



# ***The Westmorelander***

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

***An Open and Affirming Congregation***

*Volume 57, No. 8*

*September 2010*

## **Westmoreland Adopts a Plan for the Transition**

I am delighted to announce the Executive Committee's adoption of a comprehensive plan for our church's transition to a new minister.

After weeks of intensive exploration and multiple conversations with people in and beyond the congregation to discern the best path forward for the time of interim, on July 22 the Executive Committee adopted a plan for the transition. Designed to fit Westmoreland's unique situation, the model embraces a concept that includes a two-minister-plus-church covenant.

The first part of the plan involves Rev. Robert Maddox, Minister of Discipleship at Westmoreland since 2006, assuming the role of **Acting Senior Pastor** retroactive to July 1. As such he will oversee many of the day-by-day functions of the church including worship planning, staff supervision, pastoral care and working with various teams and committees to ensure that the church moves ahead.

The plan also calls for retaining an **Interim Senior Minister** who will participate fully in the life of the congregation but whose major responsibility will be to help the church prepare specifically for the search and call of a new pastor. This person will work with the staff, the pastor search committee and other groups in the church to implement the several suggestions proposed by the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ for a successful interimcy. He/she will also be significantly involved in the worship and other aspects of ministry. A three-person team made up of Elizabeth Fritsch, Mary Grossnick and Doug Hallward-Driemeier will begin work immediately to find and enlist the services of this person. The hope is to have this other minister in place by early September. Both ministers will work on the basis of three-fourths time.

The church staff will remain essentially the same. Rev. Jessica Petersen will continue to serve as Minister for Children, Youth and Families though she will preach on a regular basis. Dr. Alejandro Hernandez Valdez will remain Director of Music/Master See *Transition* on page 2

## **Worship Themes & Topics**

**Sunday, September 5**

Denim Day

Philemon 1-21

"Game Changer for a Co-Worker" Rev. Dr. Maddox

Holy Communion

Blue Grass Music

*You are invited to wear denim to Church*

**Sunday, September 12**

Welcome Back Sunday

1 Timothy 1:12-17

"Meet Some Old Words Again for the First Time"

Rev. Dr. Maddox

**Sunday, September 19**

Luke 16:1-8a

"Who Are You Rooting For?" Rev. Petersen

**Sunday, September 26**

Jeremiah 32:1-15

"Real Estate Speculating with God as Broker"

Rev. Dr. Maddox

Welcome Volunteer Corps 2010-2011

Coffee Hour at the Volunteer House

### **Welcome Back to Church September 12**

The Board of Membership and Fellowship invites members, friends and visitors to lunch and fellowship on the lawn following the worship service. Lunch will be catered by Chicken Out; Westmorelanders are asked to bring a salad or dessert. There will be entertainment for children. Greet our new members and catch up with old friends.

Acting Senior Pastor...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 - 5PM**

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Pianist and Organist. Janet Moyer will continue as Membership Coordinator and Sanelma Sutton will remain Church Administrator.

In our recent congregation-wide Church Council Meeting to explain the plan, I said "The interim time for our congregation is a holy opportunity for renewal and a prayerful discernment of God's hope for our future. Everything the church undertakes in these months ahead has the aim of preparing Westmoreland fully for the arrival of a new minister." Your elected leaders ask for your prayerful support and faithful participation in the life of the church during the months ahead. We have every reason to believe the time will be productive in every way.

If you have questions about this arrangement please feel free to call David Batson, Moderator or me.

*Pierre Toureille*, Moderator-elect

### **What's With This "Acting Senior Pastor" and "Interim Senior Minister?"**

As Moderator-elect, Pierre Toureille explained in the above article that the Executive Committee has adopted a plan that involves a three-way covenantal ministry involving myself, a UCC minister the church will enlist to work with all of us on the tasks of the interim period (as well as other aspects of church life), and the larger Westmoreland Congregation.

Covenant is a central principle of the United Church of Christ. It preserves the soul liberty of the individual, the freedom of the minister and the autonomy of the local church all folded into the rich Biblical idea of mutual trust, relationship and responsibility.

Picking up on the time-honored office of pastor of the local church, and with the concurrence of the Executive Committee, I drew to myself the title **Acting Senior Pastor**. While "pastor" is not normally employed in UCC churches, it is descriptive of my vision of my particular role during the transition. To make a distinction and to appropriate the more UCC-friendly term of "Senior Minister," the Executive Committee settled on the title **Interim Senior Minister** for the other significant person in the three-way covenant we envision.

Of course overlaps in our work will occur. In fact, I  
*Continued in the next column....*

hope they do. I will work with this other minister in aspects of search and call preparation and he/she will surely take part in the spiritual and sacramental ministry of the church. We will be a two-person team working with the staff and several lay groups in maintaining the morale and vitality of the church. Rev. Jessica Petersen will likewise share her considerable gifts as preacher and worship leader with us. We will all depend on the wonderfully able Dr. Alejandro Hernandez Valdez as the fourth member of the worship team.

Finally, the congregation has a vital role in the covenant. The ministers and staff need the full emotional and spiritual support of the Westmoreland family. Many in the church will have key responsibilities during the transition. My deepest desire is that these months will evolve into one of the most enriching times in the life of the church. Through it all, we will make every effort to be intentional in what we do, always asking for the inspiration of the spirit of God as we do the work of Jesus in our time.

*Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox*, Acting Senior Pastor

### **Parish Notes**

Congratulations to our Director of Music, **Alejandro Hernandez Valdez**, who has been named the Associate Conductor/Pianist for the Choral Arts Society of Washington.

Our very best wishes to Westmorelanders **Trey and Lisa (Hoopes) Holloway** who were married at Westmoreland by Rev. Maddox on July 31.

God's blessings on **Catherine Latimer Monroe**, who turned 100 years old on August 19. Our oldest member, Catherine joined Westmoreland in 1952. She lives at Grand Oaks in Washington, DC where she and her family enjoyed a quiet birthday celebration.

### **Westmoreland Retreat: Our Shared Path Forward**

The **registration deadline of September 15** is fast approaching for our annual Church Retreat on **October 8-10**. Once again, we'll be at Camp Wabanna Christian Retreat Center in Edgewater, Maryland on a beautiful part of the Chesapeake Bay. There are lots of opportunities for food, fellowship and fun for all ages. Please contact Leslie Weber if you have questions or need another registration form: 301-718-7844 or [leslie\\_mike\\_weber@verizon.net](mailto:leslie_mike_weber@verizon.net). We look forward to seeing you there!

*Leslie Weber*

## Christian Education 2010-2011

### Church School

Our regular church school year kicks off on **Sunday, September 12**. Here's what's in store!

Our youngest Westmorelanders are invited to begin building their relationships with one another and with God under the care of Maricela Lloreda Manzano, our paid child-care provider, and older youth and adult volunteers in our *Nursery*. Toys and art supplies are available to inspire children's creativity, a simple Bible story is read for young ears, and children develop their abilities to pray as they give thanks for snack.



The relationship building continues for our young children in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten in *Godly Play*. *Godly Play* is designed to help young children experience God. A storyteller leads the class in learning basic Bible stories. Children are encouraged to explore the stories using manipulatives, acting out the stories, and engaging in artistic activities related to the scriptures.

Throughout the year, children and youth in grades 1-7 will engage with Biblical text through art, drama, contemporary story, and activities that connect with real life concerns. As they enter the Bible story through imagination and life connections they are encouraged to develop Bible skills, ask questions, and explore faith traditions. *Seasons of the Spirit* is an international lectionary-based church school curriculum that nurtures spiritual development through ritual and encouraging relationships with peers and adults.

*Our Whole Lives (OWL)* is offered for youth in the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades. Through use of the *OWL* sexual education curriculum and its accompanying resource, *Sexuality and Our Faith*, youth will explore the way they view sexuality and how that relates to their faith. Sharon Light, Richard Bertaut, and Brendan Hill will lead our youth throughout this exploration. (Classes begin Sunday, October 17. Youth are strongly encouraged to participate in worship on the Sundays prior to the start of the class.)

Please contact Rev. Jessica Petersen with any questions about Church School or if you would like to be a resource person: (jpetersen@westmorelanducc.org or 301-229-7766).

### Adult Education

"Embracing an Adult Faith" is for those seeking a richer understanding of contemporary Christian theology and practice: *Who was Jesus? Who is God? What is salvation?* These are a few of the "big" questions addressed in this series. Join Rev. Bob Maddox at noon on Wednesdays, **September 22 - October 27** at the Carpenter's House. A DVD, featuring Marcus Borg, internationally known religious scholar, provides the basis for stimulating discussion.

### Meet Our New Members

*Give a warm welcome to these new members who joined on August 8:*

**Dan Sack** and **William Tweedley** relocated from Chicago and now live in the District of Columbia. Both are ordained ministers in the United Church of Christ. Dan is a religious historian and a Program Officer at the National Endowment for the Humanities. William is a hospital chaplain at Georgetown University Hospital. He is also a certified life coach, working with individuals and organizations. In their spare time they enjoy travel, sailing and biking. Both are joining by letter of transfer from First United Church of Oak Park, Oak Park, IL.

**Sarah Adamson** hails from Rochester, Minnesota. As a member of the 2009-2010 Volunteer Corps, she worked at Pregnancy Aid and now has been hired for the coming year as an Adolescent Outreach Worker. She is also applying to medical school. Sarah also has professional training as a singer and a great interest in music.

**Eva Foegeding** is from Raleigh, North Carolina. As a member of our 2009-2010 Volunteer Corps Eva worked as an ED navigator at Mobile Medical Care and plans to continue her studies to become a nurse practitioner. She enjoys volleyball and water sports.

**Robbie Squibb** is from Wheeling, West Virginia. He holds a degree in Political Science and Economics and is currently working at the Federal Trade Commission as a Research Analyst. He enjoys sports and movies. Eva and Robbie are engaged to be married.

Sarah, Eva and Robbie joined Westmoreland as Associate Members, retaining full membership in their respective home churches.

## Outreach Ministries

The Church has provided \$27,300 in Outreach grants so far this year and we still have a little over \$2000 to be distributed. The bulk of the funds (\$23,300) has gone to our four core ministries (Bethesda Cares, City Gate, Marie Reed School and Shaw Community Ministries), to the charitable agencies serviced by our Volunteer Corps, and to Haitian relief.

Bethesda Cares	\$3000
City Gate	\$2000
Marie Reed School	\$3000
Shaw Community Ministries	\$3000
Bread for the City	\$1000
DC Rape Crisis Center	\$1000
Mobile Med	\$1800
N Street Village	\$1000
Haitian Relief	\$7500
A Wider Circle	\$2000
College Tracks	\$1000
RICH (Resources for Inner-City Youth)	\$1000

We have focused our giving on organizations where we have volunteers actively participating. This approach – volunteers and dollars – creates a meaningful relationship between the church and the people we are helping. Our focus on a limited number of core ministries is part of a recent effort to apply our money and time resources to a smaller group of organizations and to provide resources that make a real difference in their operations and programs.

This fall, we will be beginning the new school year at Marie Reed Community Learning Center and looking for volunteers to help tutor the children in reading and math. It is easy to do – 2 hours, one day a week. While the children benefit greatly from this assistance, it is surprising how much *you* can learn from tutoring these children. If you are interested in helping a child, please contact Gary McDavid.

We will be working with Shaw Community Ministry this fall on organization and financial issues. The October 16 Music and Arts Concert will benefit Shaw. Those interested in helping Shaw should contact Gail Edie.

Bethesda Cares serves 75 meals a day to the homeless. Thanks to Ben Eagan-Van Meter's Eagle Scout Project (supported by Westmoreland), BC now has a clean and refurbished kitchen to use for this purpose.

City Gate ran a number of successful programs for

*Continued from previous column...*

inner city youth this summer, but is currently struggling with financial issues related to grant monies that were promised, but have not been forthcoming. We are looking at providing some money to them (around \$1000), but need to provide more, if we can. Please contact Gary McDavid if you are interested in coming together to discuss ways of helping them.

**Gary McDavid** and **Becky Blank**  
Co-chairs, Outreach Ministries

## Outreach Ministries Announces Precious Jewelry Sales

Outreach Ministries for Justice and Social Action is ready to accept donations of precious jewelry, valued at \$200 or higher, for sale on eBay. This will be an ongoing effort, and any style of valuable jewelry is welcomed! All donations will be appraised by a local jeweler for certified valuation and tax receipts. 100% of the proceeds will go toward Outreach Ministries activities, such as Marie Reed, Shaw, and Bethesda Cares.

Please contact Mary Schoonmaker at 408-202-3854 for information on how to make a donation.

## México 2010 Celebration October 16 at 7 pm

Sergio Hernandez Valdez, concert pianist and Director of the Jalisco State Chorus in Mexico, will join his brother Alejandro Hernandez Valdez, our amazing Director of Music/Piano and Organ Master, to bring us a magnificent performance of piano solos and duets by Mexican composers. The music celebrates Mexico's "Año de la Patria," (Year of the Nation), the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mexico's Independence and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their 1910 Revolution. This exciting concert, the first of our 2010-2011 season, begins at 7 pm in the sanctuary.

The music will be followed by an art show featuring Iconography and a festive reception in the Mabry Room. Our community outreach partner for this evening is Shaw Community Ministry. As with all of our benefit concerts, there is no charge for attending; free-will donations to Shaw are encouraged.

Put this event on your calendar; invite your friends! The music and art will be fantastic; the chance to talk with Sergio, Alejandro, and the artists at the reception will be fun for all of us; this is an excellent opportunity to support Shaw Community Ministry.

**Betsy Bennett**, Music and Arts Committee

*Continued in next column...*

## Preview of the 2010-2011 Westmoreland Concert Series

After you have “visited” Mexico by way of the October 16 piano concert featuring Alejandro and Sergio Hernandez Valdez, you can look forward to the rest of the special concert season at Westmoreland. Mark your calendars now to be sure that you will be able to attend these concerts and art shows:

*November 6, 2010*

### Beau Soir Ensemble

Lauren Panfili, flute

Michelle Mayers Lundi, harp

Works by Blavet, Saint-Saens, Ravel and others

Beneficiary: Montgomery County Chapter,  
National Alliance on Mental Illness

*February 12, 2011*

### Opera Scenes:

#### An Evening of Great Opera Arias and Ensembles

Shenandoah University Opera Program

Grace Cho, Opera Coach and Pianist

Works by Puccini, Verdi, Mozart, and others

Beneficiary: Marie Reed Community Learning Center

*May 21, 2011*

#### The Many Moods of Mozart: Requiem, K. 626 and Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, K. 525

Westmoreland Chancel Choir

Westmoreland Chamber Orchestra

Alejandro Hernandez Valdez, Music Director

Beneficiary: Bethesda Cares

## Sixth Annual 9/11 Unity Walk

Sunday, September 12, 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Join a group of people of all faiths in a dramatic unity walk as churches, synagogues, temples, mosques and gurdwaras along Massachusetts Avenue’s Embassy Row open their doors together in peace, healing and understanding. The walk begins at the Washington Hebrew Congregation and ends at the Islamic Center of Washington. For further information contact Dominique or Mike Rychlik at [rychliks@gmail.com](mailto:rychliks@gmail.com) or visit [facebook.com/911unitywalk](http://facebook.com/911unitywalk).



## Off to a New Year... With a Few Thoughts

September is that time in the church year when members, friends and visitors return to church, after the slower pace of summer, with renewed energy and enthusiasm. Amidst the anticipation of rich worship services, learning, fellowship and shared meals, we offer a few reminders for all Westmorelanders.

### *Are You Getting Church Communications?*

Quite often we hear folks say “I didn’t know such-and-such was happening.” Well that need not be you if you **receive and read** communications from the church.

**Newsletter:** Everyone can subscribe to the **Westmorelander!** You can read it online or print it out for reading at your leisure. (The latter is particularly important if only one person in a household subscribes.)

**Listserves:** Members can subscribe to **Westmorelandnet** and friends and visitors can subscribe to **FriendsNet**. These listserves will keep you “in the loop” about news and events at WCUCC as well keep you informed of special circumstances such as cancelled events or services or power outages at church.

**Minister’s Thursday email:** “This Sunday at Westmoreland” is must reading if you want to know all about the upcoming weekend at WCUCC.

To subscribe to the above communications, email Janet Moyer: [jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org](mailto:jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org).

### *Wear Your Nametag*

Greeting one another and striking up conversation is much easier and more comfortable when we sport our name tags. Find your nametag on the board in the Narthex. Lost yours? Email or ask Janet for a new one.

### *Be a Considerate Parker*

On Sundays please leave the parking lot open for Westmorelanders with mobility challenges, families with infants and toddlers and for our visitors. Parking is available on Massachusetts Avenue, the Circle, Western Avenue, Dalecarlia and Duvall (beyond the no parking signs.) And please do not block the walkways and driveways of our neighbors. Thanks for your cooperation.

**Welcome Back!**

*The Westmorelander*  
Westmoreland Congregational UCC  
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301-229-7766  
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**October Westmorelander  
deadline: September 15**

Email articles to:  
jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

## September 2010

### Monday, Sept. 6: Church Office Closed

### **Thursdays, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

Chancel Choir rehearsals 8 pm

### **Sunday, September 5 - "Denim Sunday"**

Fellowship Breakfast 8:30 am  
Bible Study, Nursery care 9 am  
Worship, Church School 10 am

### **Saturday, September 11**

Teacher training 9:30 am

### **Sunday, September 12 - Welcome Back**

Volunteer Corps Board 8:30 am  
Bible Study, Nursery 9 am  
Worship, Church School 10 am  
Welcome Back Lunch 11:30 am

### **Monday, September 13**

Board of Christian Education 7:30 pm

### **Wednesday, September 15**

Prime Timers 12 Noon  
Board of Deacons 7:30 pm

### **Sunday, September 19**

Tech Committee, Outreach Ministries 8:30 am  
Bible Study, Nursery 9 am  
Worship, Church School 10 am  
Middle East Committee 11:30 am  
OWL Parent Orientation 11:30 am

### **Monday, September 20**

Board of Trustees 7:30 pm

### **Wednesdays, September 22, 29**

Weekday Bible Study 12 noon

### **Sunday, September 26**

Bible Study, Nursery Care 8:30 am  
Worship, Church School 10 am  
Coffee Hour at the Volunteer Corps House 11:30 am

### **Tuesday, September 28**

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

### **LOOKING AHEAD....**

### **Friday - Sunday, October 9, 10, 11**

All-Church Retreat, Camp Wabanna