



# The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 54, No. 17

October 15, 2007

## Books That Change Lives

One of the great things about sabbatical was how much time it gave me to simply read. I left with a pile of books, which really didn't get any smaller, because I kept finding new ones. I was like a kid in a candy store, I think! Two of the books, which were not on the original list, turned out to be the most profound, eye-opening things I have come across in some time, and I referenced both in a recent sermon. I would commend them to you as well.

The first was novelist Barbara Kingsolver's first work of narrative non-fiction, *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, which tells the story of her family's move to a farm in southwest Virginia and their quest to eat as locally as possible. During a one-year cycle, they ate seasonally, consuming foods only as they became available in their own garden or from neighboring farms. She "tells the story of what we learned, or didn't; what we ate, or couldn't; and how our family was changed by one year of deliberately eating food produced in the same place where we worked, loved our neighbors, drank the water, and breathed the air.... Our highest shopping goal was to

get our food from so close to home that we'd know the person who grew it." Much more than the report of an idyllic year with nature, it brings in the spirituality and politics of food and food production and, as I said, was eye-opening to me.

The other book, by Berkeley professor Michael Pollan, called *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, follows the production of food even more closely. In a recent interview he said, in words that summarize much of what the book is about, "We need a farm policy that aligns our public-health goals with our land-use goals. In other words, we should not have a situation where one hand of the government is saying, 'We have an epidemic of obesity and diabetes,' while another hand of the government is making high-fructose corn syrup so cheap that it makes sense to put soda in 32-ounce cups. All these things are connected, and that's the lesson of ecology."

Read these and it will change the way you eat. They may well have surprising effects on your spirituality and your politics!

See you in Church!

**Rich**

## Some Enchanted Evening

**Bel Cantanti Opera** offers a sparking, romantic evening of joy, laughter and beauty when the company presents a selection of popular arias, well-known songs from operettas and musicals and jazz. Friday, November 2, 7:30 pm, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 7730 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda. Tickets are \$35, students: \$25. Call 301-438-8682 or visit [www.belcantanti.com](http://www.belcantanti.com).

## Worship Themes & Topics

**Sunday, October 21**

Rock Service

"Getting Physical with God"

Jessica Petersen, preaching

"Feel the Spirit" Band

**Sunday, October 28**

Reformation Sunday

"Marks of a Vibrant, Progressive Church

2. Looking Out"

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

Rich Smith, preaching

**Looking ahead...**

**Sunday, November 4**

All Saints Sunday

Rededication of the

Memorial Garden

## Westmoreland Bazaar November 3, 10 am - 2 pm

Invite your family, your friends and your neighbors to come to the WCUCC Bazaar! We will have White Elephants, Jewelry, a Holiday Shop, Treasures, Toys and Sports Equipment, Books and a Bake Shop. Lunch will be served.

White Elephants chair, Kent Hughes, is always looking for help to sort and price items. Watch for his announcements or call him at 301-229-5962. Contact Bazaar Chair, Amy Wooden at 301-652-0705 to let her know you can help with set up, selling and/or clean up. We need all hands on deck.

## **Palestinian Embroidery and Olive Oil Sale**

**Do Your Holiday Shopping Early  
and Help Refugee Women**

**Friday, November 9, 5 - 8 pm**  
**Saturday, November 10, 10 am - 2 pm**  
Church Parlor

The Palestinian Embroidery Project invites you to its seventh annual pre-holiday sale of traditional and modern embroidery made by women in Palestinian refugee camps and cooperatives. Please come and enjoy the women's beautiful work and know that your purchase will directly benefit them.

We will be selling a large variety of beautifully embroidered and hand-woven work -- everything from aprons to cell phone cases to nativity sets. A new item this year will be olive oil from the West Bank sold by the Middle East Committee of Westmoreland Church.

The Palestinian Embroidery Project provides a market for the women in Palestinian refugee camps and cooperatives and hopes to educate Americans about the Palestinian experience and cultural heritage. The Project works with refugee groups supported by established nonprofit organizations, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the YWCA and American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA).

**Gretchen Theobald**

gtheobald@mindspring.com or 202-244-2753

**Pamela Mertz**

MertzMD@aol.com 301-229-0973 or 301-512-4694

## **Library News**

Your library has a new subscription to **The Fourth R**. Subtitled "An Advocate for Religious Literacy," it is a publication of The Westar Institute which is also the home of the Jesus Seminar. Articles in the July/August issue are "Christian Atonement, From Metaphor to Ideology" by Stephen Finlan, "Two Coins Too Many, Reflections on the Widow's Offering" by Sakari Hakkinen and "Quakerism and the Jesus Seminar, Fitting Friends," by Patricia A. Williams.

Several articles from previous issues of **The Fourth R** are available at [www.westarinstitute.org](http://www.westarinstitute.org).

*Judy Newman*, Librarian

## **Washington Conservatory Presents**

The Washington Conservatory of Music proudly presents the **Shenandoah Conservatory Premiere Concert Series**. This new concert series is inaugurated on **October 13, 8 pm** with a concert by the **Audubon String Quartet** with guest artist, soprano Aimé Sposato. Additional concerts include:

**Sunday, January 27, 3 pm** -- Audubon String Quartet and pianist, John O'Connor.

**Friday, February 1, 8 pm** -- Trumpeter, Jens Lindemann and Jennifer Snow.

**Friday, April 18, 8 pm** - Pianist, John O'Connor

## **Washington Conservatory Concerts for the Nation's Capital 2007-08**

**Sunday, November 11, 3 pm** -- Tanya Anisimova, cello; Lydia Frumkin, piano

**Saturday, December 8, 8 pm** -- WCM Faculty/Alumni - Florence Altenburger, violin, Rachel Young, cello, and friends

**Sunday, January 13, 3 pm** -- WCM Faculty, Drew Owen, cello

**Saturday, January 19, 8 pm** -- Marcel Worms, contemporary jazz/classical piano

**Saturday, February 16, 8 pm** -- Michael Adcock - WCM Faculty, piano

**Saturday, March 15, 8 pm** -- Haskell Small, WCM Faculty, piano/composer "Lullaby of War" with narrator

**Sunday, March 30, 3 pm** -- Brooke Evers and Michael Gallant - Art Song Discovery (in cooperation with The Vocal Arts Society)

**Sunday, April 6, 3 pm** -- WCM Faculty, Nancy Almquist, soprano, Grace Gori, mezzo-soprano, Jeffery Watson, piano

**Saturday, May 10, 8 pm** -- Alexander Paley, piano

**Saturday, May 31, 8 pm** -- Joseph Schwartz, piano  
Friday, May 30, 7 pm - Master Class with Mr. Schwartz

*All concerts are FREE --  
donations are gratefully accepted.*

## WCUCC Youth: Help the Bazaar and Earn Service-Learning Credits

All Westmoreland junior and senior high youth (grades 6 – 12) are invited to participate in the annual Bazaar and, for Montgomery County students, earn service-learning credits at the same time! We will meet each **Sunday morning after worship in October** in Room 26B to sort and price books that have been donated to the Bazaar. On Saturday November 2, 6 pm, we will arrange them for sale and sell books at the Bazaar on November 3. Pizza and drinks are provided for the sorting/pricing sessions. All proceeds for the sales at the Bazaar go to local, national and international social service organizations. *All youth are encouraged to attend whether they are Montgomery County students or not.*

## Adult Education

*Saving Jesus* is a DVD-based exploration of Jesus Christ for the Third Millennium that will be led by Rev. Bob Maddox beginning **Sunday, October 14**, 8:30 am in the Parlor. Sessions will also be held on **Mondays, beginning October 15**, 12:30 – 2 pm at the Carpenter's House. Each stand-alone session includes a 20-minute video segment featuring an outstanding Christian scholar, followed by a guided discussion. The fall sessions will conclude in early December and winter sessions will resume in January.

## Cheers for the Church Retreat

About one hundred Westmorelanders spent a wonderful weekend filled with spirit, song, thoughtful discussions and recreation at Camp Wabanna September 28 - 30. The weather was perfect: sunny and warm days and cool evenings around the campfire. The facility was spacious, peaceful and restorative. We who participated know that many more Westmorelanders would enjoy what we hope will be an annual event. So plan on attending next year; you will be glad you did!

Kudos to the planning committee: Pam Owens, Lisa Alexander, Brad Case, Leslie Weber, Bonnie Hetzel and Mary Hallward-Driemeier.

**Never place a period where God has placed a comma.**



## Parish Notes

Belated, but hearty congratulations, are extended to **Marjie Craig** who turned 90 years old on August 25. Happy Birthday!

Former Westmorelander, **Gerald Harwood**, died on September 21 in Gaithersburg, MD. A memorial service was held on October 8 at Seneca Valley UCC.

## Meet Our New Members

Please introduce yourself to and welcome the following individuals who joined Westmoreland on September 23:

**Jessie Hackes** has previously attended, and was a friend of, the former Briggs Church. She is a public affairs consultant. Her leisure interests include professional football, international affairs, graphics, interactive media and choral music. She lives in Washington, DC and joined by reaffirmation of faith.

**Richard Bertaut** is an electronics engineer with the International Broadcasting Bureau. His hobbies include skiing, reading and juggling. He lives in Bethesda with his wife, Cindy and their two children, Scott, 14 and Clara, 12. He joined by reaffirmation of faith.

*Thinking of joining?* Contact Rev. Rich Smith or Janet Moyer in the church office: 301-229-7766.

## Briggs Center Offers English Classes

The Briggs Center For Faith and Action offers English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESL) classes on site at the Washington Baptist Church (formerly Briggs Church), 5144 Massachusetts Avenue. Classes are small and offered at beginning and advanced levels. If you know someone who might benefit from these classes, have him/her get in touch with Marilyn Mix at 301-229-7766 or pick up a flyer in the Westmoreland Church office.

Do you think you might want to teach classes? Several Westmorelanders already do. Contact Rev. Bob Maddox at [rmaddox@westmorelanducc.org](mailto:rmaddox@westmorelanducc.org).

### Palestinian Olive Oil Sold Here!

Buy organic, extra-virgin, first-cold-pressed olive oil, 750 ml (approx 24 oz): \$12.50 per bottle. Available in the church office and at Coffee Hour on Sundays. For further information, contact Pam Smith at [pam.smith16@verizon.net](mailto:pam.smith16@verizon.net)

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



**October 15 - November 3, 2007**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	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
21 Rock Service Worship & Ch. School 10 am Child. Choir 11:45	22	23 Exec. Comm 7:30 pm	24	25 Chancel Choir 8-9:30	26	27 Yoga 9 am
28 Worship & Ch. School 10 am Child. Choir 11:45	29	30	31 Halloween 	Nov 1 Chancel Choir 8-9:30	2	3 BAZAAR 10 am - 2 pm

Senior Minister.....Rev. Richard L. Smith  
 Director 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**

<b>Issue Date</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Nov 1	Oct 16
Nov 15	Nov 5

Articles should be emailed to:  
[jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org](mailto:jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org)

