



# ***The Westmorelander***

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

***An Open and Affirming Congregation***

*Volume 57, No. 5*

*May 2010*

## **Living in Two Worlds**

Two weeks after my announcement and five weeks before actually moving, I feel like I am living in two worlds! I am pulled by the future: a vision of a new church and a new home, in constant contact with my new staff and church leaders, excited about what is to come. At the same time, I am packing boxes, giving away things that don't really need to make the move, supporting the idea of recycling to a degree I've never done before, trying to discern what to say in my last five sermons – and facing the fact that good bye is not always easy. This has been my home for the last nine years, and you have been my community of faith, and leaving can be painful! Two worlds, and I have a foot in each.

And for the congregation, living “between the no longer and the not yet” is filled with challenges. What will happen to us now? people ask. Rest assured, congregations have gone this way before, and not only survived but thrived. Your leaders have expert guidance from the Central Atlantic Conference, and there is a plan in place for how to move into the future - maybe not totally unafraid, but certainly with confidence and trust!

Meanwhile, I'm not gone yet, so let us make the most of the present moments that are left to us, to continue to share our faith and our gifts, and be grateful for the various paths the Spirit places before us. As a colleague of mine is fond of signing off, “Onward!”

And there's still time to See You in Church!

*Rich*

## **Worship Themes & Topics**

### **Sunday, May 2 - Jazz Sunday**

Music by the Rick Whitehead Trio

“It's All Good”

Acts 11:1-18

Rev. Rich Smith

Holy Communion

### **Sunday, May 9**

“Woman of the Cloth”

Acts 16:9-15

Rev. Rich Smith

### **Sunday, May 16**

“No Satisfaction”

Psalm 42

Rev. Rich Smith

### **Sunday, May 23**

**Pentecost and Confirmation**

Rev. Jessica Petersen

“Touched by the Spirit?”

Acts 2:1-21

Music by the Feel the Spirit Band

### **Sunday, May 30**

“Next-to-Last Things”

Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

Rev. Rich Smith

**Never place a period where God has placed a comma.**

*Gracie Allen*

**God is Still Speaking,**



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

## Our Congregational Future

I, as I am sure you did, experienced a mixture of emotions when I read the recent letter from Rev. Smith that he is leaving this June to pursue a call to a church in the high desert of Nevada. While Rich and Pam are understandably excited about this new chapter in their lives, it also signals a time of change and transition for all of us at Westmoreland. As Moderator, I want you to know that, if the spirit of the lay leaders and professional staff are any indication, we can all be optimistic about the future. Your lay leaders have already met with Rich and our exceptional staff to ensure the smooth transition of Rich and Pam to their new home, and to plan for the vibrant continuation of our church services and activities. In addition, they have begun discussions with the Potomac Association and Central Atlantic Council of the UCC to obtain support for our church life as we move forward without Rev. Smith and as we begin our search for a new Senior Minister.

There is obviously still much work to be done both in terms of accepting Rich's decision and planning for our own vibrant future as a congregation. However, the spirit of optimism, commitment and faithful consideration that I have seen displayed by everyone bolsters both my love for this church and my faith for a bright future together.

### Announcing a Church Council Meeting

I invite you to attend a Church Council Meeting after church on Sunday, **May 16** to learn more about this transition and share your thoughts about plans for the future. I look forward to seeing you there. In the meantime, you may share your thoughts, ideas and concerns with any of our lay leaders or me.

### Rev. Smith Appreciation Team

A special effort is underway to celebrate Rev. Smith's ministry with Westmoreland and support Rich and Pam in the transition to their new home. Ann Morales and Will Irwin have graciously agreed to lead the effort. Please share your thoughts on how we can best celebrate Rich's ministry with Ann and Will. Also, please let them know if you are interested in helping out with the celebrations or have some time to help Rich and Pam with the many pieces of preparing to move their lives and household cross-country.

*Dave Batson*, Moderator

## Music Fills the Spring Air

Please join Westmoreland's Music and Arts for an evening of mid-twentieth century choral music on **May 22**, 7 pm here at Westmoreland. Eighty singers from Westmoreland Church, Christ Congregational Church, and the Silver Spring Cooperative Parish will present a program of American and British religious music by composers including Benjamin Britten and Leonard Bernstein. The choirs will be accompanied by timpani, harp, percussion, piano, and organ.

Following the concert, you are invited to a reception and art show in the Social Hall. The show will feature Lens & Pens, Brushes and Friends, a group of poets, photographers and painters from a program of Forensic Inpatient Services at Washington DC's St. Elizabeth Hospital. Since 1989, this creative group has grown as artists in the community shared their ideas, time and expertise with patients. The mission of this program at St. Elizabeth's is to reintegrate patients through a shared artistic process with members of the community.

Donations from the event will benefit Bethesda Cares, an agency that serves the homeless with food, day shelter, clothing and showers and connects them to medical, psychiatric, job assessment and other services.

*Miriam Hill*, Music & Arts Committee

## Parish Notes

**Alexander Kirk Unruh**, son of **Rebecca Musil Unruh** and **Chip Unruh**, was baptized at Westmoreland on Sunday, April 18.

Congratulations to **Joan** and **Dick Marsh** who marked fifty years as members of Westmoreland on February 7.

Congratulations to these two Westmorelanders who will be celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays:

**Hannah Fox** ~ May 16

**Emma Rose Martin** ~ May 21

Belated congratulations to **Edith Wilkerson** who marked her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 8 during Snowmageddon 2010.

Memorial Services will be held on Saturday, **May 29** for these Westmorelanders:

**Jane Saegmuller Ames** ~ 10 am.

**Gordon Paul Livingston** ~ 2 pm

## Outreach Ministries for Justice and Social Action

### Westmoreland Gives Generously to OGHS

Westmoreland Church raised \$5696 in donations as part of the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering collected in mid-March. OGHS is collected by all UCC churches, and the funds go to support outreach activities around the world, from education programs, to health assistance, to disaster assistance, to refugee resettlement efforts. Some of these programs are part of international assistance efforts run collaboratively by a number of Protestant churches and some are UCC-only projects.

Thanks to everyone at Westmoreland for their generosity!

*Becky Blank*, Co-chair  
Outreach Ministries

### Shaw Community Ministry

Shaw is an area of Northwest Washington, D.C. that was heavily damaged in the rioting that followed the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968. After the riots, Westmoreland and the Lincoln Congregational Temple collaborated to build the Lincoln Westmoreland Housing Development to provide decent, affordable housing for Shaw residents. In 1991, the Potomac Association of the UCC created the Shaw Community Ministry (SCM) in an effort to further enhance the lives of children, adults and seniors in the Development and the surrounding Shaw neighborhood. Among other activities, SCM operates an after school program that provides tutoring, mentoring and other services to help Shaw students improve academically and to grow into responsible adults.

The past eighteen months have been an exciting time for SCM. The Rev. Anne Troy, who recently assisted in a service at Westmoreland, has completed her first energetic year as Executive Director. SCM moved into its newly renovated space, resumed the after school program and started a Community Science and Technology Resource Center. SCM provided Thanksgiving food for 157 families, scholarships for six college students and overnight summer camp trips for a number of Shaw youth.

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Shaw *continued...*

Over the years, Westmoreland has been an enthusiastic supporter of SCM. The Board of Community Action has made many grants to SCM, and Caryn McTighe Musil and the late Barbara McDowell contributed years of dedicated service as members of the SCM Board. Current SCM board members Gail Edie and Ken Barnhart would welcome the opportunity to answer your questions about SCM and to tell you about how you can become more involved with this amazing organization.

*Ken Barnhart*, SCM Representative

### Shaw Community Ministry Scholarship Program

Once again spring brings a sense of joy and anticipation to Shaw Community Ministry (SCM) as our scholarship program begins accepting applications from talented high school students hoping to be able to attend college.

Nothing is more important for the future of these young people than the combination of the free college counseling that SCM offers and the possibility of a scholarship. Together these programs offer young people a bright future and an alternative to the cycle of low paying jobs and hopelessness that might otherwise await them.

What a gift it is to help a young person realize a dream. Please consider giving generously to the SCM scholarship and college counseling programs this year. The board gives as many \$1000 scholarships as possible in June to a carefully screened group of high school seniors. The scholarship program is being expanded this year to help sustain previous grantees beyond their first year of college. Please send your check (any amount appreciated), made out to Shaw Community Ministry with "scholarships" in the memo line, to Julie Holm, Treasurer; Shaw Community Ministry; 1726 7th St. NW, Washington DC 20001. **The deadline is June 20.** Thank you from the Board of Directors of SCM, and from the young people we serve.

*Gail Edie*, SCM Representative

## Honor Your Mother....

By contributing layette items for babies of low-income Montgomery County families. Bring any of the items listed below to church no later than Sunday, May 16, and place them in the white basket in the narthex or on the stage of the social hall. Westmoreland's representatives to Interfaith Works (formerly Community Ministry of Montgomery County) will deliver the items to the Interfaith Clothing Center where volunteers will assemble the layettes. IFW attempts to greet each infant born to client families with a layette.

**New items needed:** baby towels and washcloths, crib sheets and blankets, receiving blankets, bibs, burp cloths, one-piece sleepers, t-shirts, sacques, and diapers (cloth or disposable).

**Gently used baby items** may be placed in the laundry basket on the stage. They will be available to qualifying families who come to the center for their monthly 'shopping trip.'

*Maryn Goodson, IFW Representative*

## Diapers Delivered

I'd just like to say a sincere thank you to all of you who helped with the Diaper Drive for the Pregnancy Aid Center. I've already been able to help more than 20 families with emergency diapers whom we otherwise would have had to turn away. Your contributions have truly made a difference for these families, and they, and I, are deeply grateful.

*Sarah Adamson, Westmoreland Volunteer*

*Ed. note: Westmorelanders donated an amazing 1493 diapers for Pregnancy Aid during the recent Diaper Drive.*

## Got Furniture To Go?

A Wider Circle, a small nonprofit Washington organization, dedicated to helping individuals and families lift themselves out of poverty, is urgently seeking basic household furniture to furnish the homes of families in need and those transitioning from homeless shelters. Items needed: beds, mattresses, cribs, strollers, chairs and tables. If you are redecorating or downsizing, this is a wonderful place to send your used but serviceable furniture.

Please contact the organization at 301-608-3504 or by email at [furnish@awidercircle.org](mailto:furnish@awidercircle.org) to arrange for a pick-up of your donation or drop off items, if you prefer, seven days a week, at the Center for Community Service, 9159-C Brookville Road in Silver Spring.

## Central Atlantic Conference Finances and OCWM Sharing

The financial situation continues to require our attention. As you may recall, the budget we passed for 2010 at the last annual meeting would have required no reduction in our conference operating reserves. That was based, however, on projected income from OCWM giving that now appears to be unrealistic. As we closed out the books on 2009, OCWM income was down from what we anticipated, as some churches found themselves unable to continue giving at previous levels. There was therefore a larger than budgeted draw on reserves for 2009. New projections on OCWM receipts for 2010, based on reports from churches, will also be significantly less than originally budgeted.

As a result we made some minor adjustments to the budget, but more importantly felt we needed to review the percentage of OCWM income that stays in the conference versus the amount that is sent on to the national church. Currently 65% of OCWM giving supports the CAC budget, while 35% goes to national. The board decided, after reviewing the figures, to recommend that the division be changed to 70%-30%. This is a decision that needs to be made by the annual meeting, and if it is approved it would take effect immediately, changing the distribution of receipts for the second half of 2010.

That is not a recommendation the board is happy about making. At the same time, the alternative of looking at further staff reductions or reductions in staff salaries seemed much less desirable. We are still in the first months of living into the substantial adjustments made necessary by having three Associate Conference Ministers rather than five, and this is the third year our staff has not had a raise. A major cut in salary at a time when we are asking everyone to do more was not acceptable to the board. And tinkering with a few line items here and there does not address the problem.

*Jim Bundy*

President of the CAC Board of Directors

## CAC Annual Meeting

June 11 - 13, University of Delaware

"Who Are You Christians Anyway?"

Seeking Our Way in the Central Atlantic Conference"

Keynote Speaker: Diana Butler Bass

Registration information: [cacucc.org](http://cacucc.org)

## Westmoreland Volunteer Corps Celebrates 25th Anniversary With Benefit Concert

Westmoreland Church family and friends are cordially invited to participate in the WVC's 25th anniversary celebration by attending a benefit concert at the church on Sunday afternoon, **June 6**, 4:30 pm.

John Lutterman, who grew up in Westmoreland Church, now an acclaimed cellist, will present the concert. Our own Jean Lutterman, his pianist mother, and a founder of the Volunteer Corps program, will accompany her son for the performance. Others with connections to the Volunteer Corps program will also perform. A reception will follow the concert giving everyone a chance to visit with the Luttermans and the 2010 group of volunteers.

Board Chair, Linda Maddox, says, "The Volunteer program is such a unique opportunity for us at Westmoreland. The Volunteers give freely of themselves to their agencies and infuse us all with enthusiasm and connection to the wide array of human services around the region. We must continue to do all we can to support this amazing ministry."

Everyone is needed to help by attending, inviting family and friends and giving financial support.

### Hats Off to Our College Graduates!

**Lesley Brindle** is graduating from Vanderbilt University with a degree in economics. In August she is entering Vanderbilt's Master of Accountancy graduate program.

**Adrienne Fritsch** graduates from Stanford this June and is returning in August to the DC area to work as a strategy consultant in an accelerated development program for Capital One.

**Matthew Lilja** graduates from the University of Denver in Denver, Colorado with a BS in management and a minor in art history. His immediate plans are to enjoy the summer as a camp counselor at a camp on the Eastern Shore, and then to return to Colorado to work in the recreational ski business, before going to graduate school.

**Eleanna Varangis** will be graduating from Barnard College May 17th and Columbia University May 18th with a double major in Economics and Psychology. She hopes to spend the next couple of years doing work in neuro-psychology before going to graduate school.



### Youth Mission Trip

Three brave chaperones and nine excited youth ventured out on a six-day mission trip to Edisto Island, SC, March 29 – April 3, and returned raring to go back next year. While in Edisto, the group helped two families by doing house repairs and yard work: painting, building a pump house, trimming trees, pulling weeds and clearing garbage. They also relaxed with a trip to Charleston, playing on the beach and engaging in nightly group reflections, as well as trips with Jessica to the Piggly Wiggly. Many thanks to all of Westmoreland for making such a trip possible.

Participants: Chaperones, Rev. Jessica Petersen, Richard and Cindy Bertaut and youth, Kate Lappin, Amy Oechsler, Clara Bertaut, Scott Bertaut, Jourdan Wooden, Max Barnhart, Ian Barnhart, Ben Clayton and Sarah Tyson.

### Summer on the Circle: "Journey with Jesus to Jerusalem"

Revs. Bob Maddox and Jessica Petersen have some exciting plans in the works for eight weeks of church school and worship for **all ages** this summer. As in the previous two summers, Church School will be 10 – 10:40 am and worship 10:50-11:30 am.

This year's overall theme is "Hanging Out With Jesus on his way to Jerusalem With Luke as Tour Guide." Just a couple of the weekly themes include "That Nagging Neighbor Quandry" and "Grandma's Antique Clock Quandry." Look for the June issue of the *Westmorelander* and upcoming bulletins for details of summer Sundays sure to nourish our spirits.


*The Westmorelander*  
Westmoreland Congregational UCC  
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Bethesda, MD 20816  
301-229-7766  
www.westmorelanducc.org

**June Westmorelander  
deadline: May 17**

**May 2010**

**Monday, May 31:** Office closed  
Memorial Day

**Sunday, May 2 - Jazz Sunday**

Fellowship Breakfast	8:30 am
Nursery, Child. Choir	9 am
Worship, Church School	10 am
Music by the Rick Whitehead Trio 	
High School Pizza and Discussion	11:30 am

**Thursdays, May 6, 13, 21, 27**

Chancel Choir	8 pm
(Thursday, May 20: 5 - 10 pm)	

**Friday, May 7**

Middle School Youth Group	7 pm
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**Saturday, May 8**

Young Professionals	2 pm
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**Sunday, May 9 - Mother's Day**

Volunteer Corps Board	8:30 am
Bible Study, Child. Choir, Nursery	9 am
Worship, Church School	10 am
Bd. Membership & Fellowship	11:30 am

**Monday, May 10**

Board of Christian Education	7:30 pm
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**Tuesday, May 11**

Middle East Committee	7:30 pm
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**Saturday, May 15**

Choir rehearsal	10 am
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**Sunday, May 16**

Tech. Committee, Outreach Ministries	8:30 am
Bible Study, Child. Choir, Nursery	9 am
Worship, Church School	10 am
Church Council Meeting	11:30 am

**Monday, May 17**

Board meetings: Trustees, Deacons	7:30 am
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**Wednesday, May 19**

Prime Timers	12 Noon
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**Friday, May 21**

High School Youth Night	7 pm
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**Saturday, May 22**

Choral Concert 	7 pm
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**Sunday, May 23 - Pentecost**

Bible Study, Child. Choir, Nursery	9 am
Worship, Church School	10 am
† Confirmation †	

**Tuesday, May 25**

Sandwich making	10:30 am
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**Saturday, May 29**

Harry & Jane Ames Memorial Service	10 am
Gordon Livingston Memorial Service	2 pm

**Sunday, May 30**

Bible Study, Child. Choir, Nursery	9 am
Worship, Church School	10 am