



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 54, No. 16

October 1, 2007

Transitions

Once again we are in a time of transition. We have said good-bye to five young, talented Volunteers and are now welcoming five new ones into the 23rd Volunteer Corps. We have said good-bye to Amber and Mike, and are welcoming Jessica. It's always hard to make these kinds of transitions with people who have grown dear to us and whose ministries among us we value. But, rather than see ourselves as a revolving door, I see Westmoreland as a launching pad for mission. We consistently attract and raise up talented, committed folks, learn to appreciate their gifts, and then send them out to ministry in the larger world. I think of Tom and Lynn Lenhart (now in Chappa-

qua, NY), Audrey Chapman (teaching in Hartford), and Hannah (Giffin) Brown (former Volunteer soon to be ordained). While attending the UCC General Synod, I ran into Tina Squire, another Westmorelander called to the ministry.

Whenever I think how great it would be if all these people were still here, sharing their gifts with us, I am reminded that the Church does not exist for itself but for the world, and we are at our best when we are sending people forth into that world in mission. That's the kind of church we are, and God willing, the kind we shall continue to be.

See you in Church!

Rick

Neighbors in Need Celebrates Jubilee

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports justice ministries and compassion throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. One-third of the funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry; two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of initiatives, advocacy and service projects.

This year's NIN theme is Jubilee. The three main components of jubilee observance, based on the Deuteronomy Code, include: forgiving debt, resting the land, and freeing slaves. Further, jubilee is based on a seven-year cycle: seven years times seven – forty nine years is a full and complete cycle. The fiftieth year begins a new cycle. Jubilee is about cleansing and starting over. Having just celebrated our 50th anniversary in the UCC, we are, in a sense, beginning a new cycle. "Jubilee Economics" is a concept that suggests redistribution of goods and services necessary for the essentials of life, in a world of dramatic inequalities.

Please do your share to work toward the fulfillment of the Jubilee Movement by giving as generously as you can on **October 7**.

Worship Themes & Topics

Sunday, October 7

World Communion Sunday
"WWJE: What Would Jesus Eat?"

Rev. Rich Smith

Isaiah 58:1-9

Volunteer Corp Welcome

Sunday, October 14

"Marks of a Vibrant,
Progressive Church"

1. Looking In

Rev. Rich Smith

Psalms 111

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Neighbors in Need Offering

Sundown Service

Blessing of the Animals

7 pm

Blessing of the Animals

All things bright and beautiful,

All creatures great and small,

All things wise and wonderful,

Our dear God made them all.

Cecil Alexander

Our family pets provide companionship, loyalty and an endless source of entertainment. Westmoreland will celebrate our fourth Blessing of the Animals **October 14 at the 7 pm Sundown Service**. Bring your pet on a leash or in a cage and enter the church through the front doors of the narthex and go directly downstairs **or** use the Dalecarlia Avenue entrance to the Social Hall.

Don't miss this delightful and informal service.

Library News

In keeping with your library's policy of adding to the collection books which are mentioned in sermons and also those which have a connection with a Westmorelander we have purchased **The Preacher and the Presidents: Billy Graham in the White House**, by Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy of *Time Magazine*. It contains some interesting pages about Bob Maddox in the Carter White House.

Barbara Brown Taylor's **Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith** was one of the more talked about religious books of last year. The author is an editor-at-large and columnist for *The Christian Century*.

We have a collection of **8 DVDs** of sermons, addresses and Bible study from the recent 50th Anniversary General Synod in Hartford. Featured are General Minister John Thomas (Sunday afternoon worship), Walter Brueggeman (Bible Study), Peter Gomes, Susan Thistlewaite, Barack Obama, Bill Moyers, Lynn Redgrave, and Marian Wright Edelman. The last two keynote addresses feature music by Ken Medema. If you were not at Synod, here's your chance to see the highlights.

Special thanks to the following individuals who have donated books from their libraries:

Pete Davis: Two titles by Peter Gomes

Judy Fogt: Michael B. Oren's **Power, Faith and Fantasy: America in the Middle East, 1776 to the Present**.

Carol Mabry: Some titles from her mother's collection including various translations of the Bible.

Judy Newman, Librarian

Fessenden Ensemble to Appear at Westmoreland

Chamber music will fill the Sanctuary on Sunday, **October 7**, 4 pm when the **Fessenden Ensemble**, one of the finest chamber music groups in the Washington area, appears at Westmoreland. The group will present Mozart's *String Quintet No. 4 in C minor, K. 406* and Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence, Op. 70*. Tickets are \$25. The Ensemble performs regularly throughout the season, at St. Paul's Rock Creek Church in Washington and at Westmoreland.

To purchase tickets or for further information on future performances, call 202-362-2390 or visit www.fessendenensemble.org.

Palestinian Olive Oil Sold Here!

Your purchase of fairly traded olive from small farmer cooperatives in the West Bank can support Palestinian farmers and support tree re-planting and other development projects in Palestine.

Enjoy delicious, extra-virgin, first-cold-pressed olive oil, produced without pesticides or sprays, available at \$12.50 per bottle for a 750 ml (approximately 24 oz) bottle.



Email Pam Smith at pam.smith16@verizon.net if you would like additional information about this product, you would like her to leave bottles for you to pick up from the church office during the week or you would like some to be available on Sunday mornings. In addition to use in your own kitchen, a bottle of olive oil makes a unique hostess gift.

Fall Adult Education

Rev. Bob Maddox will lead a 12-session adult education course, **Saving Jesus**, beginning 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 session 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.

Join the Children's Choir

Young Westmorelanders, ages 4 - 12, are invited to join their friends when choir rehearsals begin on Sunday, **October 7**, 11:45 am in the Music Room. Dir. of Music, Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez is happily anticipating introducing them to the joy of singing and a beginning appreciation of music.

Children and Youth Ministries

Friday Night Fellowship is back by popular request! All youth in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are invited to gather for food, fun, and fellowship the first Friday of each month. Our inaugural meeting is **Friday, October 5, 6:30 - 9:00 pm** in the Youth Room. It will be a movie/game night; the movie for the night is *Bruce Almighty* (PG-13), and the games are many. Feel free to bring your favorite game and a friend. See you there! **Please contact Jessica** (301-229-7766 or jpetersen@westmorelanducc.org) **if you plan to attend so that there will be enough food for everyone.**

Volunteers are needed to provide the meal for this event. Please contact Jessica if you are interested in helping.

Parish Notes

Congratulations to **Emily Musil** on receiving her Ph.D. in history from UCLA. Emily has moved to Hartford Connecticut and is teaching history at Trinity College.

God bless **Carolyn and Bryan Connor**, children of Paul Connor and Heather Hipsley, who were baptized at Westmoreland on September 9 by Rev. Neuroth.

Notes of Thanks

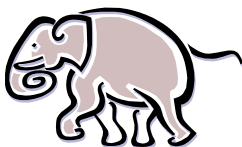
Many, many thanks to Westmorelanders for their prayers, cards and happy faces. It's wonderful to be back in civilization.

Mary Lois Williams

Thank you to all who sent words of encouragement and good wishes to me after my recent surgery. I appreciate your kindness and hope to see you in church soon.

Ruth B. Avery

Elephants on Parade



Bazaar White Elephant Chair, Kent Hughes, reminds everyone to keep bringing their "pesky pachyderms" to church for sorting and pricing in anticipation of the big sale on November 3. We take household items, sports equipment, holiday decorations, linens and other items - all clean and in working order. If you would like to join Kent (301-229-5962) and his helpers to sort and price items, he promises light refreshments, good conversation and lots of laughs.

Opportunity to Earn Service-Learning Credits for School

Are you a junior high (6th-8th grade) or senior high (9th-12th) youth looking for a way to earn your required service learning credits for school? Or are you the parent of such a youth? Now there is a way to acquire those credits by participating in the annual Westmoreland Bazaar (November 3).

Each year, a couple thousand books are donated for sale. Junior and senior high youth can earn service-learning credits by sorting and pricing the books and then selling the books at the Bazaar and on eBay. Several adults from the congregation have volunteered to share their "book expertise" to help with this process. Because the money earned from the sale of the books go to social service agencies, the church has been signed up with Montgomery County as a "service organization" so that students need only file quarterly reports with their schools' Student Service Learning Coordinator.

So, what are you waiting for? Come to our first sorting/pricing meeting on **Sunday, October 7** following the worship service and start earning those credits. Pizza and drinks will be provided. *All youth are encouraged to attend whether they are students in Montgomery County or not.* Please contact Jessica (301-229-7766 or jpetersen@westmorelanducc.org) if you have questions or comments.

Gatherings

Dinner for Eight - The nights have turned crisp and thoughts have turned from the barbecues and salads of summer to the roasts, casseroles and vegetables that mark the return to fall cooking. So share the food and the fun with others, some of whom you would like to get to know and others whom you know well. Use the sign-up sheet in the Social Hall or contact Janet in the church office (jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org or 301-229-7766) by **October 14**. She will put the groups together with a host. Visitors and those relatively new to Westmoreland are especially encouraged to join a small group for dinner.

The Women's Reading Group meets Wednesday, **October 3**, 7:30 pm at Pat Nelson's home to discuss **Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia** by Elizabeth Gilbert. RSVP to Pat at 301-208-1636.

The Westmorelander
Westmoreland Congregational UCC
1 Westmoreland Circle
Bethesda, MD 20816
www.westmorelanducc.org



October 1 - 20, 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Women's Reading Group 7:30 pm	4	5	6 Yoga 9 am
7 Fellowship Bkfst :30am Worship & Ch. School 10 am Child. Choir 11:45 Vol. Corps Welcome	8 Columbus Day Offices closed	9 Mid-East Comm. 4 pm	10	11 Chancel Choir 8-9:30	12	13 Yoga 9 am Potomac Assoc Fall Meeting
14 Worship & Ch. School 10 am Child Choir 11:45 Marlow Guitar Concert 3 pm Blessing of the Animals 7 pm	15 Ch. Council 7 pm Boards meet 8 pm	16	17 Prime Timers 12 noon	18 Chancel Choir 8-9:30	19	20 Yoga 9 am

Senior Minister.....Rev. Richard L. Smith
 Minister for Children's & Youth Ministries...Jessica Petersen
 Minister of Discipleship.....Rev. Dr. Robert L. Maddox
 Director of Music.....Dr. Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez
 Newsletter Editor.....Janet Moyer

Office Hours: 9 AM - 5PM

Newsletter Deadlines

Issue Date	Deadline
Oct 15	Oct 3
Nov 1	Oct 16

Articles should be emailed to:
jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

**God
 is
 Still
 Speaking,**