



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 54, No. 15

September 15, 2007

A Time to Say Good-bye

As I come to say this final farewell, it feels strange. We've all lived for six months with the fact that I would be leaving, but the reality of leaving is finally here. It still feels like it should be far off in the distance.

Farewell and THANK YOU! Mike and I both have been blessed by your community and by your love. You have helped shape me into the person and the minister I am today, and I will always carry you with me. I am so grateful for the opportunities, the flexibility and the grace that you have given me. Thank you for letting me into your lives and your hearts for this short time.

During my time at Westmoreland and even more as I am leaving, I have come to appreciate the heart of this community. Many of you have dedicated yourselves, your lives, and your families to serving the world, and thereby, I think, to serving God. You also have a strong desire for community, and I have seen how you are willing to work to make that community a reality. In a place like Washington, taking the time to form relationships, make extra commitments, and generate a loving community is

a real blessing- a miracle even!

Many of you have asked what I will be doing next. The answer is that I am still not certain. I am looking forward to some reflection time to discern where God may be calling me next. One certainty is that Michael and I are expecting a baby, so we will become new parents in March! All three of us will be returning next spring for a visit to Westmoreland. Mike is also "in-care" for ordination with Westmoreland and the Potomac Association, so we will be returning for some ordination events in the next year as well.

I leave with you my love and prayers for these next months and years of Westmoreland's future. I pray that you will continue to grow more deeply into relationships with God and with one another, so that you may fully realize the abundance of what God has in store for you. I ask that you send me with your prayers as well. Mike and I have many exciting times and uncertainties ahead, so knowing we have a spiritual home away from home will be a great comfort.

Until we meet again, all my love,

Amber

Memorial Bricks Grace the Garden

Bricks, each bearing the name of an individual whose ashes are interred, were laid in the Memorial Garden this summer. Take a moment to step into this quiet corner of the church property to see the result. Thanks to Otto Hetzel for heading up this project. If you have never taken notice, a memorial plaque hangs on the rear wall of the Sanctuary. It too includes the names of those memorialized in the Garden.

Worship Themes & Topics

Sunday, September 23

Luke 16:19-31
"Bridging the Grand Canyon"
Rev. Rich Smith

Sunday, September 30

1 Timothy 6:6-19
"A Really Big Order"
Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox

Looking Ahead...

Sunday, October 7

Worldwide Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 14

Blessing of the Animals
7 pm Sundown Service

Email Subscribers Take Note

Please remember that anyone who subscribes to an email list at Westmoreland (e.g. **Westmorelander**, Westmorelandnet) has agreed to receive email from Westmoreland. If you no longer wish to receive email from one or more Westmoreland lists, please notify Janet Moyer in the church office (jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org) and she will remove you from the specified list or lists. Please do not mark any mail from Westmoreland as "spam".

If you are not currently subscribed to Westmorelandnet, the church's "electronic bulletin board" you are missing out on timely information, including the minister's "This Weekend at Westmoreland" emails. To subscribe, contact Janet.

Benefit Concert Opens Music and Arts Season

Music and Arts at Westmoreland is pleased to present the **Teiber Trio and Grace Cho** in a benefit concert on **Saturday, September 22**, 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Immediately following the concert will be a reception and art exhibit opening of watercolors by artist **Pam Lindholm**. The concert is free. Contributions will be accepted to benefit the Montgomery County Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to improving the lives of persons living with serious mental illness and their families through advocacy, research, support and education.

The **Teiber String Trio** was formed in early 2007 and is impressing audiences with its impassioned performances and unique, varied programming. **Regino Madrid**, violinist, **Tam Tran**, violist and **Charlie Powers**, cellist, appear regularly at the White House as members of "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Chamber Orchestra. **Grace Cho**, an award-winning pianist who has performed under the baton of John Williams and Leonard Slatkin, is Director of Music at All Saints Lutheran Church in Bowie and is keyboard artist for the Choralis Foundation, Falls Church, Virginia. Works to be performed include those by Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt and Schumann.

Plan to enjoy an excellent performance and support these young, up-and-coming musicians.

Thinking of Joining?

Westmoreland will be receiving new members on **September 23** during the worship service. If you have thought about joining, or just want to know more about WCUC, please contact Rev. Rich Smith or Janet Moyer at 301-229-7766.

Prime Timers

All Westmorelanders 65 and over are invited to the monthly Prime Timers luncheons on the third Wednesday of each month. Join this lively and interesting group of seniors on **September 19**, 12 noon for appetizers in the Parlor followed by lunch in the Social Hall. Cost: \$7. Greet your old friends and meet some new ones! Sign up in the Social Hall or place a reservation with Nona Cox: 301-229-6334.

Jessica Petersen to Direct Christian Education Program

The Search Committee for a Dir. of Children and Youth Ministries has chosen **Jessica Petersen**, a young woman of great poise and promise, to succeed Amber Neuroth. Jessica, a 2004 honors graduate from the University of Iowa, has recently completed her studies at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, (from which she will officially graduate next May) and has already resettled in the Washington area. Her most recent work was as a chaplain intern at Children's Hospital; she has also worked extensively with children and youth in various other student internships.

The Committee is enormously impressed with her intelligence, her faith, her commitment to social justice, and her ability to connect with people of all ages. Jessica grew up in a small town in northwest Iowa, where she has a long association with the United Church of Christ. As a seminary student, she played volleyball and softball, and was moderator of the local chapter of Seminarians for Choice. In college, she sang in a band as part of a campus ministry. We're confident that Jessica brings to the job abundant energy, great imagination, and a real passion for working with children and youth.

On Sunday, **September 23**, there will be a short congregational meeting to vote on calling Jessica to be the Dir. of Children and Youth Ministries followed by a Coffee Hour welcome.

Calling All Gardeners

Do you enjoy working in your garden? Know a little something about flowers? Then Westmoreland is looking for you to join our Garden Club. Our grounds, especially the parts that face Massachusetts Avenue and the circle need some flower power! The club would be responsible for planting some annuals (spring and fall) and perennials and for maintaining the Memorial Garden. (Our lawn service mulches and cuts the grass.)

We have some very talented and knowledgeable gardeners at Westmoreland and some folks who would like to learn more. Lisa Alexander has offered to coordinate the group. Please contact her so we can organize the fall planting. Lisa: 301-495-5676 or lk_alexander@hotmail.com.

Twenty-third Volunteer Corps Moves In

Over the Labor Day weekend the Volunteer Corps Board welcomed the five members of the 2007-2008 group, helped them settle in to the house, and oriented them to area shopping, banking, and transportation choices. You may have met one or more of them in church already.

Samantha Brewer of Auburn, Washington, a graduate of Wellesley College, will work at N Street Village.

Alanna Copenhaver of Wellesley, Massachusetts, a graduate of Haverford College, will work at Samaritan Ministry.

John Forrest Douglas of Edgemont, Arkansas, a graduate of Millsaps College, will work with Bethesda Cares.

Alexis Herman of Evansville, Wisconsin, a graduate of St. Olaf College, will work at the D.C. Rape Crisis Center.

Cadie Keefe of Schenectady, New York, a graduate of

Fordham University, will work at Bread for the City.

We will officially welcome the group during our worship service on **October 7** and invite members of the congregation to meet them at the Coffee Hour to be held at the Volunteer Corps house (4514 Western Avenue) after the service.

Gift certificates to area grocery stores make wonderful "house-warming" gifts to help the volunteers supplement their pantry. Gift certificates to restaurants and movie theaters provide an occasional treat.

This year we will continue the practice of "Dinner with the Volunteer Corps" on Thursday evenings. Westmorelanders are invited to bring a dinner to the Volunteer House and enjoy sharing it with the group or invite them to your house for dinner with you. Contact Linda Maddox to arrange a date.

However you do it, be sure to meet this wonderful group of young people who are living and working in our community this year.

Parish Notes

Congratulations to **Rebecca** (Musil) and **Chip Unruh** on the birth of Catherine Kirkland Unruh on August 9. **Caryn McTighe Musil and Bob Musil** are the proud grandparents.

Miles Batson, son of **Nancy and Dave Batson** and an active youth member, left on September 6 for a year of study in Spain. At the September 2 worship service, Rev. Neuroth sent him off with a congregational blessing.

We extend our prayers of sympathy and condolence to **Rev. Melinda Reed** on the death of her mother, Jayne Head, on July 16 in Warwick, RI.

Warner McClelland, 80, father of former members Bonnie and David McClelland, died on May 3 at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Charlotte Hall, MD.

Rev. Maddox Leads Fall Adult Education: *Saving Jesus*

Saving Jesus, a product of the highly acclaimed *Living the Questions* curriculum, will begin Sunday morning, **October 14** in the church parlor and on Monday, October 15 in the Carpenter's House.

Saving Jesus is a DVD-based exploration of Jesus Christ for the Third Millennium. Featuring leading religious voices of our day, each of the 12 sessions includes a 20-minute video segment followed by a guided discussion with Dr. Maddox and others who will assist him. Marcus Borg, Matthew Fox, Amy-Hill Levine, James Forbes and a host of other outstanding Christian scholars and communicators are featured on the DVD presentations.

Sunday sessions will be held 8:30 – 9:50 am; Monday sessions are 12:30 – 2 pm. The fall session will conclude December 2 and 3 and resume with a winter session in January. Dr. Maddox previously led a similar program when the *Living the Questions* series was introduced. *Saving Jesus* is an outgrowth of the inaugural series. In addition to the Sunday/Monday course, Dr. Maddox is considering a six-week evening "encounter with the parables of Jesus". Details will be forthcoming.

Children's Choir to Begin October 7

Rehearsals for the Children's Choir will begin **Sunday, October 7**, 11:45 am in the Music Room. All children ages 4 - 12 are invited to sing. The choir is an excellent way to introduce children to the joy of singing and for them to begin to appreciate music. Questions? Contact Dr. Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez at 301-229-7766 or ahernandezvaldez@gmail.com.



September 15 - 30, 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						15 Yoga 9 am
16 Worship & Ch. School 10 am Amber Neuroth Farewell	17 Church Council 7 pm Boards meet 8 pm	18	19	20 Choir rehearsal Chancel 8-9:30	21	22 Yoga 9 am Concert 7 pm
23 Worship & Ch. School 10 am	24	25 Sandwich making 10:30 am	26	27 Choir rehearsal Chancel 8-9:30	28	29 Yoga 9 am
30 Worship & Ch. School 10 am Church Rtrt.		Exec. Comm 7:30 pm			Church Retreat – Camp Wabanna	

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**
 Oct 1 Sept 16
 Oct 15 Oct 3
Articles should be emailed to:
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
Postmaster: Send address changes to **The Westmorelander**, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda, MD 20816. ▪ Periodical postage paid at Bethesda, MD 20814