



# ***The Westmorelander***

***Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ***

***An Open and Affirming Congregation***

*Volume 55, No. 7*

*April 2008*

## **A Hymn for the Earth**

### **Blue Boat Home**

Though below I feel no motion  
 Standing on these mountains and plains  
 Far away from the rolling ocean  
 Still my dry land heart can say  
 I've been sailing all my life now  
 Never harbor nor port have I known  
 The wide universe is the ocean I travel  
 And the Earth is my blue boat home

Sun, my sail and moon, my rudder  
 As I ply the starry sea  
 Leaning over the edge in wonder  
 Casting questions into the deep  
 Drifting here with my ship's companion  
 All we kindred pilgrim souls  
 Making our way by the lights of  
 the heavens  
 In our beautiful blue boat home

I give thanks to the waves upholding me  
 Hail the great winds urging me on  
 Greet the infinite sea before me  
 Sing the sky my sailor's song  
 I was born upon the fathoms  
 Never harbor or port have I known  
 The wide universe is the ocean I travel  
 And the Earth is my blue boat home  
 The wide universe is the ocean I travel  
 And the Earth is my blue boat home

- Peter Mayer

## **Worship Themes & Topics**

### **Sunday, April 6**

“Known in the Breaking of Bread”  
 Luke 24:13-35  
 Holy Communion  
 Rev. Rich Smith preaching

### **Sunday, April 13**

“Living Abundantly”  
 John 10:1-10  
 Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox preaching  
 Special Musical Interlude

### **Sunday, April 20**

**Earth Day Sunday**  
 “To Save or to Savor?”  
 Deuteronomy 8:7-11,  
 Isaiah 24:4-5, Psalm 104  
 (Selected verses)  
 Rev. Rich Smith preaching

### **Earth Sunday Celebration**

(See page 2)



### **Sunday, April 27**

“A Hindu and a Christian and a Muslim and a Jew”  
 Acts 17:21-31  
 Rev. Rich Smith preaching

### **New Publication Schedule**

Beginning with this issue, **The Westmorelander** will be published **monthly**. Please email articles to: Janet Moyer, Editor, [jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org](mailto:jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org)

**Deadline for May issue: April 17**

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**

## Spring Musical Events

### 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*

### John O'Connor Friday, April 18, 8 pm

The Washington Conservatory of Music and the Washington Performing Arts Society are proud to present this internationally renowned pianist playing an all-Beethoven program.

*Free; donations gratefully accepted at the door.*

### 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**

*To benefit: Bethesda Cares*

## Come Celebrate Earth Day

To celebrate Earth Day, Tuesday, April 22, Westmoreland Church is having a church service and festival on Sunday **April 20**, 10 am – 1 pm. Everyone is invited! There will be activities for adults and children. We hope everyone will learn about ways we can work together to protect the environment. Use of florescent bulbs, recycling, tree growth, and efficient use of energy are some of the topics to be discussed. We will get the church Habitat Certified by the National Wildlife Federation, so we will plant native plants, install a bird bath and hang bird feeders around the church site. In addition, we'll be sponsoring Bike to Church Day. Please come and bring the whole family, friends and neighbors.

## Save the Date!

### Drink from the Well of Fellowship & Friendship at the Westmoreland Church Retreat October 3 -5, 2008

The retreat will be held at beautiful Camp Wabanna in Edgewater, Maryland. A complete registration packet will be mailed to Westmorelanders in April. Rooms will be allotted based on when registration deposits are received, so register early! For more information, contact Lisa Alexander at lk\_alexander@hotmail.com or 301-495-5676. *If cost might prohibit you from attending the retreat, please let a minister know. We can help you attend.*

### Crossing the Line: Two Jewish-American Women Share Their Experiences Traveling to Israel and Occupied Palestine

**Rosi Greenberg** and **Danielle Strandburg-Peshkin** will present the program at the Middle East Committee's next meeting on **April 8**, 4 pm in the parlor. A potluck supper after the meeting will allow Westmorelanders to discuss the program with the presenters.

According to Ms. Greenberg, "Crossing the Line" is "...about our experiences as Jewish women in the Middle East. Our presentation explores our time in Israel/Palestine, examining our values and bringing forth insights from the current situation as we witnessed it in the West Bank...Our intent is not to delve deeply into the politics, but rather to examine our values in relation to the human implications of the occupation for Palestinians and Israelis, as well as for Americans, by extension."

## Talkin' About God

Rev. Bob Maddox will lead a series of discussions on **When We Talk About God, Let's Be Honest** by R. Kirby Godsey. This insightful book will frame faith-building discussions for Westmorelanders. Bob says "This small book packs a powerful punch. It lays out the basics of Christian faith, urges us to embrace Jesus' way while exercising the spiritual courage to interact with traditional approaches."

R. Kirby Godsey, served for many years as president of Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. Reared by a single mother in Bible Belt Birmingham, Alabama, Godsey studied for the ministry, then went in to higher education distinguishing himself as one of the South's most far-sighted thinkers and educators.

When the book came out a few years ago it was greeted with a chorus of "amens" from lay and clergy alike as well as a chorus of angry groans by fundamentalist preachers. Some of the detractors organized a drive to have Dr. Godsey fired from his leadership of Mercer. The school's trustees refused to remove him from his post.

Librarian Judy Newman, has copies on hand at \$16 each. The discussion sessions will be held at three different times:

- Sunday mornings at 8:30, April 13 - May 19 (Parlor)
- Mondays, April 14 - May 19, 12:30 pm (Carp. Hse)
- Mondays, April 14 - May 19, 7:30 pm (Parlor)

## Children's and Youth Ministries

**Middle School Night:** All Middle School youth (grades 6, 7 & 8) are invited for an evening of food, fellowship and fun, Friday, **April 4**, 7pm-9:30 pm

**Children's Church:** On Sunday, **April 6**, 10 am, Westmoreland launches Children's Church. Children and youth gather in the Mabry Room at 10 am to participate in a worship service designed specifically for them. They will then join the congregation in the Sanctuary to celebrate Communion.

**Confirmation Retreat:** The confirmands gather at Carpenter's House Friday, **April 25**, 8 pm and stay through Saturday, **April 26**, 5:30 pm.

**Teaching opportunities!** We need teachers for a number of Church School classes for the term that begins April 20. If you haven't taught before, fear not: veteran teachers and the Board of Christian Education can help at every step. Please contact Jessica Petersen at 301-229-7766 or [jpetersen@westmorelanducc.org](mailto:jpetersen@westmorelanducc.org).

## Membership Development

At the 2008 Annual Meeting, Moderator Sarah Wilson announced that this is the year of membership development. She subsequently convened a membership development task force, chaired by Peggy Alfonso. All church members interested in growing the church are invited to a meeting on **March 30**, the purpose of which is to gather a broad spectrum of ideas. If you have an interest in this important issue, and have not yet begun to participate, please let Peggy Alfonso or Gary McDavid know. We welcome the ideas and participation of everyone.

**Peggy Alfonso** 301-652-0424  
[palfonso@acquisitionsolutions.com](mailto:palfonso@acquisitionsolutions.com)

**Gary McDavid** 301-320-3657  
[gmc david@verizon.net](mailto:gmc david@verizon.net)

## Asking the Difficult Questions

How do I talk to my children about drugs? Where do I begin to ask my parents about their end-of-life wishes? These are the kinds of "touchy" subjects most of us find very difficult to discuss with those we love. To help us, Westmoreland Cares will host a forum on "Asking the Difficult Questions" of your children, parents or spouse. **Rev. Dr. Robert Perry** will lead the session, to be held at 7:15 pm, **Wednesday, April 9** in the Parlor.

Rev. Perry, a warm and engaging person, is Senior Minister at Leisure World and he is trained in hospice counseling. You are welcome to confidentially send him your questions or scenario prior to the forum and he will weave them into the conversation ([rperry@inter-faithchapel.org](mailto:rperry@inter-faithchapel.org)). Please join us. Snacks will be provided. Questions? Call Sue Kirk at 301-986-9244 or cell, 301-461-3396.

## Parish Notes

We extend our thanks to **Dolores Boynton** who has donated a piano for the Mabry Room in loving memory of Robert Paul Boynton and Alison Marie Boynton.

## Prime Timers

Westmorelanders of the AARP Generation meet for lunch and fellowship Wednesday, **April 16**, 12 noon. Cost: \$7. RSVP to Nona Cox: 301-229-6334 or sign up in the Social Hall at the What's Happening Table.

*The Westmorelander*  
*Westmoreland Congregational UCC*  
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## April 2008

<b>Friday, April 4</b> Middle School Youth Night	7:30 - 9:30 pm	<b>Thursday, April 17</b> Chancel Choir	7:45
<b>Saturday, April 5</b> Yoga 🎵 Memories and Music with Mayhugh	9 am 7 pm	<b>Friday, April 18</b> 🎵 WCM Concert: John O'Connor, pianist	8 pm
<b>Sunday, April 6</b> Fellowship Breakfast Worship, Children's Church, Nursery, Communion	8:30 am 10 am	<b>Saturday, April 19</b> Yoga	9 am
<b>Tuesday, April 8</b> Middle East Committee: "Crossing the Line"	4 pm	<b>Sunday, April 20</b> Bd. Community Action Tech Committee	8:30 am 8:30 am
<b>Wednesday, April 9</b> Forum: Asking the Difficult Questions	7:15 pm	<b>Earth Day Sunday</b> Worship, Church School, Nursery Earth Day Festival	10 am 11:30 am
<b>Thursday, April 10</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:45 pm	<b>Monday, April 21</b> Boards: Deacons, Trustees, Christian Ed.	7:30 pm
<b>Saturday, April 12</b> Yoga	9 am	<b>Thursday, April 24</b> Executive Committee Chancel Choir	7:30 pm 7:45 pm
<b>Sunday, April 13</b> Volunteer Corps Board Evening Service	8:30 am 7 pm	<b>Saturday, April 26</b> Yoga Marlow Guitar Concert	9 am 8 pm
<b>Wednesday, April 16</b> Prime Timers	12 Noon	<b>Tuesday, April 29</b> Sandwich making for Martha's Table	10:30 am