



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 57, No. 4

April 2010

How Goes Your Soul?

Bible Excerpt from 3 John 2-8:

I know that it is well with your soul.

How is it with your soul today?

That's the question John Wesley used two centuries ago when he developed a new way of being Christian, eventually called Methodism. His followers met in "class meetings," small gatherings led by lay people that focused on the spiritual disciplines of prayer, support, study, and accountability. It was the 18th-century version of the small group, peer counseling experience.

It was also a profound way to help people grow in their relationship with God. At the beginning of each meeting, every person in the group would be asked, "How is it with your soul?"

We measure our lives in all kinds of ways--the hours we work, the salary we earn, the grades we (or our children) make, the time we spend at the gym. Businesses and other organizations focus on "best practices" or "quality control."

But how to assess the most important relationship of our lives, our relationship with God? John Wesley's question, based on this passage from the Third Letter of John, is a good place to start.

So how is it with your soul today? Your mind may be filled with lists of things to do or problems to solve. Your heart may be brimming with new life or breaking with sorrow. But how is it with your soul? Whatever the day may bring or has brought, how are you experiencing God in this time?

How can you deepen that experience?

How is it with your soul this day?

Prayer

Strengthen my soul, O God, and make it well this day.
Amen.

Talitha Arnold is the Senior Minister of the United Church of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the author of **Vital Worship for Congregations**.

Ed. Note: Reprinted from the UCC Daily Devotionals, February 19, 2009

Worship Topics and Themes

Sunday, April 4

Easter Sunday

7 am: Sunrise Service in Memorial Garden

Music by GospelGrass

Holy Communion

Breakfast

10 am: Festival Service

Trumpet and timpani

"Turning Toward the Morning"

Luke 23:44 - Luke 24:12

Rev. Rich Smith

Holy Communion

Sunday, April 11

Guest Preacher - TBA

Sunday, April 18

Earth Day Service

Music by GospelGrass

"Three Conversions"

Acts 9:1-20

Rev. Rich Smith

Sunday, April 25

"On the Difference Between
a Good Living and a Good Life"

Acts 9:36-43

Rev. Rich Smith

Calendar Alert!

2010 All-church Retreat

October 8 - 10, Edgewater, MD

Please mark your calendar now.

Details will be available in late spring.

Senior Minister.....Rev. Richard L. Smith
Minister of Discipleship....Rev. Dr. Robert L. Maddox
Minister for Children, Youth, and Families ..Rev. Jessica Petersen
Director of Music....Dr. Alejandro Hernandez Valdez
Membership Coordinator & Newsletter Editor...Janet Moyer
Office Hours: 9 am - 5 pm

Outreach Ministries

Martha's Table

You are familiar with Westmoreland's outreach service to Martha's Table through our monthly sandwich-making project. There is much more to be known about this wonderful organization whose mission is to help at-risk children and families in the District improve their lives by providing educational programs, summer camps, food, clothes through Martha's Outfitters, and enrichment opportunities. Martha's Table operates a mobile soup kitchen 365 days a year, serving over 1,200 meals every night at five locations in the District. They provide 3,000 sandwiches, 65 gallons of soup, fruit, and 65 gallons of a beverage daily. And there is where WCUC comes into the picture.

In 2009 our Creative Culinary Crew prepared and delivered approximately **5,000** peanut butter and jelly, turkey bologna and cheese sandwiches to Martha's Table. Thanks to the loyal and dedicated Westmorelanders from the ages of 5 to 90, over 400 sandwiches were made each month. And there are plans to increase that number this year since Ralph Wooden invited a unique way to "cut the mustard!"

Our group is an equal opportunity Crew - - men, women and kids make quick work of it. Sunday School classes and children on school breaks have added fun to our numbers - - a good way for them to earn Community Service Hours for school.

We appreciate the Briggs Center for Faith and Action for underwriting the cost of the supplies. About 25 years ago Briggs Church was approached by Martha's Table to help supply sandwiches for their soup kitchen using cheese and peanut butter provided by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and day-old bread from local grocery stores. A few years later when supplies from that program ended, Brigg's outreach ministry continued to support the project. Since 2006, WCUC has energetically jumped in and the good work goes on!

Shirley Stubbs

Easter Offering

The offering collected at the Easter Service will go to support the core ministries of Westmoreland Church. The Outreach Ministries Committee is

Easter Offering continued...

particularly focusing on the work of Shaw Community Ministries, Bethesda Cares, City Gate, the Marie Reed School, and the programs where the Volunteer Corps members work. Particularly in a time of shrinking budgets, providing core support to those ministries that have long-term connections with this congregation is important.

Collecting the Easter offering is particularly important this year, since our Christmas offering was reduced when December storms led to church being cancelled the Sunday before Christmas. So, particularly if you didn't get an opportunity to contribute to the Christmas offering, we hope you'll think about the good work Westmoreland does in the community and be part of the Easter offering collection.

Rebecca Blank

Co-chair, Outreach Ministries

Haitian Relief and Support

Through the efforts of Violaine Dumorne, Jerry Hartman and Jan McDavid, 36 laptop computers were donated to school children in Haiti via a connection made by Violaine. In Haiti, Mr. Armoudon, who accepted the laptops for the children, and distributed them on March 21, thanked Jerry's firm (Drinker, Biddle & Reath) and Jan's firm (Hogan & Hartson) for the laptops which, he says, were greeted with screams of joy and prayers thanking the Americans. I wanted to let you know how joyfully these laptops were received.

Westmoreland is following up with a cash donation to Mr. Armoudon of \$4,526 to be used for the children and others in Haiti needing help. These are the remaining funds in Westmoreland's Haitian Relief Fund. We had previously sent \$3,500 to the UCC's Global Ministries fund for Haitian relief following the devastating earthquake there.

Through Violaine, we are able to get our relief directly to people needing this help. It is a blessing to be able to help others in this way.

Gary McDavid

Co-chair, Outreach Ministries

Continued in next column

Diaper Dilemma

Sarah Adamson, one of our Volunteers, is asking for your support. The Pregnancy Aid Center, where she works, has experienced an unprecedented demand for diapers as new moms face the significant financial burden of caring for a newborn. Because of the sharp increase in this demand and Pregnancy Aid's limited resources, they are often forced to turn families away. She is asking Westmorelanders to help bridge the gap by bringing just one or more bags of diapers size 0-4, to help families with this basic need.

Diapers can be left on the stage in the Social Hall and will be collected on Sundays by the Volunteers through April 11.

PAC gladly accepts packages of outgrown or off-brand diapers. Consider "going in with" another individual or family to purchase a large size box of diapers from Costco, Sam's Club or other discount store.

John Hatch

Prime Timers

The Prime Timers are in for a treat when the **Outreach Singers of the Washington Chorus**, directed by Dr. Grace Cho, perform at the next Prime Timers luncheon, **April 14**. The fun begins at noon with appetizers, then lunch at 12:30 pm, followed by the choral program. All members of the AARP generation are invited. Sign up in the Social Hall or make a reservation with Nona Cox (301-229-6334/nkcox@verizon.net) by Monday, April 12.

Parish Notes

Our prayers of condolence are extended to **Hector Livingston** on the recent death of his mother, May Livingston who resided in Berlin, MD.

Awards Luncheon Benefits Seminary

The annual James Floyd Jenkins Pillar of Faith Awards Luncheon will be held Saturday, **April 24**, 12 Noon - 2:30 pm at Martin's Crosswinds, in Greenbelt. The luncheon is sponsored by the Howard Univ. School of Divinity (HUSD), the UCC, and Friends of HUSD, to establish an endowed chair and Ph.D. program in religious studies, the first of its kind in a historical Black university. Reservations are \$75 each. Space is limited; please make your reservation immediately. Forms are in the Social Hall or email vortiz@howard.edu.

Who You Gonna Call?

From time-to-time, it's helpful to clarify responsibilities in the church office so that parishioners know whom to call when they have a question or request.

Contact Sanelma Sutton, Church Administrator about:

- Announcements for the weekly bulletin insert
- Scheduling a meeting/event in the church
- Requests for use of and logistics related to the building for weddings, memorials, concerts etc.
- Requests for the services of the sexton (Debbie)
- Receipt of all board minutes
- Receipt of contributions for flowers, memorials and concerts
- Building maintenance, repairs and cleaning
- Building equipment use or problems

Contact Janet Moyer, Membership Coordinator & newsletter editor about:

- Requests to learn more about or to join the church
- Introducing or referring visitors to the church
- Changes in address, phone or email
- News items for the *Westmorelander* (newsletter)

New Church Directory Is Available

The 2010 church directory of members and friends is available to pick up on Sunday in the Narthex or during the week in the church office.



Jonah (Nicole Jehl) contemplates how to get out of a "whale" of a predicament while angels offer their advice. The children and youth of Westmoreland presented the musical "Jonah" during worship on March 7, to a large and appreciative audience.

The Westmorelander
Westmoreland Congregational UCC
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May Westmorelander
deadline: April 18

April 2010

Monday, April 5 - Church Office Closed

Monday, March 29 - Saturday, April 3

Youth Mission Trip to Edisto Island, SC

Thursday, April 1 - Maundy Thursday

Soup Supper 6:30 pm
Service of Tenebrae 7:30 pm

Thursdays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Chancel Choir 8 pm

Sunday, April 4 - Easter

Sunrise Service 7 am
Breakfast 8 am
Festival Service 10 am

Friday, April 9

Middle School Night 7 pm

Sunday, April 11

Volunteer Corps Board 8:30 am
Nursery, Children's Choir 9 am
Worship, Church School 10 am
High School Community Building 11:30 am
Bd. Membership & Fellowship 11:30 am
Confirmation Class

Monday, April 12

Board of Christian Education 7:30

Friday, April 16

High School Youth Night 7 pm

Sunday, April 18 - Earth Sunday

Tech. Committee; Outreach Ministries 8:30 am
Bible Study, Nursery, Child. Choir 9 am
Worship, Church School 10 am

Monday, April 19

Board Meetings: Trustees, Deacons 7:30 pm

Wednesday, April 21

Prime Timers 12 Noon

Friday & Saturday, April 23 - 24

Confirmation Class Retreat (Carpenter's House)

Sunday, April 25

Bible Study, Nursery, Child. Choir 9 am
Worship, Church School 10 am
Parents of Infants and Toddlers Brunch 11:30 am

Tuesday, April 27

Sandwich Making 10:30 am
Executive Committee 7:30 pm

Looking ahead....

Sunday, May 2 - Jazz Sunday

10 am

Saturday, May 22

Choral Concert: Choirs of Westmoreland, Christ
Congregational UCC and Woodside Methodist Churches 7 pm