, is moving to join her husband Mike, who now works for Church World Service in New York.

During her time with us, Amber has done so many positive things for the children, youth and families in our church. We have had inspiring Youth Sundays, fun Family Worship Nights, creative Youth

Group events, and educational Sunday School. Please join us in church on **Sunday, September 16** to wish Amber well in her new life.

Board of Christian Education

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Amber and Mike Neuroth
216 Sayre Drive
Princeton, NJ 08540
amber.neuroth@gmail.com
202-262-3685 (same cell)

Worship Themes & Topics

Sunday, September 2
"Common Sense Faith"
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox
Holy Communion

Sunday, September 9
"Here Comes Everybody!"
Paul's letter to Philemon
Rev. Rich Smith
Welcome Back Sunday
Picnic on the Lawn

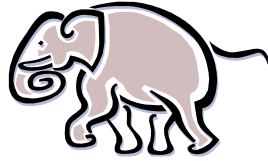
Sunday, September 16
"Space for Grace"
Luke 15:1-10
Rev. Rich Smith
Farewell for Rev. Amber Neuroth

Welcome Back!

On **Sunday, September 9**, we will observe our annual Welcome Back to the church following the summer. Everyone - old, young and in-between, members, friends and visitors - are invited to a big worship service with special music. Director of Music, Dr. Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez has composed a piece written for the occasion, to be sung by the choir and accompanied by organ, trumpets, and timpani.

Following the worship service, the Board of Membership and Fellowship will host a sumptuous picnic on the Massachusetts Avenue lawn. Delicious desserts are requested from **you**, the members of the congregation. Greet your friends and welcome our guests!

Elephants on Parade



The Spirit of White Elephants Past is announcing a new Westmoreland Tradition:

Fall Housecleaning. Don't mutter over clutter, grumble about a jumble; simply bring those forgotten treasures to the church for the Bazaar's White Elephant Sale!

- We can use a host of household items: small, clean appliances in working order (with the instruction manual if possible), dishes, bowls, sets of glasses, and cookware.
- Toys are always popular including puzzles and games (shut or even tied with a rubber band to keep all the pieces inside.)
- We can also sell clocks, small lamps, and even small (very small) furniture.
- Linens (clean and, ideally, marked for size) are also popular. But remember that clothing should go to the large green box in the parking lot.
- When there is a hint of fall in the air, many minds turn to sporting goods. We welcome them too.

If you have a very large item, please speak to the Spirit of the White Elephant 2007 (that is Kent Hughes 202-691-4136) about having it as part of our virtual White Elephant Parade.

Thank you again for all your help in making our summer, pre-Bazaar White Elephant Sale such a success.

Kent Hughes White Elephant Chair 2007

Got Jewelry?

Please bring any contributions that you have for the Bazaar's Jewelry Shop to church as soon as possible. It takes many hours to sort and price these items so I need a long lead time to prepare items for display. Thanks!

Ruth Avery, Jewelry Chair

Calling All Bridge Players!

The Westmoreland Bridge Marathon is a group of church members and friends from the community who play bridge once a month in each others' homes in a round-robin tournament from October to May. The date and time of games are arranged by the participants to suit their schedules. Curious? Interested in playing this year? Please contact Alice Hogarty, 301-320-6673, alicehogarty@gmail.com.

Music and Arts WCUCC Launches A New Season

The Arts Committee at Westmoreland announces its 2007-2008 concert season and it promises to be memorable! Mark your calendar now and plan to attend and support these three concerts created for you and the larger community and to benefit worthy organizations.

September 22, 7 pm The Teiber String Trio and Grace Cho, Pianist offer an evening of solo and chamber music composed by Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, and Schumann. **Art Exhibit:** Pam Lindholm, multimedia. **Benefit:** Montgomery County Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

April 5, 2008, 7 pm Reminisce with radio jazz personality Bill Mayhugh as he takes us along memory lane with some of his favorite music and interviews with famous persons. The *Rick Whitehead Trio* and guests provide the music. **Art Exhibit:** F.I.N.E., fabric artists. **Benefit:** Marie Reed Community Learning Center.

May 2 & 3, 2008, 7 pm Mozart Fest features *Coronation Mass*, *Ave Verum* and *Laudate Dominum* and is presented by the choirs of Westmoreland and All Saints Lutheran Church (Bowie) with orchestral accompaniment. (May 2 at All Saints; May 3 at Westmoreland). **Art Exhibit:** Westmoreland artists **Benefit:** Bethesda Cares

Find Your Voice I invite all interested Westmorelanders to join the Chancel Choir for a year filled with exciting musical activities aimed at enhancing our worship service, serving our community, and enriching Bethesda's cultural life.

For Welcome Back Sunday on September 9, I have written a work for choir, two trumpets, timpani, and piano. At 1 pm that same day, Nancy Almquist, voice faculty at the Washington Conservatory, and I will present a workshop "The Singer in You: Exploring Your Voice" to encourage people to explore their vocal potential. On May 2 and 3, we will present a Mozart concert with our friends from All Saints Lutheran Church.

Rehearsals begin Thursday, August 30, 8 pm. I welcome you to share in these opportunities to make wonderful music together and to celebrate God's wonders through our voices.

Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez, Dir. of Music

Ministries for Children, Youth and Families

Westmoreland's Church School will be launching a new curriculum for grades 1-6 this year! *Gather Round* is an engaging curriculum written by the Mennonite Church and the Church of the Brethren and highly recommended by the UCC. It's goals fit Westmoreland's theology and outlook, focusing on Bible learning and social justice. The curriculum is also comprehensive including lots of options, supporting materials, and take-home materials for families. For more information on this new and exciting curriculum, please visit www.gatherround.org. As the year progresses, the Board of Christian Education and the Director for Children and Family Ministries will welcome feedback from teachers, parents, and students on their experience with *Gather Round*.

In addition to *Gather Round* for grades 1 - 6, we will continue with Godly Play for 4-5 year olds, *Neighboring Faiths* for grades 7 - 8, and a new Confirmation program for grades 9 - 10. We look forward to a wonderful year in Children, Youth, and Family Ministries!

Westmoreland Youth - As the new Director for Children and Family Ministries starts, she will be developing a calendar of fun youth events including youth groups, lock-ins, service projects and more! We will send out the calendar as soon as possible to parents and youth! Mark your calendars now for the high school Mission Trip to Knoxville, TN in Summer 2008! We will leave Sunday, July 20 and return Monday, July 28.

Library News

Over the summer our church library added several books of particular interest.

Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know-- And Doesn't by Stephen Prothero has been generating lots of interest, including among our own Volunteer Corps who discussed it at their last retreat.

From Nomads to Pilgrims: Stories from Practicing Congregations (2006) was edited by Diane Butler Bass whose most recent book, **Christianity for the Rest of Us**, is recommended reading for retreat goers and other members of the congregation.

God at 2000 was edited by Marcus Borg and Ross Mackenzie. Other contributors include Karen Armstrong, Desmond Tutu and five others from across the religious spectrum. Each contributor was asked the question: "From your lifetime of study, reflection and experience, what have you learned about God that seems most important to you?"

Judy Newman, Librarian

Parish Notes

Linda and Ed Shelton have moved. Their new address is: 5 Lighthouse Court, Salem, SC 29676. Phone: 864-944-6844.

Gillian Fannon, daughter of Stacey and Casey Fannon, was baptized on July 15 by Rev. Amber Neuroth.

Congratulations to these Westmorelanders:

Thora Carlton became an American citizen. Rev. Maddox presented her with a crystal model of the Capitol Building on July 8 to commemorate her citizenship.

Catherine Monroe, a member since 1952, celebrated her 97th birthday on August 19.

Jan and Gordon Forbes marked 50 years of marriage on August 3rd and were honored by family and friends at an August 4th celebration.

IONA Needs You

IONA Senior Services, conveniently located about a mile from Westmoreland, is looking to fill volunteer positions for a wide variety of activities, with day, evening and weekend options. A list is available on the What's Happening Table in the Social Hall.

There is a volunteer training session Saturday, **September 8**. To learn about the training or volunteering, contact Sariel Ende at 202-895-9425.

Parking Alert

A reminder to please reserve the parking lot for the elderly, families with babies or young children and visitors. For everyone else, on-street parking is available on the streets surrounding the church. Remember to park beyond the 'No Parking' signs on some streets so you don't get a ticket! You may also park at the very back of the former Briggs Church if you vacate prior to 12 noon on Sunday.

A big **thank you** to all who observed this request all summer long.



September 1 - 15, 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Yoga 9 am
2 Fellowship Breakfast 8:30am Worship & Ch. School 10 am	3 Labor Day Offices closed	4	5	6 Choir rehearsal Chancel 8-9:30	7	8 Yoga 9 am
9 Welcome Back! Worship & Ch. School 10 am Picnic 11:30 am Choral workshop & voice training 1 pm	10	11	12	13 Choir rehearsal Chancel 8-9:30	14	15 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
Sept 15	Sept. 3
Oct 1	Sept 16

Articles should be emailed to:
jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

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