



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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June 2008

Another Challenge: Eating “Green”

Inspired by Barbara Kingsolver’s latest book, *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, as well as Michael Pollan’s *The Omnivore’s Dilemma*, Pam and I have been trying to become “locavores” – that is, people who eat food produced within 100 miles of home. There are many benefits to this, in that the food we get is usually fresher and tastier and better for us; and it’s better for the environment, as not nearly as many petrochemicals are employed as fertilizer or for transport. Thus, when we pick up a bottle of apple juice, and see that it was made from “frozen concentrate from China,” we put it back on the shelves. We’re not total locavores yet, as we do like our coffee and tea, and compromise on certain salad ingredients for the winter season.

To this end, we recently joined a CSA - “Community Supported Agriculture” organization. By paying an up-front fee, we receive a box of fresh seasonal produce once a week, May through October – all organic, all grown within 100 miles of Bethesda. The food is truly wonderful, but the catch is, you don’t know what you’re going to get. We picked up our first box this week and among the four bags of lettuce and spinach were ten stalks of rhubarb! I’ve enjoyed it in pies that someone else has baked, but have never cooked with it myself, so this was a new adventure. I’ll do a little experimenting, and who knows, maybe rhubarb pie will be sold at the Bazaar along with my apple pies! In any case, yet another benefit is that our tastes and culinary skills will be stretched.

Perhaps becoming a locavore should be good for bonus points on Westmoreland’s “Earth Day Challenge.” Along with stopping all those forest-busting catalogues and switching to energy efficient light bulbs, it’s yet another way to become “greener,” as I believe we are called to become by the God who is the Source of all life.

See you in Church!

Rich

Deadline for the July/August Westmorelander: July 15. Email articles to : jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org.

Worship Themes & Topics

Sunday, June 1

Genesis 6:9-22, 7:24, 8:14-19
“Biblical Proportions” - Rev. Rich Smith
Holy Communion
Reception of New Members

7 pm - Sundown Service

Music by GospelGrass

Sunday, June 8 - Youth Sunday

Matthew 9:9 - 13, 18 - 26
Loving Community
Music by Feel the Spirit Band
Church Picnic

Sunday, June 15

Matthew 9:35-38
“Not Just a Crowd” - Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox
Church School Summer Session begins

Sunday, June 22

Genesis 21:8-21
“Call Him Ishmael” - Rev. Rich Smith

Sunday, June 29

Jeremiah 28:5-9, Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Bluegrass Sunday with GospelGrass
Guest Preacher - Carter Roberts, President and CEO,
World Wildlife Fund

A Mission Moment

Rev. Natasha Miller, Intern for Environmental Justice, United Church of Christ, will offer a mission moment at the morning worship service on **June 1**. Rev. Miller works with climate change issues and helps to manage the Environmental and Energy Task Force that was formed as a result of the Twenty-Fifth General Synod resolutions addressing the environment.

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
Summer Office Hours: 9 AM - 4 PM

Congratulations to the Graduates of 2008

High school:

Lee Axelrod is graduating this June from Maret School in Washington. She will attend Stanford University in Palo Alto, California where she plans to pursue interests in English, French and Studio Art.

Phaon Derr will graduate from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. He will matriculate at Elon University in North Carolina in the fall.

Charlie Johnson graduates this spring from Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda. He plans to attend Tulane University in New Orleans where he will study architecture.

Peter King is graduating from Walt Whitman High School and will attend Guilford College in Greensboro, NC where he plans to study psychology.

Sean Magraw graduates from Winston Churchill High School and will attend Lewis & Clark University in Portland, Oregon this fall.

Dana Savage is graduating from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and will be attending St. Mary's College of Maryland, a public honors college located on the Eastern Shore.

Sarah Schear graduates from Walt Whitman High School and will attend Amherst College in Massachusetts next fall where she plans to study Chemistry, Pre-Med and Dance.

Caroline Sieber will graduate from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. She will enroll in the Honors Program at Southern Methodist University in Houston this fall.

Alana "Laney" Siegner, after graduating from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School this month, will head to Tufts University in Massachusetts where she plans to study International Relations and play on the soccer team.

Katherine "Katie" Siegner graduates from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and will attend Middlebury College in Vermont to study English and Spanish and play on the soccer team.

Brian Wong is graduating from The Lab School of Washington and next year plans a postgraduate year at Perkiomen School in Pennsburg, PA. He will apply to college.

College graduates:

Caroline Eckert received a Bachelor of Humanities and Arts from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

Krista Hughes graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and will be working at Bearing Point, a consulting firm in McLean, VA.

Caitlin Magraw is graduating from Georgetown University with a BS (cum laude) in Biology. She will attend Columbia Dental School in New York City.

Graduate and professional degrees:

Grant Doty – J.D., Georgetown Law.

Julie Dyer – MA in History, American University.

Jessica Petersen - MDiv, Eden Theological Seminary

Jane Stevens Phillips - MA in Visual Arts Administration, New York University's Steinhardt School.

Pam Smith – MA in English, National University, San Diego, CA.

Welcome Our Confirmands

We warmly welcome the following young people in the 2007 – 2008 confirmation class who joined or were blessed on May 11:

Confirmed into membership:

Ian Frederick Barnhart, Max Forest Barnhart, Benjamin Clayton, Carolyn Connor, Caitlin DePorter, Susannah Derr, Ben Eagan-VanMeter, Ellie Sarnoff, Connor Long Savage, Nicholas Stuart Lyman Varangis, Elizabeth Anne Ward.

Blessed and will continue studying and strengthening their faith:

Max Robert Light, Emma Elizabeth Recchia, Jonathan Stromseth Schear, Sarah Tyson.

Empty Nesters: Let's Party!

Empty Nesters are a group of adults from Westmoreland whose children have left the nest, or perhaps have left and returned! If you are contemplating the empty nest, enjoying the empty nest, or anticipating it being empty again, please join us on **Saturday, June 7, 7 pm**. Bring an appetizer, a salad, or a dessert for 10, or 2 bottles of wine. RSVP to Roy/Mary at grossnick@verizon.net or 301 986-7933.

All are welcome!

An Invitation to Join in Capital Pride Events

Rock Spring Congregational UCC has invited association churches to join it in participating in this year's Capital Pride Parade and Festival on **Saturday, June 14**, stepping off at 6:30 pm from P and 23rd Streets NW. The Festival will be held on **Sunday, June 15** from 11 am - 6 pm on Pennsylvania Avenue between 4th and 7th Streets. Anyone who would like to join the Rock Spring contingent should contact Susan Nelson Johnson at johnson1966@cox.net for more information on joint participation with Rock Spring or visit the Pride website at www.capitalpride.org/parade.html for more general information on the event.

Library Notes

Starting **June 15**, and for the following two Sundays, we will be featuring books for summer reading on the Library Table in the Social Hall during Coffee Hour. As last year, we do not equate summer reading just with "Beach Books" but will also feature books to stretch our minds. However, as they are just finishing up the school year, the choices for younger Westmorelanders will be of a lighter nature.

Have You Seen it in Your Mailbox?

It's the complete Church Retreat registration packet. Sign up for this wonderful weekend of faith, fun and fellowship, **October 3-5**, 2008 at Camp Wabanna in Edgewater, Maryland. **Send in your full payment by June 1, 2008 and receive a 10% discount off the total registration price.** Final registration deadline is **July 1, 2008.** Questions? Please contact Lisa Alexander at 301-495-5676 or lk_alexander@hotmail.com.

Potluck Coffee Hours

The Board of Membership and Fellowship will sponsor two potluck Coffee Hours this summer. On **July 6**, drop off a half-dozen of your favorite donuts on your way into church; on **August 3**, drop off half-dozen breakfast pastries. BMF members will serve them after worship. Because Coffee Hour is an integral part of our Sunday church life, we want to continue it all summer. What better way than by sharing the opportunity to provide refreshment? We will send reminder notices as the date approaches, but please put these dates on your calendar now.

Parish Notes

Westmoreland has received word that **Ruth Mitchell Steen**, a fifty-year member of Westmoreland, died October 2007.

Dolores Boyton has moved. Her new address is: Gull Creek Retirement Community, 1 Meadow Street, Apt. 302, Berlin, MD 21811.

God bless...

Zachary Candelaria Alfonso, son of Rick and Peggy Alfonso, baptized on May 4.

William Woodson Finch, son of Kerry Moore and Nate Finch, baptized on May 11.

Happy birthday to **Virginia Bogardus** who celebrated her 90th birthday on May 1. Virginia has been a member of Westmoreland for fifty two years.

Response to Disaster

In the wake of Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar (Burma), the United Church of Christ issued an emergency appeal to aid victims and to prepare for long-term recovery. The UCC's **Myanmar Cyclone Fund**, a special OGHS disaster appeal with a goal of \$100,000, is now receiving contributions. Our earnest prayers and generous contributions are needed now to assist the people of Myanmar. If you wish to contribute to the fund, you may make a check payable to The United Church of Christ with Myanmar Fund in the memo section and put it in the collection plate or send it to Westmoreland. If you prefer, visit www.ucc.org and contribute online

AIM Community Center Victory

In May the Montgomery County Council unanimously voted to add \$29.7 million to the Capital Budget -- money previously stripped from the budget -- to renovate four deteriorating community centers serving traditionally African American communities. The dilapidated Scotland Community Center, just a few miles north of our Church, and overwhelmed with users, will be improved and will now be able to expand its programming to include after-school tutoring and senior programs.

As members of AIM (Action in Montgomery), Westmorelanders participated in the successful campaign to restore the funds, including April's AIM rally involving more than a 1,000 congregational leaders.

Jeff Eagan

The Westmorelander
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June 2008

Sunday, June 1 - Communion Sunday

Bike to Church Sunday

Fellowship Breakfast 8:30 am
Worship Church School, Nursery 10 am
Sundown Service - Music by GospelGrass 7 pm

Tuesday, June 3

Middle East Committee 4 pm

Thursday, June 5

Chancel Choir 7:45 pm

Friday, June 6

High School Night 7 pm

Saturday, June 7

Empty Nesters Potluck Dinner 7 pm

Sunday, June 8

Youth Sunday - Worship, Nursery 10 am
All-Church Picnic 11:30 am

Thursday, June 12

Chancel Choir Rehearsal - last for the summer 7:45 pm

Sunday, June 15 - Father's Day

BCA, Tech Cmte 8:30 am
Worship, Summer Church School, Nursery 10 am

Monday, June 16

Trustees, BCE, BMF, Deacons 7:30 pm

Wednesday, June 18

Prime Timers 12 Noon

Sunday, June 22

Worship, Summer Church School, Nursery 10 am

Tuesday, June 24

Sandwich making for Martha's Table 10:30 am
Executive Committee 7:30 pm

Sunday, June 29 - Blue Grass Sunday

Worship, Summer Church School, Nursery 10 am
Guest Preacher; Music by Gospel Grass

Looking ahead to summer...

Community Coffee Hours

Sunday, July 6 - Potluck Donut Sunday

Sunday, August 3 - Breakfast Pastry Potluck.

Croquet Sunday - Check the church's website calendar for this Sunday fun on the lawn.