



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 55, No. 5

March 1, 2008

Moderator's Moment

During 2008 we will focus intensively on membership development. The continued growth of our church depends on attracting others to its fold in an enthusiastic and sustained way. The congregational psyche is marked more by spiritual inwardness than "shout-outs" or proselytism. But we need to pull together to generate new ideas directed at spawning new affiliations. Westmoreland's recent swell in new visitors (17 newcomers alone on Jazz Sunday) is a positive sign. Guided by our new membership development task force, we will redouble our efforts as a congregation to forge lasting connections.

Internationalism and diversity are two avenues toward membership development that Westmorelanders are well-situated to travel. Within our congregation, we have extraordinary international expertise. I am not a globetrotter, but in the last few months, I have visited the Peoples Republic of China for the second time in thirty years, and have taken two trips to San Antonio, Texas. Experiencing other cultures that are diverse and populous is invigorating. Westmoreland is located in a vibrant multi-cultural and multi-lingual county. Let's build a stronger bridge to our larger international community.

Social justice outreach is also a core membership development principle. The Westmoreland Volunteer Corps and the Briggs Center are faith beacons; they make visible a spiritual commitment that is less about words and more about action. I treasure the time that I served on the Volunteer Corps Board after joining Westmoreland in the early 90s, as well as the relationships that I developed with other Board and Corps members. "Or of outward circumstance" has always been one of my favorite clauses in the Westmoreland Declaration of Purpose (found on the back cover of our hymnals). Social justice outreach and membership development go hand-in-hand in an authentic and mutually beneficial way.

Finally, I view membership development as an inward goal as well as an outreach goal. We need to intensify efforts to get the good news out

about our community while ensuring that we don't overtax our current members. Spiritual work ought not to devolve into "more work" without "more spirit." My daughter Kate recently coined a new phrase to describe my church service activities: "wurch." All wurch and no prayer makes a very dull Moderator, not to mention congregation.

Let's keep focused on the core focus of our community -- worship -- as we reach out to bring others in. Peace.

Sarah Wilson, Moderator

Worship Themes & Topics

Sunday, March 2

Fourth Sunday in Lent

A Contemplative Communion Service

Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14

Rev. Rich Smith preaching

Sunday, March 9

Fifth Sunday in Lent

"A Real Eye Opener"

John 9:1-41

Rev. Rich Smith preaching

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Evening Service

7 pm

Sunday, March 16

Palm Sunday

"Two Mountains, One Prayer"

Matthew 26:36-46

Rev. Rich Smith preaching

Is It Spring Yet?

Not quite. But **March 9** is the beginning of **Daylight Saving Time**. Don't forget: when you go to bed Saturday, March 8, set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour.



Calling All Seniors and Caregivers

You are invited to the **World of Difference Seminar**, 11:30 - 12:30, in the parlor, after church on Sunday, March 2. Deborah Rubenstein, Clinical Director of IONA services, will help us learn about the services, classes, workshops and volunteer opportunities available through IONA Senior Services. You may be interested:

- because you are making plans to remain healthy and independent as you age;
- because you are a care-giver for a friend or member of your family;
- so that you can be more helpful to a friend or member of your family;
- because you (or your children) are looking for appropriate volunteer community service opportunities.

We will have a light lunch supplement to the Coffee Hour fare available in the parlor. We will begin promptly at 11:30 am and will conclude before 12:30.

Look for our posters at church. Questions? See Sally Fox, the WCUCS representative to IONA, or Betsy K. Bennett, BCA.

Children's and Youth Ministries

Some of our high school youth will spend March 24 - 29, their spring break, on Edisto Island, SC doing house repairs, painting and roofing in an outreach effort to the Gullah community. If you would like to go along (youth or adult chaperone), or want to financially support this effort, please contact Jessica Petersen at jpetersen@westmorelanducc.org.

2008 Ecumenical Advocacy Days: Claiming a Vision of True Security

March 7 - 10 Hilton Alexandria Mark Center

For further information: 202-470-0127 or info@advocacydays.org.

Pre-conference event: Women's Action for New Directions (WAND) will offer a Facilitator Training at their National Office on Capitol Hill. The purpose of this training is to equip clergy, lay leaders, and peace-faith-feminism organizations interested in distributing or facilitating the *Faith Seeking Peace* curriculum in a congregational or organizational setting. A flier and registration forms are on the What's Happening Table. You may visit www.faithwand.org.

Music and Arts Abound

The Arts Committee announces two spring music and arts events which all Westmorelanders will want to attend - - and bring their families, neighbors and friends.

Memories and Music with Mayhugh Saturday April 5, 7 pm

Celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month reminiscing with radio personality **Bill Mayhugh** as he takes us along memory lane with some of his favorite music and interviews with famous persons. Music will be provided by the award-winning **Rick Whitehead Jazz Trio** plus guests. (The Trio recently won the 2008 Washington Area Music Association -- WAMMIE -- award for Best Jazz Group!)

An art exhibit opening of works by **F.I.N.E.** fabric arts will follow the concert.

To benefit: Marie Reed Learning Center

Mozart Fest Saturday May 3, 7 pm

Westmoreland Congregational UCC, St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church and the Washington Conservatory of Music collaborate to bring you a spectacular choral and orchestral concert. Mozart's music has a universal appeal and this concert will feature some of his greatest and most familiar choral works featuring soloists Leslie MacKnight, soprano; Courtney Cacopardo, soprano; Doug Gaddis, tenor; and George Singleton, baritone.

The choirs and orchestra will be conducted by Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez, with Sharon Ollison on organ and harpsichord.

Program: **Piano quartet in G minor**
Ave Verum
Laudate Dominum
Coronation Mass

To benefit: Bethesda Cares

Women's Book Group

The group meets March 5, 7:30 pm at Alice Hogarty's home. RSVP to Alice at 301-320-6673. The book is **The Glass Castle** by Jeannette Walls.

Parish Notes

Congratulations to **Rev. Amber Neuroth** and **Mike Neuroth** on the birth of William Henry Neuroth on February 11. Their address is: 216 Sayre Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540.

Congratulations to **Barbara McDowell** who has been selected as the 2008 recipient of the Rex E. Lee Advocacy and Public Service Award presented by the Brigham Young University Law School to a “distinguished lawyer who exemplifies the highest accomplishment and excellence in the profession”. The award will be formally presented on March 5.

Happy Birthday to **Hazel Rine Cook** who turned 90 on February 22. Hazel has been a member of Westmoreland for 59 years.

Former Director of Christian Education, **Rev. Rachel Hackenburg**, has been called as the minister of Grace United Church of Christ in Lancaster, PA.

Our prayers of condolence are extended to **Jack Wells** whose father, Adoniram Judson Wells, Jr., died on February 19 at age 90. In retirement, Mr. Wells' analytical work proved many people died each year from second-hand smoke. His findings won him an award from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Lenten Empty Bowls

SOME (So Others May Eat) is holding its annual **Empty Bowls** event. For \$20 you can purchase a beautiful, hand-crafted bowl, then fill it with the hot soup of your choice and dine with others at one of these locations: Thursday, **March 6**, 6 – 9 pm, St. Charles Church, 33040 N. Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA or Monday, **March 10**, 6-9 pm, Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 3630 Quesada Street, NW, Washington.

You go home with a bowl and the satisfaction of helping those men, women and children in the metro area whose bowls are empty. For over 20 years, SOME has been an outreach ministry of Westmoreland's Board of Community Action and the Westmorelanders who prepare casseroles for one lunch every month.

If you are a potter, or know a potter who would like to donate a handcrafted bowl to SOME, please contact Susanne Tortola: 202-797-8806 Ext. 1010 or stortola@some.org.

Can Greens Create Jobs And Justice?

A book signing, wine reception, lecture and discussion with Bracken Hendricks, author of **Apollo's Fire: Igniting American's Clean Energy Economy** will be held Wednesday, **March 19**, 7 - 9 pm in Westmoreland's Social Hall. Mr. Hendricks is a Senior fellow for climate change and energy with the Center for American Progress. He served as Special Assistant to the Office of Vice President Al Gore and was the founding Executive Director of the Apollo Alliance.

Sponsored by: The Westmoreland Environment Committee and Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light.

The Central Atlantic Conference

The conference exists

to provide its associations, churches, clergy and laity with an extensive and varied support system, challenging them to a high, broader and deeper vision of Christian ministry; strengthening and sustaining them in their efforts to be faithful in mission, and linking them to wider church agencies and to each other.

It strives to lift up and celebrate

our unity in Christ, the gift of our heritage and the richness of our diversity; and to be an agent of mission in our society and the global community.

The purpose of the conference, in all its elements, is to support, challenge and strengthen the local churches,

bringing them together in community and mission and

in relation to the larger church and society, consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ

United Church News, Dec. 2007 - Jan. 2008

CAC Annual Meeting: Imagine – A New Church is Possible - June 13-15, University of Delaware. The featured speaker and preacher will be Rev. John Thomas, president and general minister of the United Church of Christ. For details www.cacucc.org. If you are interested in attending, contact Rev. Rich Smith.

The Westmorelander
Westmoreland Congregational UCC
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Bethesda, MD 20816
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March 1 - 15, 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 Fellowship Bkfst 8:30 am Worship & Ch. School 10 am World of Difference Sem. 11:30 am	3	4	5 Women's Book Group 7:30 pm	6 Chancel Choir 7:45 - 9:45 pm	7 Middle School Youth 6:30 pm	8 Easter Narratives class 9 am - 12 N
9 Vol Corps 8:30 Worship & Ch. School 10 am Confirm. 4 pm Evening Service 7 pm Daylight Saving Begins	10	11 Mid-East Comm. 4 pm	12	13 Chancel Choir 7:45 - 9:45 pm	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
Mar 15	Mar 3
Apr 1	Mar 18

Articles should be emailed to:
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