



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

Volume XLVI, No. 2

An Open and Affirming Congregation

January 15, 2005

Our Banner was Stolen, but “God IS Still Speaking,”

That’s what we put on our sign on December 19, the morning we discovered that our red and black “God is Still Speaking,” banner – linked to the UCC Advent Ad Campaign – had been swiped overnight. This was a little embarrassing to me, as the banner and its message of God’s inclusive love were the subject of that morning’s sermon, and at the time I was unaware of the theft. Several sharp-eyed Westmorelanders pointed it out to me after the service. A new banner has arrived and is now installed in a more secure location (thanks to the generosity of one of our members). Considering what Jesus went through, a little vandalism isn’t going to stop us!

Ours is not the only church in the area to experience this kind of thing, which makes me think this is more than an act of random vandalism. Our Emmaus church in Vienna was egged, and Hope UCC in Arlington reports that not only was their banner taken, considerable damage was done to the fixtures which lighted it. Clearly, the message of inclusiveness and radical welcome is threatening to more than the network executives who axed our ads last month.

All this may seem a small matter in the larger context of the violence in our world, but through it we are still called to proclaim the message of God’s love for all people, in our local AND global community. We are called to respond with perseverance and compassion, remembering

the words of Martin Luther King (whose birthday we observe this week): “Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder the hate... Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only love can do that.”

On a more celebratory note, I hope you’ll make a day of it here on January 23rd. After worship we’ll hold our Annual Congregational Meeting, giving thanks for the way we have pulled together as a community of faith through the changes of this past year and positioning ourselves for a year of moving forward in mission and discovering the ways in which God is Still Speaking in our midst. At 3 pm we will hold the long-awaited service of ordination for **Sharon Graham**. As I’ve said before, I think God ordained her long ago and we’re finally catching up to that fact, hearing what God is saying through her. Ordination is probably the most important service a church can hold, making a very positive statement about the future!

Finally, I will be catching a plane the morning of January 24, heading first to the Earl Lectures in Berkeley, CA, then to Fresno, CA, (where I’ve been invited to preach at the Installation service of my friend David Schlicher), and finally to Phoenix where I will attend a short conference on “Church Reborn”. Jet-lagged but inspired, I will be back in the office February 4. But both before and after, I’ll see you in Church!

-Rich

UCC Provides Disaster Relief to Southeast Asia

The devastation in Southeast Asia resulting from the earthquake and tsunami, which caused over 150,000 deaths and untold loss of property and livelihood, has precipitated a massive outpouring of aid. Our United Church of Christ was able to make immediate help available from disaster relief funds collected in the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

We can add to that—just make a check out to Westmoreland with the notation “tsunami” on the memo line. You can see what we’re doing by going to the UCC website – www.ucc.org. While insurance companies and certain religious folk may term this disaster an “act of God”, the *real* acts of God are revealed in our compassion and generosity!

Prime Timers Meeting

All Westmoreland seniors are invited to the **Prime Timers** luncheon on **January 19, at 12 pm** in the parlor, followed by lunch in the social hall at 12:30. As a special treat, Bru Bru-baker will present a program including slides of Smokey Mountain Wild flowers. The hosts for the luncheon this month will be Jean Lutterman and Nona and Ken Cox. Cost of the luncheon is \$5.00. If you have any questions or to make reservations, call Nona Cox at 301-229-6334. Start the New Year off by joining the Prime Timers for fun and friendship.

Fellowship Breakfast

Come to the **Fellowship Breakfast** on **Sunday, January 23 at 8:30** in Room 35. Bring a breakfast dish to share and join an open discussion of individuals' wish lists for the church for 2005.

Piano in the Afternoon

Enjoy a piano program presented by **Louise Kupelian** on **January 28 at 1 pm** at the **Friendship Heights Village Center**, 4433 S. Park Avenue in Chevy Chase. Reservations are required: 301-656-1900.

Parish Notes

Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Jessie Metcalf**, who died December 30, 2004 in Gaithersburg. Jessie was a member of Westmoreland for 52 years. Her memorial service will be held on **January 21 at 2 pm** at Westmoreland.

Former Westmorelander and choir member **Carl Schwenk** died on December 18 in Chambersberg, Pennsylvania.

Are You "On the Net"?

Last fall Westmoreland established a listserv, a kind of "electronic bulletin board" from which subscribers receive announcements from the church and one another. For example, the listserv has been used to send out reminders of events and memorial services and recently, a prayer service for victims of the tsunami. In addition, we will use it to announce closings of the church office and cancellations of worship and events due to inclement weather. Previous technical problems that resulted in an overload of messages have been resolved. We encourage you to join Westmorelandnet so that you receive timely, important messages. Send an email to: owner-westmorelandnet@westmorelanducc.org and put in the body of your email the following: subscribe, your name, your phone.

(The Westmoreland E-communications Committee includes John Newman (Chair), Amy Wooden, Janet Moyer, Judy Newman, David Bennett, Sue Kirk, and Rich Smith.)

Memory Loss: IONA Senior Services Can Help

Are you a senior experiencing memory loss that affects your everyday life, but don't know where to turn? Are you the adult child of a parent who is experiencing some form of memory loss and you are wondering what to do? IONA Senior Services on Albemarle Street, NW can help you. The Early Alzheimer's Clubs provide a caring and stimulating environment with social interaction, music, current event discussions, trips, and a hot lunch from 10 am – 2 pm for up to four days a week. IONA offers a comprehensive range of support groups facilitated by social workers, seminars, workshops and individual social casework. IONA is becoming one of the area's leading specialists in memory loss. For further information, call 202-966-1055.

Annual Meetings

The Budget Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 16 at 11:30 am in the Social Hall. Bring your suggestions and concerns for the final budget to be presented for a vote the following week. Childcare will be provided.

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 23 at 11:30 am. Elections will be held for officers and new board members and the budget will be voted upon. All members, including confirmed youth, are eligible to vote. Snacks and childcare will be provided.

Worship Topics and Themes

Sunday, January 16
"God's Calling —It's For You"
Isaiah 49:1-7; John 1:29-42
Rich Smith preaching

Sunday, January 23
"United or Untied?"
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Rich Smith preaching

Sunday, January 30
Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17
Melinda Reed preaching

BCA Funds Malawi Children's Village

Again this year, the Board of Community Action is reaching out and giving \$1000 to the Malawi Children's Village in East Africa. It was Orm and Bunty Ketcham, as well as John Hatch who brought this organization to our attention.

The Malawi Children's Village provides care for over 3,000 AIDS orphans living in 37 villages in Malawi. AIDS has created more than half a million orphans in Malawi alone. Traditional family support systems are too stressed, or simply nonexistent to handle the large number of orphans.

The people at MCV, founded by former Peace Corps volunteers in 1996, train villagers to care for these orphans, so that they can be fed, clothed, kept warm, schooled and loved. They also run a rehabilitation center for the intensive care of babies who are sick or whose mothers have died of AIDS within weeks of their births. Finally, the MCV has established a food and seed bank to assist the households that are caring for orphans.

Westmoreland's \$1,000 donation will go a long way. For example, \$14 will support one orphan for a whole year...\$125 will allow an orphan to attend secondary school for a whole year...\$300 will build a home for an orphan family. BCA is very excited about the work that the people at the Malawi Children's Village do, and are happy to be able to help them.

All That Jazz at Westmoreland

The Arts at Westmoreland extends an invitation to all poets and artists to participate in a program devoted to the music, art and poetry of jazz on **Sunday, April 3 at 4 pm**. The program will showcase America's contribution to the music genre of jazz. Poems, paintings, drawings, sculpture and other arts forms inspired by jazz are welcome. Please contact Sanelma Sutton at 301-229-7768 or ssutton@westmorelanducc.org for further information and submission requirements.



Support the WVC and MRLC While You Shop

You can contribute to the Westmoreland Volunteer Corps Program through your regular purchases by signing up with E-Scrip and Schoolpop. You simply register your grocery cards, debit cards or credit cards online and participating merchants, such as Safeway, will contribute a percentage of your purchases to the program. It takes just a few minutes to register at two websites: www.escrip.com or www.schoolpop.com. The group name is "Westmoreland Congregational Church".

And while you are registering... sign up your Giant Food card to contribute a percentage of your purchases to the Marie Reed Learning Center.



Christmas Eve Pageant with the Holy Family, Shepherds, and Wise Men.



January 16 - January 31, 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16 Worship & Church School 10 am Childrens Choir 11:15 am Budget Meeting 11:30 am	17 Martin Luther King Day OFFICE CLOSED	18 Staff 10 am and 11 am Exec. Comm. 7:30 pm AA 7:30 pm	19 Alanon 12 pm Prime Timers 12 pm	20 Choirs 6:15, 7 and 8 pm	21 Alanon 12 pm Metcalf Service 2 pm AA 8 pm	15 Marlow Guitar Concert 8 pm
23 Worship & Church School 10 am Childrens Choir 11:15 am Annual Meeting 11:30 am Graham Ord. 3 pm	24	25 Staff 10 am and 11 am AA 7:30 pm	26 Alanon 12 pm	27 Choirs 6:15, 7 and 8 pm	28 Alanon 12 pm AA 8 pm	22
30 Worship & Church School 10 am Childrens Choir 11:15 am	31					29

Senior Minister.....Richard L. Smith Associate Minister for Parish Life.....Melinda Reed Minister of Music.....Mackenzie Albert Director of Christian EducationAmber Henry Neuroth Newsletter Editor.....Janet Moyer Office Hours: M-F 9am - 4pm
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Newsletter Deadlines

Issue Date	Deadline
January 31	January 17
February 1	January 31

Articles should be emailed to:
jmoyer@westmorelanducc.org

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