



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 57, No. 6

June 2010

Goodbye, Farewell, Amen

So this is it - my final article for the **Westmorelander**. I've been saying a lot of "Goodbyes" and "Thank yous," and before I ride off into the sunset, I need to say one more thing: We have had a very rich relationship over the past nine years, in which I have been privileged to be part of many facets of your lives - - in your homes, by your hospital beds, in places of celebration and grief. It has been a sacred honor.

But now that will necessarily have to change. I will continue to be your friend, and hold a special place for you in my heart, but I will no longer be your pastor. In our final service of worship together on June 6th, you will release me from the vows I took at my installation, and I will release you from depending on me. These vows of release remind us that our bond within the Church Universal will never change, but the nature of our bond as pastor and people will indeed change. This means I will not come back to perform weddings or funerals, as meaningful as those occasions might be. It means I will resist comment on any facet of church life at Westmoreland, especially as regards who my successor will be, or what I think about things once he or she is chosen. It means I will be taken off the "Westmorelandnet" which has been such a useful tool for communication about the day-to-day life of the church. Being some 2,500 miles away will make all that somewhat easier, though no less painful. But such separation is necessary if we are all to move forward into the future that is there for all of us!

You can, however, add me to your Christmas card list, and I'll certainly be watching from afar to see how this church continues to grow into what calls you to be.

For now, you can reach me through:
First Congregational Church
627 Sunnyside Dr.
Reno, NV 89503
775-747-1414
OR
richsmith@ecunet.org

Worship Themes & Topics

Sunday, June 6

Philippians 1:3-11, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

"The Long Goodbye"

Rev. Rich Smith

Holy Communion

Liturgy of Passage

Sunday, June 13

Youth Sunday

2 Corinthians 3:1-6; 4:1-6

"Ministers of the New Covenant"

Rev. Jessica Petersen

Teacher Appreciation

All-Church Picnic

Sunday, June 20

1 Kings 19:1-8

"God's Wake-Up Call"

Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox

Sunday, June 27

2 Kings 2:1-14

"Needed: A Double Dose of God's Spirit"

Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox

When we have moved into our house upon arrival in Reno, I'll send Sanelma that address. Meanwhile, I will hold you all in my prayers, and mean it when I say how much of an honor it has been to...

...See you in Church!

Rich



Coffee Hour Honoring
Rev. Rich and Pam Smith
June 6, 11:30 am

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

Come to the All-Church Picnic!

The Board of Christian Education welcomes all members and friends of Westmoreland to gather together for our annual church picnic on Sunday, **June 13** immediately following worship. We'll dine on summertime favorites, including ice cream novelties, provided by Chef Tom and the Board. Middle school youth (grades 6-8) will offer a variety of games. Come for the food! Come for the fun! Come for the fellowship!

Suggested donation: \$5 per person, \$20 per family.

Summer on the Circle

Revs. Bob Maddox and Jessica Petersen have some exciting plans in the works for the summer. As in the previous two summers, adults and children will all have Church School at the same time followed by worship together.

Schedule

10 – 10:40 am: Multi-track Church School for all ages
 10:50 - 11:30 am: Worship for all ages
 11:30 – 12 Noon: Coffee Hour

Offerings

Adults: July 11 – August 29

- Journey with Jesus to Jerusalem (With Luke As Tour Guide)
- Classical Music's Finest: Around the World in Eight Weeks
- ArtWorks: Jesus Through the Eyes of the Artist

Youth: July 11 – August 29

- Journey with Jesus to Jerusalem (With Luke As Tour Guide) modified for youth. Ages: Middle and High School. High School students are also invited to attend any of the adult offerings.

Children: June 20 – August 29

- Galactic Blast!: A Cosmic Adventure Praising God
 Rising kindergarteners - rising fifth graders will voyage into outer space praising God.

See the July **Westmorelander**, an upcoming colorful brochure and posters around Church for week-by-week details.

Middle East Committee

The Middle East Committee will meet after church on **June 20** in the parlor. Brian Lowe, a young man who has helped initiate a project that provides food to vulnerable Iraqi refugees in Syria, will describe that program called "A Plate for All." Everyone is invited.

Concert to Benefit WVC

The Westmoreland Volunteer Corps Board
 Cordially Invites You, Your Family and Friends
 To Attend A Benefit Concert Featuring

Dr. John Lutterman, Cellist

Accompanied by

Jean Lutterman, Pianist

and

Sarah Adamson, Vocalist & Current Volunteer

In Celebration of

Our Twenty-Five Years of Service

Sunday, June 6, 4:30 PM

Reception to follow in the Social Hall

Contributions appreciated

Parish Notes

Congratulations to **John Parachini, Hadley Boyd** and daughter, **Julia**, on the birth of **Eliana Grace** on April 22.

Warm wishes are extended to **Melissa and Paul Leistra** who were married May 2 in Olney, Maryland by Rev. Rich Smith.

God's blessings on these youth who were baptized on May 9:

Katherine Choate Kazmin, daughter of Lisa Choate and Sergey Kazmin

Kathryn Amanda Lappin, daughter of Sarah Wilson and Louis Lappin

Elena Nicole Duryea Waidmann, daughter of Suzanne Duryea and Tim Waidmann

Church Retreat: Save the Date

The 5th annual church retreat is scheduled for **October 8-10** at beautiful Camp Wabanna in Edgewater, Maryland. Registration materials will be mailed soon and volunteers are welcome to help plan the program. Questions? Contact Leslie Weber at 301-718-7844 or leslie_mike_weber@verizon.net

BCE Looks for Teachers

The Board of Christian Education is seeking teachers for the 2010-2011 Church School year. You may have the age level and session of your choice. Please contact Elizabeth Benton for details: elizabeth.benton@mongomerycollege.edu

Our Shared Path Forward

It has now been several weeks since Rev. Rich Smith announced that he will be leaving Westmoreland on June 6 to accept a call at First Congregational Church, Reno, Nevada. It has been a time of reflection and great activity as our congregation prepares for a future of new leadership while maintaining the vibrant continuation of our worship services, spiritual support and church programs. I wanted to take a moment to update you on the efforts of your fellow Westmorelanders and staff that have been hard at work preparing for our coming transition. Several efforts are ongoing to celebrate Rev. Smith's ministry and prepare for our future.

Under the able stewardship of Ann Morales and Will Irwin, an ever-expanding group of Westmorelanders are working on a series of activities to show our appreciation of Rev. Smith's ministry. Events include an evening gala, with refreshments, remembrances and music provided by Gospel Grass on Friday, June 4, 7:30 – 9:30 pm in the Social Hall. I do hope that you will be able to attend! Please respond to your mailed invitation or contact Pete Davis at pete@daviscap.com for additional details. The team is also working with Rev. Smith and Deacons on a final celebratory worship service, coordinating solicitation of a departure purse, and providing support for Rich and Pam as they prepare for their coming cross-country move.

Several groups of church leaders and staff are working to plan for the continuation of our church services and activities after June 6. Our excellent professional staff, in coordination with Deacons, have prepared an exciting summer of services and lessons, similar to the highly successful summer sessions of past years. More information on our "Summer on the Circle" will be available soon. A dedicated group of church leaders, coordinated by Moderator-Elect Pierre Toureille, is researching options for recommendations to the Executive Committee on preparing for the search for our new Senior Minister and operations of our church starting in the fall, typically referred to as our interimcy period. Members of this effort include George Christo (Trustees), Robert Benton (Deacons), MaryAnn Bernald (Membership & Fellowship), Gary McDavid (Outreach Ministries), Doug Hallward-Driemeier, and Pete Davis. This team is reaching out to a wide range of individuals in other churches experienced with interimcy period operations, the Potomac Association, and staff and members of

Westmoreland to obtain information and insights. If you would like to share your thoughts on the coming interimcy period, please contact Pierre at prtoureille@sprint.blackberry.net. In addition, the Trustees are taking the lead on working with Rev. Smith and the Potomac Association to appropriately handle personnel, legal and financial matters to provide Rev. Smith with a smooth transition to his new call.

On May 16, I was pleased to see almost 80 of my fellow Westmorelanders join in our Church Council to discuss, share views and obtain insights on the coming transition and desires for our church's future. The meeting provided an opportunity to explore several topics, including plans for honoring Rev. Smith's ministry, designing an attractive summer program, continuing membership growth and congregational energy, establishing effective interimcy period operations and creating a future search committee. Rev. John Deckenback, Central Atlantic Conference Minister and Rev. Kwame Osei Reed, Potomac Association Minister, educated us about the activities that a congregation should undertake to ensure an effective interimcy period. I greatly appreciate everyone who shared views and suggestions during the meeting. The discussion and insights from the meeting will be very valuable to our church leaders as they consider the best path forward for Westmoreland.

In addition to immediate transition efforts, we are also beginning the process of establishing a Search Committee to seek and recommend a new Senior Minister for our congregation. I could use your assistance in seeking members for a committee that can fully represent the breadth and spirit of our congregation. Please send me the names of individuals who you believe should be considered for our Search Committee. You can reach me at david_batson@verizon.net or 202-494-8702. I will be working with church leaders and former Moderators to recommend members of a Search Committee for approval of the congregation in early September.

Please look for continuing regular articles in the **Westmorelander** providing updates on our transition and interimcy period. In the near future, we will also be establishing a page on our website for easy access to information and updates. Please join me in thanking all of our members, staff, and lay leaders who are working to ensure a bright congregational future. Please keep them, Rev. Smith, and our congregation in your prayers.

David Batson, Moderator

Outreach Ministries for Justice and Social Action

Update on Help for Haiti

Donations by Westmoreland and laptops contributed by the law firms of Hogan & Hartson and Drinker, Biddle & Reath are helping those in need in Haiti. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, the church sent \$3,500 to the UCC's Global Ministries to provide quick aid through their contacts in Haiti. See www.globalministries.org. But we also have contacts in Haiti through our own church member Violaine Dumorne. She learned that there was a need there for laptop computers to help children whose schools were destroyed.

Westmoreland's Outreach Ministries approached Hogan & Hartson and Drinker Biddle & Reath about donating used laptops and arranged to have 36 laptops sent to Violaine's contact in Haiti, Mr. Armoudon. We followed up the laptop delivery with a contribution of \$4,375 to help the children of Haiti directly. This money has been used to reformat the laptops for use in Haiti's French system, to purchase additional laptops, to cover food and medical expenses for children living outside Port-Au-Prince, and for food and clothing generally.

We greatly appreciate the donations by the two law firms and hope they will consider additional laptop donations to Haiti. If you know of other organizations that routinely "revolve out" laptops after a few years and would be willing to donate the shipping costs to send them to Haiti, please let us know. We would be happy to facilitate the donation.

UNICEF issued a 90-day update on the relief efforts in Haiti with emphasis on children. You can see the report at the following link: http://www.unicefusa.org/assets/pdf/Final_UNICEF-Haiti_90-Day-Report_April-2010_reduced-size.pdf. The Executive Summary on page 3 tells you what you need to know. Westmoreland's response, while big for Westmoreland, is small in comparison with the needs of the country, but through Violaine's contacts, we were able to target our aid so that it went directly to children who need it.

Finally, if you have a used cell phone that still works, you can donate it to Haitian relief by leaving it in the church office or giving it directly to Violaine Dumorne. Thank you.

Gary McDavid
Co-chair Outreach Ministries



Mr. Armoudon gives one of 36 laptops donated by DC law firms to school children in Haiti whose schools were destroyed in the January earthquake. Westmorelander Violaine Dumorne facilitated the arrangements.

Send a Kid to Summer Camp

If you think you've been hearing a lot about the programs of Shaw Community Ministry, you're right! Under the energetic guidance of Executive Director Rev. Anne Troy, more and more people, young and old, are being reached in a life-changing way by SCM. With this surge in services comes an equal surge in the need for funds to support them. This coming summer, Camp Shining Star, held at Shaw's facilities downtown, will provide a place to go, things to do, and wonderful adult role models for 29 children aged 9 and up. The grant money to support this important program fell short of the request, and so we turn to you again for contributions of any amount to help provide a safe and fun environment for these children. In addition, funds are needed to send one more child to Camp Letts.

Please send your checks made out to Shaw Community Ministry with "Summer Camp" on the memo line, to Julie Holm, Treasurer, Shaw Community Ministry, 1726 7th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001. **The deadline is June 30.** Thank you for your continuing generosity toward our inner city neighbors.

Gail Edie
SCM Representative

Congratulations to the Class of 2010

Charlie Axelrod is graduating from St. Albans School where he has been active in the chorale, cross-country and Fed Challenge. At Westmoreland, Charlie participated in a service trip to West Virginia, a church musical and several years of church school. Charlie plans to attend Tufts University in the fall. He has many academic interests including economics.

James Barber graduated in April from Shortridge Academy. While at Westmoreland, James participated in the OWL classes, the service trip to Appalachia, Confirmation class, and served as an acolyte. Outside of church James plays soccer, enjoys making music and playing drums, and biking. He will be studying history at Temple University.

Katie Buenneke will be Graduating from George Mason High School in Falls Church. She has done a lot of theatre in school, along with swim team, Model UN, Scholastic Bowl/It's Academic and many other activities. At Westmoreland, she has participated in the Christmas pageants, musicals, youth group, confirmation, and has taught Godly Play. Katie will be attending the University of Southern California in the fall to study theatre, musical theatre, and film.

Benjamin Eagan-Van Meter is graduating from Walt Whitman High School where he was an Advanced Placement Scholar with Honors, a baritone in the Whitman Mens' Choir, and a founder of the Chess Club. Ben is also an Eagle Scout, a lifeguard, and a canoeing and kayaking instructor. At Westmoreland Ben participated in the Children's Choir, church musicals and served as an acolyte and a reader. He will attend Macalester College in St. Paul MN, to pursue his interests in politics, history, and social justice.

Andrew Ireland will be graduating in June from Walt Whitman High School where he is in the leadership of Whitman's Las Manos Unidas, a service group that has done work in Nicaragua and Ecuador, as well as helping local groups serving the Hispanic community. He is also an active member of the Whitman chapter of Best Buddies. For his Eagle Scout project Andrew worked to improve a hiking trail on the property of the Audubon Naturalist Society. At Westmoreland Andrew participated in a musical and in the bike collection held a few years ago. In the fall Andrew will be headed to Boston College where he plans to study biology in their Honors Program.



Roslynn Posley is graduating from Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, D.C. In addition to her academics, she baby sits, plays softball and is a 2nd degree black belt in Tae Kwan Do. Roslynn is a volunteer at Sibley Memorial Hospital where she works as a candy striper in their Physical Therapy Department. She has participated in church classes, the Christmas pageants and recently has volunteered with the younger kids during church school. She will be attending Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania, outside Pittsburgh, majoring in Exercise Science and Physical Therapy.

Nicholas Varangis is graduating from Walt Whitman High School where he was a member of the Men's Chorus and Chamber Choir, been active in the Chess and History Clubs and has spent many hours as a Visitor Services volunteer at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, Udvar-Hazy Center. At Westmoreland he was in the Children's Choir and participated in several church musicals and has served as an acolyte and a reader. Nikos will be attending Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, NY where he intends to concentrate on creative writing, history and film.

Grady Wilson is finishing his high school years at Bethesda Chevy Chase HS after spending 8 of his 17 years living in Australia, Azerbaijan and Turkey. An avid athlete, he has begun playing Ultimate Frisbee at BCC. Other sports include rugby, soccer, baseball, basketball and volleyball. He enjoys history and has begun studying Arabic. Grady was baptized at Westmoreland and, when in the area, sang with the choir and participated in the church musicals. As grandson of Patricia Squire and son of Margo Squire, he is a third generation Westmorelander. He will be attending McGill University in Montreal, Canada where he expects to study business and possibly computer sciences.

LGBT Interfaith Service

Pride Interfaith Service

Sponsored by Celebration of the Spirit Coalition
 Tuesday, **June 8**, 7:30 PM
 Westminster Presbyterian Church
 400 I St. S.W. Washington, DC

For further information or questions,
 contact Eric Eldritch: e.eldritch@mac.com

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

**July Westmorelander
deadline: June 11**

Email articles to:
jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

June 2010

Thursdays, 3, 10, 17, 24

Chancel Choir 8 pm

Friday, June 4

Farewell for Rev. Rich & Pam Smith 7:30 pm

Saturday, June 5

Memorial Service for James Graham 1 pm

Sunday, June 6

Fellowship Breakfast 8:30 am
Nursery, Child. Choir 9 am
Worship, Church School 10 am
Volunteer Corps Bd. Benefit Concert  4:30 pm

Tuesday, June 8

Staff Retreat 10 am

Sunday, June 13 - Youth Sunday

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

Monday, June 14

Board of Christian Education 7:30 pm

Tuesday, June 15

Board of Deacons 7:30 pm

Wednesday, June 16

Prime Timers 12 Noon

Sunday, June 20

Tech. Committee, Outreach Ministries 8:30 am
Bible Study, Nursery 9 am
Worship 10 am
Middle East Committee 11:30 am

Monday, June 21

Board of Trustees 7:30 pm

Tuesday, June 22

Executive Committee 7:30 pm

Sunday, June 27

Bible Study, Nursery 9 am
Worship, Church School 10 am

Tuesday, June 29

Sandwich making 10:30 am

LOOKING AHEAD....

Sunday, July 11

Begin "Summer on the Circle" Sundays 10 am