



# ***The Westmorelander***

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

***An Open and Affirming Congregation***

*Volume 57, No. 7*

*July / August 2010*

## **A Covenant for the Journey**

We, the people of Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ, enter into this “Covenant for the Journey” as we seek a new Senior Minister:

We will consistently pray for the leadership of God as we embark on this time of discernment and transition.

We will open ourselves to God’s responsive witness to us.

We affirm that with the indwelling of the Spirit of God in us individually and collectively highly productive days of ministry are yet ahead of us.

We will prayerfully listen to one another while we explore our past as part of the process of moving ahead.

We will commit to faithful attendance, regular financial support and consistent involvement in the life the church during this time of transition.

We will seek the heart and mind of God as we select leaders to guide the church through this transition.

We will thoughtfully express our ideas, hopes and concerns as a Pastor Search Committee comes into being and begins its work.

We will covenant with one another and with God to make this time of transition an opportunity for growth and spiritual development as we prepare for a new minister.

All in all we honor our history, bless and care for one another and gratefully cast God’s vision for the ministry of Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ into the decades ahead.

***The above covenant was recited by all Westmorelanders present in the worship service on June 12.***

## **Worship Themes & Topics**

**Sunday, July 4**

“Patriotic Light”

Guest preacher: Harry Knox

Director of the Religion and Faith Program  
Americans United for Separation of Church and State  
Holy Communion

**Sunday, July 11 - Sunday, August 29**

***Summer on the Circle***

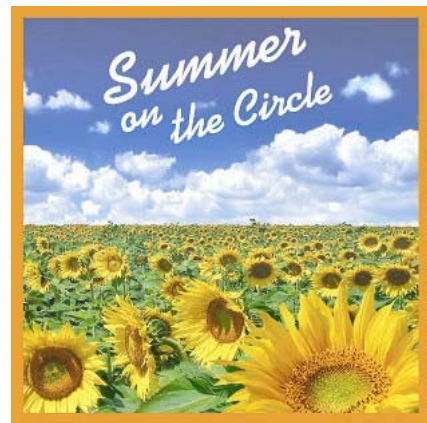
10 – 10:40 am: Church School for All Ages

10:50 – 11:30 am: Worship for all ages

11:30 am: Coffee Hour

**See the article on page 3 for weekly themes and information on children, youth and adult offerings.**

**Pick up a copy of our summer brochure.**



## **Summer Office Hours**

**9 am - 4 pm, July 1 - September 3**

Minister of Discipleship...Rev. Dr. Robert L. Maddox  
Minister for Children, Youth & Families...Rev. Jessica Petersen  
Director of Music/Piano and Organ Master...  
...Dr. Alejandro Hernandez Valdez  
Newsletter Editor.....Janet Moyer  
**Office Hours: 9 AM - 4 PM**

## **Our Shared Path Forward: An Update**

As we enter our time of transition to a new Senior Minister, I want to take time to let you know of some of the efforts that your church leaders and staff are making to prepare for the future.

### **Our New Pastoral Transition Web Page**

Thanks to Tim Waidmann, our Webmaster, for creating a brand new section of the Westmoreland website to share information and updates about our transition and future efforts to seek and receive our new Senior Minister. The web page, entitled **Pastoral Transition: Our Shared Path Forward**, is designed to include a variety of information that will evolve and expand to keep you informed of transition related activities and actions. For now the page includes our shared "Covenant For The Journey" that was entered into by the congregation on June 13 and copies of my letters to the congregation regarding the transition. You will find a link to the Pastoral Transition pages on the main menu located on the left of every page on our church website. The direct address for the new web page is <http://westmorelanducc.org/g-info/transition>. I hope that you will take time to visit it.

### **Plans for Our Interim Summer Operations**

Below is a message I sent recently to our professional staff thanking them for their continuing dedication and advising them of decisions of leadership about our church's summer interim operations.

Dear Bob, Jessica, Alejandro, Janet, and Sanelma,

On behalf of the Westmoreland Congregation as a whole, let me thank you for your continued dedication to and support of Westmoreland as we go through this time of transition. Already, in these last few weeks, you have shown your continuing high level of commitment to our life together and we deeply appreciate it. Allow me to take this opportunity to clarify the understanding of the Executive Committee on our common path forward.

Although various committees are still working on recommendations for how to handle our transition over the next year or so, I and the Executive Committee, are in full support of your plans to conduct church operations over the summer, through September 12, Welcome Back Sunday. We have full confidence in Bob's leadership and in all of you continuing

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do your jobs as you do now. This means that Jessica and Alejandro will continue to participate in Sunday worship, and work under Bob's guidance to carry out all other church activities. Janet will continue her outreach and membership development activities and Sanelma will continue to manage the office. Bob will coordinate your efforts to ensure that all of Rich's tasks, including pastoral counseling and care, will be covered by our existing staff or with the help of outside assistance. The Executive Committee and I commit to support you with outside assistance as necessary to maintain our church's ministry throughout the summer.

After Rich's last day on June 6, Bob will assume supervisory responsibility for all church staff members and day-to-day church operations. For other staff members, though it is not anticipated that the time you commit to the church will change, it is possible that some shifting of your role and responsibilities, under Bob's direction, may be required to fully meet the needs of our congregation over the summer. As Moderator, I will stay in regular contact with Bob through phone, email and meetings. Staff members should continue to report to the Executive Committee at its regular meetings and coordinate with church leaders as you do now.

Looking to the future, I apologize for the delay in establishing procedures for the conduct of church operations following the summer. I know the uncertainty is difficult. Given the importance of this decision, church leaders are appropriately taking the time to research and consider all options to determine what is best for Westmoreland. I assure you that I will keep you informed of our progress on decisions about interim church operations after September 12. If any future decision contemplates changes in your roles and responsibilities, appropriate church leaders and I commit to meet with you in a timely manner to discuss the changes and how they can best be implemented to meet both yours' and the church's needs.

I am grateful for your patience with us and with this process and hope it will be only a matter of a few weeks before we have greater clarity on how to organize our work together for the fall and beyond. Each of you should please feel free to contact me at any time with any of your cares, concerns, or questions.

Sincerely,

**David Batson**, Moderator

## Summer on the Circle 2010

### Church School and Worship for All Ages

#### Sunday Schedule

10 - 10:40 am - Church School for all  
 10:50 am - 11:30 am - Worship for all  
 11:30 am - Coffee Hour Fellowship

#### Children's Program

June 20 - August 29

#### Galactic Blast!

#### A Cosmic Adventure Praising God

Children in rising kindergarten-rising 5th grade will see outer space like never before, gain a new perspective on our planet Earth, and learn easy "green" earth tips to practice at home, all while praising and developing a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Leaders: Elizabeth Benton, Stacey Fannon, and Sarah Wilson (Mabry Room)



#### Youth Program

#### Journey with Jesus to Jerusalem (With Luke As Tour Guide)

Youth in rising 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades will walk together exploring various texts from Luke. High School students are also invited to attend any of the adult offerings. Leader: Rev. Jessica Petersen (Youth Room)

#### Adult Programs

#### Music

#### Classical Music's Finest:

#### Around the World in Eight Weeks

Travel the world with Dr. Alejandro Hernandez Valdez as he takes you on a journey to explore masterpieces of classical music from America and England, Eastern Europe, France and Belgium, Germany, Italy, Latin America and Brazil, Russia and its former republics, and Spain. (Music Room)

#### Art

#### Seeing the Faith

Using a combination of familiar and unfamiliar works of art, local artist and seminary student, Amy Gray, takes us on a visual journey through the life of Christ. Along the way, we will discuss basic tools for reading and interpreting biblical art, look at different ways to "see" the story through the images, and how images can inform and, sometimes, misinform our faith. (Parlor)

#### Bible Study

#### Journey with Jesus to Jerusalem (With Luke As Tour Guide)

This trek from Galilee to Jerusalem offers some of the most memorable events, parables, miracles and lessons in Jesus' life. Through a variety of studies and energized worship, we can meet Jesus and ourselves "again for the first time." (Sanctuary)

#### Bible Study and Worship Weekly Themes

July 11: Luke 10:25-37

"That Nagging Neighbor Quandary"  
 Leader/Preacher: Rev. Bob Maddox

July 18: Luke 10:38-42

"The Mary/Martha Quandary"  
 Leader/Preacher: Rev. Jessica Petersen

July 25: Luke 11:1-13

"The Praying Quandary"  
 Leader/Speaker: John Forrest Douglas

August 1: Luke 12:13-21

"Grandma's Antique Clock Quandary"  
 Leaders/Preachers: Revs. Jessica Petersen  
 and Bob Maddox

August 8: Luke 12:32-40

"The Kingdom Quandary"  
 Leader/Preacher: Rev. Gordon Forbes

August 15: Luke 12:49-56

"The End of the Age Quandary"  
 Leader/Speaker: Paul Leistra

August 22: Luke 13:10-17

"The Ox In the Ditch Quandary"  
 Leader/Speaker: Elizabeth Ferris

August 29: Luke 14, 1-14

"The Which Seat to Take Quandary"  
 Leader/Preacher: Rev. Sharon Graham

## Outreach Ministries Community Outreach Through Music and Art

In a few weeks you will receive a letter from Westmoreland's Music and Arts Committee, describing the 2010-2011 Concert and Art Show Series and asking for your help. We are grateful for your past generous support of this series through your attendance, your donations each fall, and your participation in last winter's celebration, "Lena Seikaly, An Evening of Jazz". We need your help again this year so that this wonderful series can continue.

Our series is truly special. Four evenings each year Westmoreland invites everyone into our church for a concert, an art show opening, and a reception. Free, with no tickets or reservations required, all may enjoy the music, the art and fellowship. For each event, we invite a community service provider to join us, and offer the audience the opportunity to learn about and support the work of that organization. For 2010-2011, those agencies will again be: Shaw Community Ministry, Montgomery County Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Marie Reed School Programs, and Bethesda Cares. From our 2009-2010 series, we gave a total of \$3643 in free-will offerings to these four beneficiaries.

"The Arts encourage us to reach out and build community. They enhance communication and sharing with others as we concentrate on the discipline and hard work of preparation, and participate in the enriching cycle of giving and receiving."

These words, the last two sentences of the *Mission of the Arts at Westmoreland*, written in 1997, and posted on the bulletin board in the social hall, describe the spirit motivating our Concert and Art Show Series. You know that in order to offer this series, we need the time and effort of exceptionally talented musicians and artists in our community, we need committee members and others to help with planning, publicity and hosting of these evenings, and we need donations to cover the expenses of the series. We need you!

*Betsy K. Bennett*, Music and Arts Committee



## Olive Oil Sales Resume

The Middle East Committee will resume monthly sales of Palestinian olive oil in July. Sales will take place in the Social Hall during Coffee Hour after church on the **third Sunday of each month**. The olive oil sales schedule for the remainder of 2010 follows:

<b>July 18</b>	<b>October 17</b>
<b>August 15</b>	<b>November 21</b>
<b>September 19</b>	<b>December 19</b>

Olive oil is also available for purchase in the church office during regular weekday business hours and after church. The price is \$15 per bottle payable by check made out to WCUCC with "olive oil" in the memo line.

Palestinian olive oil sales on the third Sunday of the month are intended to enable members and friends of Westmoreland interested in Middle Eastern issues to join the regular monthly meetings of Westmoreland's Middle East Committee on those Sundays at about 11:30 am in the church parlor.

*Robert Mertz*, Middle East Committee

## Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation

Hunger is a year round problem in our area. So before you pack up for the mountains or the beach, please help out with one of the two food programs that Outreach Ministries and Westmoreland support.



Westmoreland's "Creative Culinary Crew," a lively and eclectic group of volunteers, make sandwiches for **Martha's Table**, which provides them to homeless people. Join our group in the church kitchen on **July 27** and **August 31** at 10:30 am for good time while we assemble 300 sandwiches in about an hour.

**So Others May Eat (SOME)** needs our tuna noodle casseroles on the first Thursday of each month. The recipe is on the website and the recipe and pans are in the Social Hall. Summer is a good time to get children involved in helping to make a casserole. And, if you've not contributed in the past, perhaps the slower pace of summer will afford you the time.

You can leave a casserole in the freezer any day of the month for delivery on **June 30** and **August 4**. Can't cook? Boxes of cereal and juice are also needed. Leave them in the kitchen clearly labeled for SOME.

## Meet Our New Members

*Give a warm welcome to these new members who joined on May 30:*

**Jessica Brown** and **Mike Collins** have been attending Westmoreland since March. Jessica grew up in Salt Lake City and Mike is a local, having grown up in Takoma Park. Jessica is a psychiatrist in private practice and Mike is a physician at the National Institutes of Health. In her leisure time, Jessica enjoys tennis and reading and Mike music and tennis. They are the parents of Sydney, an eighth grader at North Bethesda Middle School and Ella, a first grader at Wyngate Elementary. The family lives in Bethesda. They joined by reaffirmation of faith.

**John Forrest Douglas** was a member of our Volunteer Corps 2007 – 2008. He is a case worker at Bethesda Cares, where he worked during his Volunteer Corps year, and a student at Wesley Theological Seminary. In September he will begin an internship with Rock Spring UCC and is applying to be In-Care with Westmoreland. He lives in the District of Columbia and joined by letter of transfer from Dumbarton United Methodist Church.

**Nikole** and **Dan Manatt** have been attending Westmoreland since January. Nikole, originally from Vermont, is a professional staff member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations. In her spare time, she enjoys playing with her baby daughter, reading and watching the Celtics and Red Sox. Mike, born in California but in the DC area since he was 12, owns his own business and is a media consultant and producer. He is interested in media, cinema, sports and the Bible. They live in Bethesda and are the parents of four-month-old Allison. Nikole joined by letter of transfer from Williston Federated Church in Williston, Vermont. Dan is a member of Trinity Catholic Church in Georgetown and joined as an associate member.

*We also welcome the following youth who were confirmed and joined Westmoreland on May 23:*

**Caroline Crawford**, a ninth grader at Whitman High School, is active in Westmoreland's youth group.

**James Ireland**, an eighth grader at Pyle Middle School, enjoys the sermons and Coffee Hours that follow worship.

**Katya Kazmin**, an eight grader at Washington International School has been active in the musicals and Church School.

*New members continued...*

**Emily Kuttner**, an eighth grader at Westland Middle School, has been in WCUC musicals and tutors at Marie Reed Elementary.

**Kate Lappin**, is a ninth grader at the Field School, and participant in youth mission trips.

**Elena Waidmann**, a ninth grader at Bethesda Chevy Chase High School, has read scripture in worship.

## Parish Notes

Congratulations to Westmorelander, **Jerry Hartman**, who has been named by the National Law Journal as a "champion" for his work as the director of DrinkerBiddle's **Barbara McDowell Pro Bono Initiative**, a national pro bono program that was created to carry on the work of the late Barbara McDowell, Jerry's wife. Barbara was a national leader in public interest advocacy. Jerry will be presented with the award in September.

## A Note from Rich

Dear Westmorelanders:

Words alone cannot begin to convey the gratitude we feel for the send-off you provided the first weekend in June! What a great party Will Irwin and Ann Morales planned, with the help of too many to name! The picture book that Gary McDavid put together is a real treasure of living memories, and the wonderful photograph taken by George Singleton is a reminder of all the talents so freely shared by Westmorelanders. The purse was very generous and will help us get settled in our new home in Reno. Thanks from the bottom of our hearts! Thanks also to the Choir for singing my favorite anthem on Sunday morning, for all the good wishes, and mostly, for the privilege of serving as your pastor for the past nine years.

I tried to put the "West" in Westmoreland, and now I take something of Westmoreland back with me.

Thank you! Keep up the good work!

Many blessings...

**Rich**

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

*Gracie Allen*



*The Westmorelander*  
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September Westmorelander  
deadline: August 17  
Email articles to:  
jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

### July & August 2010

#### Monday, July 5: Church Office Closed

#### **Sunday, July 4 - "Patriotic Light"**

Fellowship Breakfast	8:30 am
Bible Study	9 am
Worship - Guest speaker	10 am
Pizza and Popsicles	11:30 am

#### **Sunday, July 11 - Summer on the Circle**

Volunteer Corps Board	8:30 am
Church School for all ages, Nursery	10 am
Worship for all ages	10:50 am
All-church Potluck Coffee Hour	11:30 am

#### **Monday, July 12**

Bd. of Christian Education	7:30 pm
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#### **Sunday, July 18**

Tech Committee, Outreach Ministries	8:30 am
Church School for all ages, Nursery	10 am
Worship for all ages	10:50 am
Middle East Committee Field Trip	11:30 am

#### **Monday, July 19**

Bd. of Trustees	7:30 pm
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#### **Tuesday, July 20**

Deacons	7:30 pm
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#### **Tuesday, July 27**

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

#### **Sunday, August 1**

Church School for all ages, Nursery	10 am
Worship for all ages	10:50 am

#### **Sunday, August 8**

Volunteer Corps Board	8:30 am
Church School for all ages	10 am
Worship for all ages	10:50 am
All-church Potluck Coffee Hour	11:30 am

#### **Monday, August 9**

Bd. of Christian Education	7:30 pm
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#### **Sunday, August 15**

Tech. Committee, Outreach Ministries	8:30 am
Church School for all ages, Nursery	10 am
Worship	10:50 am

#### **Monday, August 16**

Board of Trustees	7:30 pm
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#### **Tuesday, August 17**

Bd. of Deacons	7:30 pm
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#### **Sunday, August 22**

Church School for all ages, Nursery	10 am
Worship for all ages	10:50 am

#### **Sunday, August 22**

Church School for all ages, Nursery	10 am
Worship for all ages	10:50 am

#### **Tuesday, August 31**

Sandwich making	10:30 am
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#### LOOKING AHEAD....

#### **Sunday, September 12**

**Welcome Back Sunday**  
Church School begins; Welcome Back Lunch