



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 55, No. 6

March 15, 2008

The Westmorelander Goes Monthly

On February 27, the Executive Committee, comprising the chairs of the church's boards, adopted a proposal introduced by Rev. Rich Smith to reduce the publication of the **Westmorelander** (beginning with the April issue) from a semi-monthly to a monthly schedule. The Committee approved the proposal with an amendment to seek comment on the revised schedule. The primary rationale for the monthly schedule is to reduce the annual cost of the publication by \$1,200 and to free up additional resources -- both human and financial -- for other forms of communication aimed at membership outreach.

Westmorelandnet: This electronic listserv informs the congregation of important and relevant events both inside and outside the church community. The nearly 300 subscribers receive several emails each week, including a detailed message each Thursday from the Senior Minister outlining all of the weekend's worship, educational and social events.

Website: The church's website, which was redesigned in 2007, has become both an "advertising" venue for the church as well as another timely and economical means for informing the congregation, and the larger community, about us, and our worship, educational, outreach and social opportunities. Over 95% of our Sunday worship visitors report that they learned about Westmoreland by visiting our website. The recent addition of a "live" calendar, updated at least weekly, provides us with detailed descriptions of all events and of worship services (including scripture, sermon title and music selections).

The Committee recognized that many Westmorelanders, even some who regularly use Westmorelandnet are avid readers and refrigerator-posters of the hard copy **Westmorelander**. A reduction in schedule is a communications "auld lang syne" strategy: make new forms but keep the old. We are eager to hear your views about the reduced schedule. Please email our moderator, Sarah Wilson, at swilson@cov.com, give her a call at 301-563-6504, or speak to her during Coffee Hour.

Worship Themes & Topics

Sunday, March 16 - Palm Sunday

"Two Mountains, One Prayer"

Matthew 26:36-46

Rev. Rich Smith preaching

March 20 - Maundy Thursday

Soup and Bread Supper in the Social Hall - 6:30 pm
(Rich Smith's corn chowder)

Service of Darkness - 7:30 pm

The Ancient Office of Tenebrae

During the service: Crafts for children in the Social Hall; childcare available for infants and toddlers

Sunday, March 23 - Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service - 7 am in the Memorial Garden

Light Breakfast follows in the Mabry Room

Festival Service - 10 am

"The First First-Responder"

John 20:1-18

Communion

Hallelujah Chorus

Rev. Rich Smith preaching

The Easter Offering funds grants distributed by the Board of Community Action

Sunday, March 30

"Jubilate"

John 20:19-31

Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox preaching

A Powerful Film

The Power of Forgiveness, airing on Maryland Public Television, WMPT - 22, **March 19**, 9 pm, explores the role of forgiveness in alleviating anger and grief and the physical, mental and spiritual benefits that come from forgiveness. The film features people from many faith traditions -- Thich Nhat Hanh, Elie Wiesel, Rev. James Forbes and author Thomas Moore -- and stories on the Amish, the 9/11 tragedy and peace-building in Northern Ireland.

March 23: A Very Early Easter

If Easter seems particularly early to you this year, you are quite right. It seems there was hardly time to take a breath between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday. In fact, you are living in a kind of "historic" Easter-tide.

As you may know, Easter is always the 1st Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, (March 20). This dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that Hebrew people used to identify Passover, which is why it moves around on our Roman calendar.

Based on the above, Easter can actually be one day earlier (March 22), a rare occurrence. This year is the earliest Easter most of us will ever see the rest of our lives. Only the most elderly of our population, those who are 95 years or older, have ever seen it this early and the rest of us have never, or will ever, see it a day earlier!

- The next time Easter will be this early, March 23, will be the year 2228 (220 years from now).
- The last time it was this early was 1913. So if you're 95 or older, you were around for that.
- The next time it will be a day earlier, March 22, will be in the year 2285 (277 years from now).
- The last time it was on March 22 was 1818. So, no one alive today has seen or will ever see it any earlier than this year!

Reprinted, with edits, from the Worldwide Web.

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

Can Greens Create Jobs and Justice?

Lecture, Discussion, Book Signing, Wine Reception
with Author Bracken Hendriks

Apollo's Fire: Igniting America's Clean Energy Economy March 19, 7 – 9 pm, Social Hall

Bracken Hendricks is 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 with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on the Inter-agency Climate Change Working Group, the President's Council on Sustainable Development, and the White House Livable Communities Task Force. Hendricks was the founding Executive Director of the Apollo Alliance.

Peter, Paul and Mary: Three Early Christian Voices

Presented by Jesus Seminar on the Road

April 11 and 12

St. Marks Episcopal Church
Corner of 3rd and A Streets SE
Washington, DC

Two noted New Testament scholars will lead vigorous discussions around three pivotal figures from Christianity's earliest days: Peter, Paul and Mary Magdalene. Professor Shelly Matthews of Harvard Divinity School and Professor Roy W. Hoover (retired) of Witham College will present lectures and conversations Friday evening, April 11 and Saturday, April 12 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Capitol Hill, corner of 3rd and A Streets, SE.

Registration for the full event is \$50; less for individual sessions. Registration is through the Westar Institute: www.westarinstitute.org. Rev. Bob Maddox can help coordinate participation.

CAC Annual Meeting Registration

Registration materials for the Central Atlantic Conference Annual Meeting, **June 13 - 15**, at the University of Delaware, have arrived. Rev. John Thomas, president of the UCC is the featured speaker. We will be permitted two more delegates including one under 20 years of age. If you would like to attend, speak to Rev. Rich Smith .

Parish Notes

Our prayers of sympathy are extended to **Pat Barnett-Brubaker** and her family on the death of her son, Robert W. Barnett, Jr. on February 27 in Largo, MD following a long illness. Rob had been an artist and displayed his work in local venues. Interment will be private.

Long-time friend of Westmoreland **Calvin "Hank" Raullerson** died on February 9. Hank had a distinguished career in government and civil service. His wife, Olive, continues to live in the area.

Gatherings

Prime Timers

Prime Timers will meet for lunch on **March 19**. George Harris will discuss "Turkey Today" based on his observations from his recent trip to Turkey. All Westmorelanders 65 or over are invited to come and enjoy this interesting talk in addition to good food and fellowship. They will meet in the parlor at 12 noon for nibbles and conversation, followed by lunch at 12:30. Cost is \$7. Sign-up during Coffee Hour at the What's Happening Table, or call Nona Cox 301-229-6334.

Young Professionals

Did you know that Westmoreland has about 3 dozen members, friends and visitors ages 20 - 40? They did not know either and that's why we want them get to know one another. Our first get-together in February was small but strong. All are invited to our second gathering, a "Happy Hour" on Friday, March 28, 7-9 pm at the Carpenter's House, 5148 Massachusetts Avenue (1 block north of Westmoreland). RSVP to Janet Moyer: jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org.

Not for Seniors Only

Think IONA Senior Services is only for the elderly? Think again! IONA has begun offering courses and seminars for the Baby Boomer set. The focus for this age group is proactive: think ahead and take charge of your physical and mental well-being long before your later years.

"Finding Meaning in Middle and Later Life" is a course for individuals 60 and older who want to consider issues such as maintaining a sense of self-worth after retirement, reviewing and learning from past

successes, finding new meaning in later years and coping with the effects of time on body and mind.

IONA has a seminar, (offered at Westmoreland on March 2 in an abbreviated version) on ways to cope with caregiving for an elderly relative, a role many of us find ourselves in during our 50's and 60's.

Finally, there are fitness classes for active workouts, toning, strength training and flexibility which are an "investment" in insuring that we can remain active well into old age.

IONA is located not far from Westmoreland in the nearby Tenley section of DC. Visit www.iona.org; you may be surprised at what you find!

IRS Investigates UCC's Tax-Exempt Status Following 2007 Obama Speech

The United Church of Christ announced that its tax-exempt status is being reviewed by the Internal Revenue Service because of a speech Sen. Barack Obama made at the 50th General Synod in Hartford in June 2007. Obama, a member of Trinity UCC in Chicago, the denomination's largest congregation, was one of the 60 speakers who participated in "Synod in the City" events marking the UCC's 50th anniversary. The UCC announced that in a February 20, 2008 letter, the IRS had said it had opened an investigation of whether the church had engaged in "political activities" that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status. Rev. Dr. John Thomas, president and general minister of the UCC, said that the investigation was "disturbing," but said it would reveal that the denomination did nothing improper or illegal. The invitation to Obama was extended a year before he became a Democratic presidential candidate, and Thomas said the denomination "took great care to ensure that Senator Obama's appearance. . . met appropriate legal and moral standards. More information, including the text of Obama's remarks, is available at www.ucc.org.

Reprinted from Potomac Postings, Vol. 5, No. 3, March 2008

New Stillspeaking Ads

The new Stillspeaking team at the UCC has announced the release of two new radio ads "Telephone Tree" and "Legal Copy," featuring Stillspeaking's trademark humor, that will air nationally via Sirius Satellite Radio. To hear the ads visit www.ucc.org/god-is-still-speaking.

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



March 15 - 30, 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						15
16 Worship & Ch. School 10 am	17	18	19 Prime Timers 12 Noon	20 Maundy Thursday Supper 6:30 Worship 7:30	21	22
23 Easter Sunrise Service 7 am Festival Service 10 am	24	25	26	27 Chancel Choir 7:45 - 9:45 pm	28 Young Profes- sionals Happy Hour 7 pm (Carpenter's House)	29
30 Worship & Ch. School 10 am	31					

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 **Deadline**
 April March 18

Articles should be emailed to:
jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

