



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 55, No. 11

September 2008

It's About the Journey

Sixty years ago this month the people of Mt. Pleasant Congregational Church in the District found themselves in a "time between." After many years of dreaming and planning, ground had been broken in January of 1948 for their new church building, here on Westmoreland Circle. In June, the cornerstone, filled with artifacts of time, was laid. But it would not be until the following April, on Palm Sunday 1949, that they would march out of their Mt. Pleasant home and make their way to this place and their first service of worship, sitting on folding chairs in their new sanctuary. Having built a house some years ago, I know how hard the "time between" can be – you can witness your dreams about to be realized, you can see "the Promised Land," but you cannot live there yet. It is at once exciting and frustrating!

Sixty years later, we can sympathize with them to a degree. In some ways, our lives are always in flux. We're waiting – waiting for the wedding, for the degree to be granted, for the child to be born, for a project to be completed. Even in our church, as stable as we have been recently, we are always in anticipation of the next stage -- for new members to join us, for a spiritual awakening, for plans to come to fruition. And maybe one of the tricks to finding happiness is to learn to enjoy the journey for what it is, not be so busy asking "Are we there yet?" that we miss the sights along the way.

This year we will be remembering and celebrating the remarkable story that has been Westmoreland for the past sixty years. Among other things, each month one of our Sunday morning services will remind us of one of the decades of our church life. We'll use elements of a service from that era, and recall the highlights for our church and our world. We'll use music from that time, and even encourage you to dress historically (anyone have a poodle skirt?). It will be fun, and most importantly, prepare us for the next sixty years of worship and mission. This year, as we mark sixty years here on Westmoreland Circle, we are going to enjoy the ride!

See you in Church! *Rich*

Worship Topics & Themes

Sunday, September 7

Welcome Back Sunday

"The Place to Be Long" - Rev. Rich Smith

Matthew 18:15-20

A family service celebrating
the re-gathering of our Community of Faith
Chancel Choir ■ Feel the Spirit Band ■ Communion
Luncheon on the Lawn following worship

Sunday, September 14

"GPS for the Road to Freedom" - Rev. Rich Smith

Exodus 14:19-31

Welcome Volunteer Corps

Sunday, September 21

"Scandalous Grace, Cosmic Generosity"

Rev. Rich Smith

Matthew 20:1-16

Choir for the Day

Sunday, September 28

"Ground Breaking and Cornerstones (1948-59)"

Rev. Rich Smith

Part One in a monthly series celebrating
60 years on the Circle

1 Corinthians 3:10-17, Ephesians 2:11-22

Volunteer Corps Open House

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Finding Your Voice: Choir for the Day

Think you might like to sing with the Chancel Choir? Try joining the Choir for the day on Sunday, **September 21**. Come to the chancel at 9 am and practice a simple anthem in preparation for the worship service. You are certain to experience the joy and camaraderie of singing with others and you may find your voice.

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

Westmoreland Concert Series: Fall 2008

Saturday, September 13, 7 pm

Enjoy a thrilling performance by Korean violinist Hyun Park and pianist Grace Cho. These up-and-coming performers are part of a new generation of Korean artists interested in the music of American composers. The program will include works by Bernstein and the monumental "Sonata for Violin and Piano" by John Corigliano.

Reception and Opening of Art Exhibit:

In Her Hands

The fine craftsmanship of African women as seen in bowls, baskets, scarves and jewelry. Sponsored by Margaret Harvey.

Sunday, October 26, 4 pm

Special Event!

Family Concert: Carnival of the Animals

A concert for children and families, reminiscent of Leonard Bernstein's Concerts for Young People. Presented by Westmoreland Congregational UCC and the Washington Conservatory of Music.

Saturday, December 6, 7 pm

Founded in 2007, the DC Chamber Brass is comprised of trumpeters Christopher Sala and Karl Sweedy, hornist Amy Smith, trombonist Aaron Moats, and tubist Jess Lightner. The DC Chamber Brass strives to engage audiences with music that transcends time and place to create memorable experiences.

Reception and Opening of Art Exhibit:

Christmas Quilts

One-of-a-kind quilts made over the years by Margaret Fable.

We Want to Know What You Think

The Board of Deacons has developed a questionnaire to elicit your views on the **changes in the worship service** that have taken place as a result of last year's Worship Initiative. The **electronic** questionnaire is available on the Westmoreland website in the Board of Deacons section. It can be completed online and sent to the Deacons by pressing the "submit" button. (If you have forgotten the user ID and password, call the church office.) The **paper version** of the questionnaire is in the narthex and can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church with "Worship Questionnaire" indicated on the envelope.

Church School 2008-2009

Hop on board for Church School, beginning September 14. Here is what is ahead:

Ages 0 – 36 months: Nursery

Pre-K and Kindergarten: Godly Play

Grades 1-7: A format that includes sharing the Good News and Bad News of the week, prayer, Bible story, and (in the fall) participating in "Honoring Our Elders," in which students will engage in an activities that connect the young people of Westmoreland with the older members of the Westmoreland community as well as the larger community around us. Activities will include seniors telling stories or teaching skills, making crafts and baked goods to send to seniors and possibly a trip to a senior living community.) Youth in grades 5 - 7 will focus on the Westmoreland StoryCorps project (interviewing Westmoreland's senior members).

Grades 8 and 9: Youth will participate in "Our Whole Lives" (OWL) a program created jointly by the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Church, and that encompasses human sexuality, family relationships, interpersonal communications, decision-making, conflict resolution, and handling peer pressure, all in the context of our Christian faith and values.

Grades 10 – 12: Attend the worship service. On the second Sunday of the month, the group will meet in the Youth Room for fellowship following worship.

Calling All Bridge Players

The Westmoreland Bridge Marathon consists of pairs of bridge players who play once per month, October through May, in each other's homes. A "round-robin" schedule of who plays whom each month is drawn up in September and the monthly games take place at a date and time mutually agreed on by each host and guest pair. An evening consists of 16 hands of bridge (approximately 2 hours), usually followed by a light dessert.

We play social bridge and have varying levels of experience and skill. The monthly games are a great way to get to know other Westmorelanders and all who know how to play the game are welcome. For more information or to join for this year, please contact Alice Hogarty: alicehogarty@gmail.com, or home phone 202-506-3647. If you don't already have a partner, contact Alice and she will assist you in finding one.

Shaw Summer Camp

Wow! The generosity of Westmoreland members is truly inspiring. On behalf of the board of Shaw Community Ministry, thank you for giving dozens and dozens of children delicious summer memories. Westmoreland and the Briggs Foundation have contributed a total of \$9,385 to support summer camps for children in the Shaw neighborhood.

Thanks to your generosity, combined with other Potomac Association churches, we raised enough funds to send 11 children to overnight camp at Camp Letts and an additional \$4,000 to pay for buses that take children at Camp Friendship's day camp out of the city each week. Barbara McDowell and I thank you all from the bottom, top, and middle of our hearts.

Caryn McTighe Musil

Meet the Webmaster

Tim Waidmann assumed the volunteer position as Westmoreland's Webmaster on June 1. Tim has been a member of Westmoreland since 2004. He is an economist employed at the Urban Institute and lives in Chevy Chase with his wife, Suzanne Duryea, and their daughters, Elena and Lidia. Tim launched Westmoreland's efforts to achieve electronic sign-up for Coffee Hour, Greeters, and the Retreat and created our website calendar. On matters related to the website, you can reach Tim at twaidmann@westmorelanducc.org.

Thanks, Amy!

Our thanks and appreciation to Amy Wooden for the several years that she served as Westmoreland's webmaster, particularly during the redesign of our website. Amy "retired" to assume the chair of the annual Bazaar.

Qigong and Tai Chi at Westmoreland

Qigong (concentrates on body structure, meditation, and correct breathing) and **Tai Chi** (engages the mind and body, increases flexibility, strength, balance, and agility) classes will be offered at Westmoreland through the Sibley Senior Association again this fall. Sessions will be held Tuesdays, September 2 through 23 (4 weeks, \$50); 9:15 – 10:15 am, (Qigong) and 10:30 - 11:30 am (Tai Chi) in the Mabry Room.

For further information or registration, call 202-364-7602.

Special for Westmorelanders: You may observe or participate in [one class free](#) to see what it is like before registering for a series.

Parish Notes

Virginia Webb Bogardus, a member of Westmoreland for fifty-two years, died on June 28 at the age of 90. A memorial service was held at Goodwin House in Alexandria on July 8 and an informal time of remembrance and prayer was held at Westmoreland on July 10.

Dennis Martin, friend of Westmoreland, who for many years sang in the Westmoreland Chancel Choir, died on July 7. A memorial service will be held in Springfield, VA on Saturday, September 6. Contact the church office for details.

Thank you, Westmorelanders, for your extraordinary support during my recuperation from surgery this summer. I received assurances of prayer, many cards, calls, flowers and visits. Delicious meals were delivered to our home from the dedicated members of Community Cares, coordinated by Mary Grossnick and Jeanine Derr. How grateful I am to be a part of this loving and caring community at Westmoreland.

Janet Moyer

Academic Progress at Marie Reed

Great news! On tests given in April 2008, Marie Reed Community Learning Center students made Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) in math and reading. This is the first time ever that they have made AYP in math. Last year, Westmorelanders brought 70 reading tutors to the school and 20 math tutors. The reading tutors read for an hour at lunchtime in the Everybody Wins reading program. Math tutors were part of an overall math turn-around program that sought to create a new math culture at the school. The school principal, Dayo Akinsheye, has said that Westmoreland has made an important contribution to the school, and these test scores show that progress is being made.

It's fall. School is starting, and it is time to continue the good work we have been doing at Marie Reed. In church on September 14th, we will be talking about Marie Reed and the work that needs to be done this year. If you can help a child at risk, please let Gary McDavid or Violaine Dumorne know. We need volunteers to teach math and reading this year, and people to help in other ways. The school needs to make AYP for two years in a row to be safe from restructuring or closure under No Child Left Behind. Westmorelanders have done a great job at the school. Let's keep up the good work. *Gary McDavid*

The Westmorelander
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**Deadline for the October
Westmorelander:** September 17
Email articles to:
jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

September 2008

Monday, September 1 - Offices closed
Labor Day

Thursdays, September 4, 11, 18, 25
Chancel Choir

Sunday, September 7
Welcome Back Sunday

Fellowship Breakfast
Family Worship, Communion, Nursery
Welcome Back Luncheon

Tuesday, September 9
Mid-East Committee (Parlor)

Saturday, September 13
Westmoreland Benefit Concert
African Crafts on Exhibit

Sunday, September 14
Bd. Community Action
Worship, Church School, Nursery

Monday, September 15
Church Council meets
Church Boards meet

Wednesday, September 17
Prime Timers

Sunday, September 21
Tech Committee
Choir for the Day
Worship, Church School, Nursery

Tuesday, September 23
Executive Committee

Sunday, September 28
Worship, Church School, Nursery
Volunteer Corps Open House

Tuesday, September 30
Sandwich making

Looking Ahead

Friday - Sunday, October 3 - 5
Church Retreat, Edgewater, MD

Sunday, October 12
Blessing of the Animals

12 Noon

8:30 am
9 am
10 am

7:30 pm

10 am
11:30 am

10:30 am

7 pm