



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 55, No. 12

October 2008

Conference on Church Vitality November 1 & 2

Diana Butler Bass, who specializes in American religion and culture, and author of **Christianity for the Rest of Us** (which many of us read and discussed at the 2007 church retreat) will lead an intensive conference at Westmoreland and preach at our Sunday worship service on the weekend of November 1 and 2.

Dr. Bass' highly anticipated Saturday session, from 9 am to 3 pm, will focus on aspects of our church life aimed at enriching the overall spirituality of the congregation and is open to all. It will conclude with an informal, open house tea where all members of the congregation — whether able to participate in the session or not — are invited to meet and talk with Dr. Bass.

Dr. Bass will preach at the Sunday morning service and afterwards conduct a church-wide forum to bring clearer focus to the overall conference themes.

Pastor Rich Smith says, "The Bass conference can pull together two years of concentrated work on worship and church growth. It can also help us get a clearer sense of direction for our immediate future and especially for the Capital Campaign."

While the conference, sponsored by the Board of Membership and Fellowship, aims to strengthen the work of our boards, committees and leadership, everyone in the congregation is urged to attend. More details on Dr. Bass' topics for both Saturday and Sunday will be made available on Westmorelandnet as the dates get closer. For more information on her, check out her Web site: dianabutlerbass.com.

Bob Maddox
Minister for Discipleship

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 - 5 PM

Worship Topics & Themes

Sunday, October 5

World Communion Sunday

Exodus 20:1-20

"Across Tribes, Across Time"- Rev. Amber Neuroth
Service at Westmoreland

led by Rev. Amber Neuroth and Mike Neuroth

Service at Camp Wabanna

By and For Retreat Participants

Sunday, October 12

Philippians 4:1-9

"Think on These Things"

Rev. Rich Smith

Evening Service 7 pm

Blessing of the Animals

Social Hall

Sunday, October 19

Community Action Sunday

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

"Living Messages"

Rev. Rich Smith

Sunday, October 26

1960's Sunday

Matthew 23:34-46

"Jesus' Two-for-One"

Jessica Petersen

Remembering Westmoreland's

Second Decade on the Circle

Music by "Feel the Spirit" Band

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Let's Go to the Bazaar!

Invite your family, friends and neighbors to come to the WCUCC Bazaar on **November 8, 10 am - 2 pm** and shop 'til you drop. We have it all: White Elephants, Jewelry, Holiday Shop, Treasures, Toys and Sports Equipment, Books and the Bake Shop, in other words, something for everyone. Lunch will be served.

Help is needed for set up, sales and clean up. Contact Amy Wooden: amy@thewoodenpost.com or 301-652-0705.

Westmoreland Family Concert Carnival of the Animals

Sunday, October 26, 4 pm

Join us for this very special family musical event presented by Westmoreland and the Washington Conservatory of Music to introduce our young people to the joys of orchestra music. Reminiscent of Leonard Bernstein's Concerts for Young People, the music will be narrated and children will be able to try out different instruments at a "petting zoo" following the concert.

BCA to Host Fair

The Board of Community Action invites everyone to a special Community Action Fair and Coffee Hour after the church service on **October 19**. At this poster session you can learn more about many of the programs in which our members are actively engaged and about the efforts funded by your generous Christmas and Easter offerings, by the Bazaar, by our Music and Arts events, and in close cooperation with Briggs Foundation.

While you may know about some of our outreach opportunities, other projects may simply be names to you. Perhaps you can help tell the story of the early days of Lincoln-Westmoreland Housing or the Volunteer Corps, but would like to learn more about the English as a Second Language welcoming and teaching program. You might make sandwiches for Martha's Table each month or tutor at the Marie Reed school but would like to learn more about the beneficiaries of our four special music and arts events. Other outreach efforts and opportunities include the orphanage in Haiti (recent pictures are available), service at Shaw Community Ministries and low-income housing (a joint project with Lincoln UCC Temple), rebuilding a storm-ravaged home with help from our youth, combating mental illness, supporting our Volunteer Corps, greening our environment, teaching our youth through the model UN, donating resources to the Middle East, fighting torture, feeding the hungry, and more.

Invite a Friend, Invite a Visitor

Our sense of mission is one of the core strengths of our church about which we want our visitors to know, so the Growing Together Group is asking all Westmorelanders to invite friends to church on **October 19** and to invite all the visitors that day to come to the BCA Fair.

The Olive Oil Connection

Westmoreland has received a letter from Daoud Nasser's Tent of Nations thanking us for our \$600 contribution for the maintenance of the olive groves on the Nasser farm outside Bethlehem.

"We want to thank all of the members of Westmoreland Congregational Church who have participated in your olive oil sales project this past year. Choosing Tent of Nations as the recipient of those proceeds is very much appreciated. Your gift of \$600 will certainly be welcome and, as requested, will go towards the maintenance of the olive grove on the farm. I know the Nasser family is very appreciative, and with your support, the hope for peace in that region of the world will one day bear fruit."

Reminder: Olive oil, at \$15 per bottle, is now available in the church office for drop-in purchases (checks only, please) and during Coffee Hour on the first Sunday of the month. We will also be selling the product at the annual Palestinian Embroidery Sale scheduled for November 14 and 15 in the church parlor.

Thanks to all of you for your support.

Maryn Goodson

Thinking of Joining?

If you have been attending Westmoreland for some time and are interested in joining or just want to know more about our church, please contact Rev. Rich Smith to arrange an appointment or to let him know you will attend the Inquirers' Session on **Sunday, October 12, 11:15 am**, in the Parlor.

UCC Runs a New Ad

The United Church of Christ is running its new "Steeple" ad on CNN, BRAVO, BET and TV ONE **now through Sunday, October 12**. The national church leadership anticipates reaching 10 million people with our message of unity and welcome to all. Visit the church website, www.westmorelanducc.org, and click on the link to the ad.

To piggyback on that national exposure, which includes the "God Is Still Speaking," message, the Board of Membership and Fellowship will make Westmoreland an obvious participant. Look for banners, posters and other welcoming signs about the church and please help us to be inviting to visitors who find us as a result. *Lorrie Lynch Meier*

Blessing of the Animals

Our family pets provide us with companionship and loyalty. Bring your pet to church for a special blessing to the Sundown Service on **Sunday, October 12, 7 pm** in the Social Hall. Please have your pet on a leash or in a cage and enter the hall at the Dalecarlia Drive entrance.

As part of this special event, we invite all Westmorelanders (whether you attend the service or not) to bring an item to church from the wish list below to donate to the Montgomery County Humane Society shelter. Items may be placed in the designated box on the stage beginning October 1. We will also accept checks made out to the Montgomery County Humane Society. (Be sure your name and address are with the check so you will receive a receipt from MCHS.)

Montgomery County Humane Society Wish List:
 mattress pads ▪ bathroom rugs ▪ gently used pet beds ▪ comforters ▪ sheets ▪ bound carpet squares or small carpet samples ▪ kongs and kong stuffing ▪ large, hard, nylabones (no rawhides) ▪ leashes and dog collars ▪ washable fleece beds ▪ squeaky toys ▪ grooming items such as brushes, combs and scissors ▪ dog treats ▪ small soft stuffed animals ▪ nature-oriented and/or cat-oriented DVDs ▪ plastic balls with plastic beads inside ▪ catnip mice (no feathers) ▪ washable toys (no fur or feathers) ▪ washable fleece beds (with or without hoods) ▪ cat teasers

Social Group Gatherings

Young Professionals

Singles and couples in their 20's and 30's (or thereabouts) are invited for the first of our monthly gatherings this year on **Sunday, October 19, 5 – 7 pm**. We will have a potluck supper at 5 pm followed by a program on the upcoming election led by Jenny Backus, political consultant and WCUC member. Join us for food, fellowship, and a lively discussion. Bring a main course, side dish, salad or dessert and a bottle of wine or soft drink. RSVP to Trey Holloway at 202-527-1832 or holloww2001@yahoo.com. **Save November 9 and December 14 for additional get-togethers.**

Empty Nesters – Save the Date

Children have left home for school or work? Then join other Empty Nesters on **November 1** at Chris and Ken Sale's home, 5053 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC at 7 pm. Plan to bring an appetizer, salad, side dish, or desert for 10 to 12 or 2 bottles of wine. RSVP by October 29 to chrissaledc@gmail.com.

Parish Notes

Our deepest sympathy is extended to...

Pat Squire, whose son, Cass, died on July 31 in San Francisco. The family held a service of remembrance at the Squire family summer home in New Hampshire in August.

Jane Ames, whose husband, Harry, a member of Westmoreland for sixty years, died on August 27 at Rappahannock Westminster Canterbury Retirement Home in Irvington, VA where he and Jane have lived since 2001. At Westmoreland, Harry chaired the Board of Trustees, taught church school and was a past Moderator. Condolences may be sent to: Mrs. Jane Ames, 132 Lancaster Drive, Irvington, VA 22480.

Robert Shue and family on the death of Robert's father, Judge William Shue, who died on July 1. Interment was September 22 at Arlington Cemetery.

Marjie Craig has moved to South Carolina to be near her daughter. She would enjoy hearing from her Westmoreland friends. Her new address: Myrtle Beach Manor, 9547 Highway 17 North, Myrtle Beach, SC, 29582.

Library News

New acquisitions in the collection (Room 34): **Martin Luther** by **Martin Marty**; catalog number 284.1. (Our original copy disappeared soon after it was purchased and cataloged.) **In the Beginning** by Karen Armstrong; catalog number 222.11.

The October 2008 issue of **Theology Today** contains two articles that may be of special interest to Westmorelanders. The lead article **Prophetic Ministry in the National Security State** is by Walter Brueggemann, one of the most acclaimed Biblical scholars in the UCC. Brueggemann spoke at the recent General Synod. **Reconciliation in the Middle East: A Biblical Perspective** is by Joseph Blenkinsopp. All periodicals are on the green cabinet under the window to your right as you enter the library from the hall.

Please return our missing library books! Look high, look low. While we don't enforce a rigid period of time for which a book may be borrowed, we do like to keep track of our books. Search your house, car and office. Books may be returned to the library, left in the church office, on the library cart in the Social Hall or left in the pew. Thank you.

Judy Newman, Librarian

The Westmorelander
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October 2008

Monday, October 13 - Office Closed

Thursdays, 2, 19, 16, 23, 30

Chancel Choir 8 pm

Friday - Sunday, October 3, 4, 5

Church Retreat - Camp Wabanna

Sunday, October 5

Fellowship Breakfast 8:30 am

Worship, Communion, Church School, Nursery 10 am

Sunday, October 12

Volunteer Corps Board 8:30 am

Adult Bible Study, Child Care 9 am

Worship, Church School, Nursery 10 am

High School Youth 11:15 am

Prospective new member meeting 11:15 am

Evening Service: Blessing of the Animals 7 pm

Tuesday, October 14

Mid-East Committee 4 pm

Wednesday, October 15

Prime Timers 12 Noon

Friday, October 17

Middle School Youth 7 pm

Sunday, October 19

Tech Comm.; Bd. of Community Action 8:30 am

Adult Bible Study, Child Care 9 am

Worship, Church School, Nursery 10 am

Community Action Fair 11:15 am

Young Professionals 5 pm

Monday, October 20

Bd. of Christian Ed.; Bd. Membership/Fellow. 7:30 pm

Sunday, October 26 - WCUCC 60's Decade

Adult Bible Study, Child Care 9 am

Worship, Church School, Nursery 10 am

Family Concert: "Carnival of the Animals" 4 pm

Tuesday, October 28

Sandwich Making 10:30 am

Executive Committee 7:30 pm

Friday, October 31

High School Youth 7 pm

Looking ahead...

Saturday, November 1

Empty Nesters 7 pm

Sunday, November 23

Tables of Thanksgiving 7 pm