



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 55, No. 2

January 15, 2008

Happy - and Busy - New Year!

Christmas is not the only busy time around here, though we had a wonderful season filled with spirit and music:

Music Sunday on December 16, the Sanctuary resounded with the compositions of Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez, our Director of Music and the dedicated and talented members of the Chancel Choir

On December 23, we had a very successful carol sing-a-long attended by 154 people from within and around our community. The chili supper following was attended by about 75 people who tucked into gallons of delicious chili. A surprise visit from Santa Claus topped off the evening.

On Christmas Eve over 350 people of all ages came to the 5 pm service that included the recreation of the birth story. Later that evening, at 11 pm, some 50 souls came to the contemplative candlelight service.

Finally, on the tenth day of Christmas, January 4, two very talented musicians, John Lutterman and Jean Lutterman, gave an excellent cello and piano concert that raised \$2,134 for the Westmoreland Volunteer Corps.

Here is what is coming up:

- January 20 - Budget hearing
- January 27 - Annual Meeting
- February 2 - Family Worship Night
- February 3 - Jazz Sunday
(New Orleans style, Conservatory Musicians)
Baby Shower for Amber and Mike
- February 6 - Ash Wednesday, worship 7:30
- February 9 - Leadership Retreat 9am - noon
- February 10 - First Sunday in Lent
Bible Presentation for third graders
Valentine's Brunch

And this is the start to a wonderful, Spirit-filled New Year!

See you in Church!

Rich

Worship Themes & Topics

Sunday, January 20

“Always the Next Day”

John 1:29-42

Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox preaching

Sunday, January 27

“In Search of the Perfect Church”

1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

New Members Received

Rev. Rich Smith preaching

Congregational Meetings

Budget Hearing

Sunday, January 20, 11:30 am

The congregation is invited to review and discuss the proposed 2008 church budget.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 27, 11:30 am

The congregation convenes to vote on the slate of officers, new board members and the 2008 budget. To stave off hunger, we will hold a “Super Coffee Hour” with lots of finger foods. Please bring something that day. If your last name begins:

- **A - H**, bring a savory item (e.g. little sandwiches, cheese and crackers, chips & dip)
- **I - R**, bring fruit or vegetables
- **S - Z**, bring a sweet (e.g. cookies, sweet bread, brownies)

The Board of Membership will provide beverages.



**Childcare will be available
for both meetings.**

Pleased to Meet You!

The face seems familiar, but you can't remember the name? Let's start the year off right by wearing our nametags every week. How many times have I heard "I can't just walk up and introduce myself to someone. I'd be embarrassed if it turns out she is a long-time member"? Your nametag is an immense help when you are trying to make conversation with others at church whose names you do not know. If you need one, email or call me in the office and I will make one for you. If you have misplaced yours, please look around for it -- in the car, behind the sofa cushions, in your suit jacket pocket. To insure that your stays "found," please replace it on the nametag board in either the Narthex or the Social Hall. Thank you.

Janet Moyer

Membership Coordinator

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration: Preserving the Dream Around the World

Sponsored by Peoples Congregational UCC
Monday, January 21, 12 Noon
4704 13th Street NW, Washington, DC

The program will feature talented youth who represent various countries and cultures and who truly embody Dr. King's dream. Guests will enjoy performances from New Zealand, India, Ireland, South America, Ghana, the Howard University Gospel Choir and much, much more! For more information, please call (202) 829-5511.

Make it a day on, not a day off.

Annual Directory Update

We are updating the church's annual directory. To be an effective resource, we need your current information. Current directory information is available for your review on Sundays in the Social Hall through **January 27**. If you have not already done so, please check the information we have for you. It is especially important that the church have your current email address. If all the information is correct, mark it "OK". Otherwise, make corrections as necessary. We hope to get the 2008 directory out by the end of February.

Westmoreland's Live Calendar

Check out the **NEW live calendar** on the Westmoreland website! We now have a calendar that can be kept up to date as events are scheduled. (Thanks go to Tim Waidmann for the launch.) The "shortcut" to its location on the website is www.westmorelanducc.org/livecalendar.html. Put that address in your browser, then "bookmark" it or add it to your "favorites." Check the calendar frequently for updated events. For details and descriptions, click on the event. You will also find a calendar locator on the left side of the website home page.

If you know of an event at Westmoreland that is not on the calendar, call or email the information to Janet Moyer at jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org.

At church you may still pick up a copy of the **paper calendar** of events that we have been distributing for several years and that is usually available the last Sunday of the month. However, that version does not include any changes in the church calendar that are made after it has been printed.

An Advent Study: The Easter Narratives

The Easter story stands at the heart of the Christian message. All four of the gospels give a rendering of that timeless and classic saga but each has its own nuances and flavors. This half-day retreat will take a close look at the individual accounts, trying to discern what happened, what the Easter story meant to the developing church, what it came to mean to subsequent Christian generations and what it can mean for us in our time. For background, participants can read the small, excellent book **The Last Week** by Marcus Borg and Jon Dominic Crossan. The retreat's focus, however will be on the texts themselves and not on this or any other single book.

Dr. Bob Maddox will lead this retreat on Saturday morning, **March 8, 9 - Noon** in the Parlor. All Westmorelanders and their friends, including high school youth, are welcome to attend.

Saving Jesus Class Resumed

Rev. Bob Maddox's class, *Saving Jesus*, a DVD-based exploration of Jesus for the Third Millennium, resumed on Sunday, January 13, with three sessions remaining. Sundays, (8:45 am in the Parlor) and Mondays (12:30 pm at Carpenter House).



Rock a Bye Baby

Please join us for a Baby Shower Celebration

honoring

Michael and Amber Neuroth

Sunday, February 3 during Coffee Hour

Amber and Mike are registered at

Babys R Us
Pottery Barn for Kids

Coffee Hour hosts: Elizabeth Benton
Linda Maddox

Children and Youth Ministries

God & Country classes are optional and taught outside the regular church school curriculum. Classes started on January 13, but you may still sign up if you contact Jessica Petersen, Director of Children's and Youth Ministries **right away**: 301-229-7766. If children are unable to attend a meeting, they may arrange a make-up class with Jessica.

God & Me (for children in grades 1-3) is a four-session series taught at 2 pm on Sundays. The curriculum is designed to help children become best friends with Jesus and tell their story of "God and Me" together. As children learn to lean on God as their Good Shepherd, they will be challenged to reach out and be "good shepherds" to those around them.

God & Family (for children in grades 4-5) is a six-session series taught at 1 pm on Sundays. The curriculum is designed to help youth understand the importance of family and God's role in a healthy family. The God and Family Program provides an opportunity for young people and their families to explore their faith together and they will choose "family projects" to be done with their family at home.

New Member Reception

Westmoreland will be receiving new members into the congregation on **January 27**. If you would like to join, please contact Rev. Rich Smith or Janet Moyer to arrange a meeting prior to that date.

A Prayer for Peace

O God of peace and reconciliation, we prayer for our Israeli and Palestinian brothers and sisters. They have endured profound loss and sorrow. Comfort them and guide them onto the road of peace. We prayer for the peace of Jerusalem, the holy city of God and spiritual home to all the children of Abraham. We prayer for the international leaders who search for peace. Bless them and their work for peace. O God of all creation, your people cry for peace. May your promise of justice and enduring love breathe renewed life into our commitment to a sustainable peace, when two states – Israel and Palestine – are a reality, living side-by-side in security, harmony and peace. Amen

This prayer, adapted from the Prayer for Peace distributed by Churches for Middle East Peace, was recited at Westmoreland on the Sundays in December.

Parish Notes

Our deepest sympathy and prayers are extended to:

Ron Oechsler on the death of his father, Emil Oechsler, in New Jersey on December 6.

Tammy Durbin and her family on the death of Tammy's step-father, William Bierema, on December 29 in Caledonia, Michigan.

Musical Events

The Washington Conservatory of Music presents:

January 27, 8 pm - The **Audubon Quartet**, (Shenandoah Conservatory Premier Concert Series) featuring Clyde Shaw, Cello; Doris Lederer, Viola; Akemi Takayama, Violin; and Ellen Jewett, Violin.

February 1, 8 pm - **Jens Lindemann**, Trumpeter

Concerts are free; donations are gratefully accepted at the door.

Now is the time to get this Westmoreland gala event on your calendar:

April 5, 7 pm - **Memories and Music with Mayhugh** - Radio personality and jazz enthusiast Bill Mayhugh takes us along memory lane with some of his favorite music and memories. Music by the **Rick Whitehead Trio**. Art exhibit by **F.I.N.E.** fabric artists.

To Benefit: Marie Reed Learning Center

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



January 15 - 31, 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		15 Exec Comm 7:30 pm	16 Prime Timers 12 Noon	17 Chancel Choir 7:45 - 9:45 pm	18 High School Lock-in 7 pm	19 WCM Concert 8 pm
20 Maddox class 8:45 am Worship & Ch. School 10 am Budget Hearing 11:30 am	21 MLK Holiday Offices closed	22	23	24 Chancel Choir 7:45 - 9:45 pm	25 Marlow Guitar Concert 8 pm	26
27 Maddox Class 8:45 am Worship & Ch. School 10 am Ann Meet. 11:30 Confirmation 4 pm	28 Maddox Class 12:30 pm	29 Sandwich Making 10:30 am	30	31 Chancel Choir 7:45 - 9:45 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

Issue Date	Deadline
Feb 1	Jan 16
Feb 15	Feb 4

Articles should be emailed to:
jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

