



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 55, No. 1

January 1, 2008

Celebrating Dr. King With Music

For the last several years, while I was serving as an officer of the UCC's Potomac Association, I was invited each January to "bring greetings" to the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast held at Peoples Church in DC. These are always wonderful celebrations of Dr. King and our continuing quest for racial and social justice, as well as a chance to really "feel the Spirit" among folks who "talk the talk and walk the walk" each and every day. And the food isn't bad either.

Since my term as moderator ended earlier this year, I was looking forward to attending and simply enjoying the event. Then I received an invitation from the planning committee to come and provide some music, which I have accepted with both joy and trepidation. But I realize I need not worry, as I'm bringing along "GospelGrass," my group which sings bluegrass and gospel music, consisting of Westmorelanders Dave Batson, Robert Benton and Emily Musil. We're looking forward to performing some songs of freedom and justice in this setting, which will also feature some rousing speeches and powerful praying. It's on Saturday January 12. You're invited, too, and ticket information is included elsewhere in this issue.

GospelGrass will also lead the "Second Sunday Sundown Service," January 13, 7 pm. We will celebrate Dr. King's birthday with an updated version of a service we did a couple of years ago (in the summer, when many of you were away) – Songs of Soil and Soul, the story of Moses told through Gospel music (with our unique bluegrass twist!). I hope you'll plan to save the date for what we promise will be an engaging and inspiring evening.

May this be only the start to a wonderful, Spirit-filled New Year!

See you in Church!

Rich

Worship Themes & Topics

Sunday, January 6 - Epiphany Sunday

"Another Road, One Year Later"

(A reflection on our Worship Initiative at One Year)

Matthew 2:1-12

Holy Communion

Rev. Rich Smith, preaching

Sunday, January 13

"Somebody's Calling My Name –
My Lord, What Shall I Do?"

Isaiah 42:1-9

Matthew 3:13-17

Rev. Rich Smith, preaching

Sundown Service 7 pm

Songs of Soil and Soul:

A Musical Celebration of
Moses and Martin Luther King,
led by GospelGrass

Weather Closing Policy



Winter is here! In the event of inclement weather, this is the church's closing policy:

- When school and administrative offices are closed, Rich will decide if the church office is closed. If it is closed, a message will be placed on the church voicemail system by 7:30 am.
- If a worship service is cancelled due to inclement weather, a message will be posted on the voicemail system by 8 am.
- There will also be an announcement posted on Westmorelandnet.
- Channel 9 will broadcast our cancellation information along with other closings and cancellations.

Annual Meetings Are Coming Up!

Annual Budget Meeting: January 20

Annual Congregational Meeting: January 27

Two important congregational meetings convene this month. At the **budget meeting**, following the worship service, the Trustees will present the proposed 2008 budget for the church. This is the time for discussion about income and expenses.

The **Annual Meeting** of the congregation will be held immediately following the worship service. We will hear reports from the officers and board chairs, and review and vote on the slate of 2008 officers and new board members. Childcare will be available for both meetings.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend, though only members may vote. If you want voting rights, please speak to Rev. Rich Smith or Janet Moyer so you can join Westmoreland. We will be accepting new members in the worship service on **January 27**.

Note to Officers and Board Chairs: January 2 is the final deadline to submit your annual reports. Please email them to ssutton@westmorelanducc.org.

Annual Directory Update

January brings the annual collection of information to update to the church directory. To be an effective resource, we need your current information. Beginning January 13, the information we have will be available for your review on Sundays. If its correct, mark it "OK". Otherwise, make corrections as necessary. We hope to get the 2008 directory out by the end of February.

Make a Difference: Teach

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESL) classes are taught on Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday at the former Briggs church under the auspices of the Briggs Center for Faith and Action. About 75 - 100 students are served. Teachers are needed! Can't make it on Wednesday or Thursday? Consider teaching on Sunday. Join Westmorelanders Thora Carlton, David Bennett, Jeanine Derr, Pierre Tourielle, Christine Turqman and Jean Lutterman who currently teach. Classes resume Sunday, January 6. For questions, contact Rev. Bob Maddox at 301-229-7725 or robtjr11@comcast.net.

Save These Dates!

You have just pulled out the 2008 calendar, so now is the time to note all your important dates. Here are two for church:

Central Atlantic Conference

Annual Meeting: June 13-15, 2008

Rev. John Thomas, president and general minister of the United Church of Christ will be the keynote speaker for the Central Atlantic Conference's Annual Meeting at the University of Delaware. The theme of this year's meeting will be **"IMAGINE—A New Church is Possible."** Registration materials will be distributed in March. More details will be provided on the website of the Central Atlantic Conference at www.cacucc.org. Attendance at the conference is open to all!

All-Church Retreat: October 3 - 5, 2008

Return to Camp Wabanna! If you did not attend the Retreat last September, but heard what a great time we all had there and saw Rick Alfonso's fabulous photo gallery, you won't want to miss this year's event. The retreat committee will get registration materials out in a few months, so plan now to attend.

Be a Greeter!

The Board of Membership and Fellowship (BMF) would like to ensure that we have greeters to welcome members and visitors to our church each Sunday. Serving as a greeter provides an opportunity to meet other members of the congregation as well as demonstrate our hospitality to prospective members.

Please contact Becky Brindle (301-299-1706 or beckybrindle@msn.com) to let her know when you might be available and she will confirm a date. Or you may sign up on the sheet on the BMF bulletin board in the Social Hall.

Greeting is an easy way to contribute - the only requirements are a warm smile and arrival at church by 9:45 am on Sunday.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve the congregation.



You Brought Joy to Little Children and Adults

On December 16, Shaw Community Ministry hosted its annual Christmas party complete with crafts for young and old alike, poetry and dance by some of the kids, lunch and Christmas cake for all 60 adults and children who attended the party, and of course, a visit from Santa, who gave out the generous presents donated by Westmorelanders and other UCC churches in the Potomac Association. Jessica Petersen organized several youth and parents from our church to help set up and work on crafts with the kids. I will put some photos on the bulletin board as soon as they come back from the photo shop and hope a few will end up on our Westmoreland website.

It was indeed such an inspiring day for children and adults alike. I watched conversations emerge about jazz bands with a young, talented musician in Lincoln Westmoreland Apartments and some young musicians from Westmoreland; grandmothers' creativity blossom as they created wreaths; middle school boys proudly bringing over their miniature decorated trees to show to older siblings; detached, blasé teenagers squealing with pleasure as they made ornaments and bracelets; families coming together to be joyous in each other's company; the gift of poetry recited by children whom too many in society have long stopped believing in; bellies and hearts full, and hugs exchanged at the end of the day across all kinds of groups.

Barbara McDowell, who chairs the Board of Shaw Community Ministry and was responsible for organizing so many of the details of the day, captured what all of the board members felt. As she drove home with her husband, "Jerry the Elf," she commented, "Now it feels like it's really the Christmas season."

Caryn McTighe Musil

Olive Oil is Temporarily Unavailable

Many thanks to all the Westmorelanders and friends who purchased several hundred bottles of Palestinian olive oil this past fall. The entire local supply has been sold! Our supplier is awaiting a new shipment. When it becomes available, I will let everyone know.

Pam Smith
BCA

BCA Fall Grants Distributed

At its December 9, 2007 meeting, BCA approved the following grants:

- \$1000** to **Shaw Ministries** to create an appropriate directory of services and service agencies
- \$500** to **Ecumenical Advocacy Days** to help low income members attend the conference
- \$500** to **Evergreen United Methodist Church, Ft. Bragg, CA** for a handbook and training program for work with special needs students
- \$1000** to **APROBA-SANK** scholarships for rural youth (Guatemala)
- \$2000** to **NAMI** for a Peer-to-Peer course and "In Our Voice" presentations
- \$1000** to University of Maryland **United Campus Ministry** for general support
- \$4000** to **Marie Reed Center** for clothing, food, and educational supplies for at-risk children
- \$1000** to **Christian Peacemaker Team** (Rachel Cloud's team) in Colombia
- \$1000** to **Divine Nord-Ouest Orphanage** in Haiti (shipping costs and back salaries)
- \$1000** to **Jubilee Jump Start** (donation to the fund to hire an executive director)
- \$700** to **City Gate** for its pantry to use for filling Christmas baskets.

Saving Jesus Class to Resume in January

Rev. Bob Maddox's class, *Saving Jesus*, a DVD-based exploration of Jesus for the Third Millennium, will resume on **Sunday, January 13** (8:45 am in the Parlor) and **Monday, January 14** (12:30 pm at Carpenter House). There are four sessions remaining. You need not have attended the previous sessions; each stands alone. Join the lively discussions we have!

Women's Reading Group

The December meeting having been cancelled due to weather, the reading group will meet **January 9**, 7:30 pm to discuss **No Certain Rest** by Jim Lehrer. RSVP to Ann Morales at 301-229-7286 or moralann@aol.com. You will need directions to find her house.



January 1 - 15, 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 Conc. for Vol. Corps 7:30 pm	5
6 Fellowship Bkfst. 8:30 am Worship & Ch. School 10 am Epiphany Communion	7	8	9	10 Chancel Choir 7:45 - 9:45 pm	11 Middle Sch. Youth Night 6:30 pm	12
13 Worship & Ch. School 10 am Confirmation 4 pm Evening Service	14	15				

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

Issue Date	Deadline
Jan 15	Jan 4
Feb 1	Jan 16

Articles should be emailed to:
jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

