



The Westmorelander

A newsletter for the congregation of
Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

January 2014

Stewardship: Update & Thanks

As of December 18, 121 households had pledged toward our 2014 budget. Those 121 households include 28 new pledging households. As of that date, 34 households that pledged in 2013 had not yet pledged for 2014. The total amount pledged as of December 18 is \$493,214.

Those numbers have likely increased in the past few weeks. With incoming pledge cards, Christmas celebrations, travel plans and church office holiday hours, our tallies may not be completely up-to-the-moment.

For all of this we say, "Thank you!" Thank you to those who have pledged. Thank you, especially, to new pledgers for joining this endeavor. Thank you to our new Stewardship Team for guiding this effort.

If you have not made a pledge toward the 2014 budget, please do so as you are able.

During the coming days, members of the Governance Council will contact those who have not yet pledged. Members of the Governance Council have no information about past pledge amounts of individuals. Please know these contacts are simply friendly reminders so that no gift is overlooked or forgotten. Every gift is welcomed and appreciated, as is your presence in our worship community.

The budget presentation and discussion will be after worship on Sunday, January 19. Our 2014 budget calls for us to stretch — to support new ministries, increased staff, and expanded programs. In all of this, we seek to nurture our souls and care for others. Your gifts are part of that nurturing and caring.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hanns Kuttner".

Hanns Kuttner, Moderator

Minister Musings: Growth

Centuries ago, before everybody had clocks and calendars, churches hung banners to let people know what time it was — time in the grand scheme of seasons. Those banners were called paraments and certain colors were developed for each season — purple for Advent, white for Easter, red for Pentecost. Over the years, other ways of marking days came along — calendars, bells on clocks, then computers and cell phones. While those new ways were coming into being, some of the old ways were tossed. Some Protestants, like our Congregational ancestors, shed their churches of the paraments as a way of wiping out what they saw as Roman Catholic influences and returning to *sola scriptura*. Then a funny thing happened. Amid the new whirls and lights and rings of modern time-keeping, some churches returned to the old ways. Banners, paraments, candles, robes — things our ancestors had shed — were reintroduced. People decided that intellect, austerity and modernity were not enough to speak to the full human. We need color, beauty and symbolism.



The green parament that decorates our Sanctuary during the seasons of Epiphany and Common Time reminds us of growth.

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AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda, Maryland 20816

www.westmorelanducc.org, 301-229-7766

Worship, Sunday Mornings 10:00am

January 5

Epiphany Sunday (The coming of the Magi)

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: "It Ain't Over til It's Over" (Rev. Tim Tutt)

January 12

Baptism of Jesus Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17

Sermon: Laura Shatzer and Tim Tutt, preaching in dialogue

January 19

Martin Luther King Weekend

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Sermon: "Dear Paul, Who Cares?"

January 26

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Sermon: "Fools!"

Sunday Schedule

9:00am

Adult Study - "*Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*" by Anne Lamott

(See below)

Lectionary Bible Study

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Children's Music Age 3-Grade 5

Youth Class Grades 6-12

10:00am

Worship

Church School Ages 3-Grade 5

Following Worship

Coffee Hour, 11:00am

Fellowship of the Ringers, 11:30am

JuBELLation Bells, 12:15pm

Adult Study

Sundays, January 12-March 2

9-9:45am in the Library. Tim Tutt leader

"*Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*" by Anne Lamott

Anne Lamott is a quirky Christian whose writing is funny, accessible and thought-provoking. In this book she boils down prayer to three essentials. Come join this discussion...if you don't know what prayer is, if you pray "without ceasing," if prayer helps you make it through the day, or if you're not sure how to pray.



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In 1984, Westmoreland commissioned a new set of paraments to honor the church's second century.

If you watch the changing of the paraments, you know that this month we enter a new season. We move from the brief Christmas season to the season of Epiphany, the time between Epiphany Sunday and Lent.

This season moves us from celebrating the baby Jesus to experiencing the life of the adult Jesus. Obviously, Jesus grew over years not weeks. But this season calls us to grow. We don't stay wrapped in swaddling cloths. We move among our own fields of crosses to our times of resurrection. That is, we stretch, we change, we move.

Our church is growing and changing. New friends and neighbors are taking part. Simple things like new logos on nametags, new elements in worship, new emphases on kindness and hospitality, new staff members, new programs. As with our physical growth, a growing congregation brings with it occasional aches and pains. That is natural, that is normal, that is human.

And so we grow. Even in the winter of 2014 in Washington, DC, seeds are stirring down beneath the cold ground, seeds that will become tulips and daffodils and new oak trees. So it is with us—in the warm places of our souls, new life is stirring. Let us cultivate that life. Let us feel the stretching newness that growth brings. Let us anticipate the buds, flowers, the beauty. Let us grow!

Jim

Annual Budget Presentation and Annual Meeting

January 19, 11:15am

Budget Presentation & Discussion

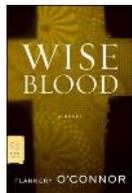
January 26, 11:15am

Annual Congregational Meeting

Budget materials and the Annual Report will be available prior to the meetings.

Westmoreland's StillReading

Sunday, January 5, 4:30pm

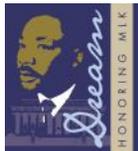


Westmoreland's book group's next book will be "Wise Blood" by Flannery O'Connor. We will meet to discuss it on Sunday, January 5, 4:30-6:00pm in the Parlor. Come join us for discussion (and snacks) regardless of whether you've finished (or started!) the book. See you then.

Martin Luther King Service

Sunday, January 12

The Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington is sponsoring a Martin Luther King Jr. service at 3:00pm on Sunday, January 12



hosted by Luther Place memorial Church, 1226 Vermont Avenue NW at Thomas Circle. This interfaith service will feature as its main speaker The Reverend Dr. Cheryl Sanders, Pastor, Third Street Church of God. Child care is provided.

Meditation Group

Led by Marge Harvey

Begins February 13, Noon

New session begins Thursday, February 13, from 12:00 noon until 1:00pm, but check with Linda Maddox to confirm for the week. The group meets at the Briggs Center's Carpenter's House, 5148 Massachusetts Avenue. For more information contact Linda at lcaddox@comcast.net.

So Others Might Eat

Thank you, Westmorelanders, for making tuna casseroles and shopping for shelf staples so that we have those important contributions collected in our kitchen to take to SOME in time for their use on the first Thursday of each month. Thank you David Bennett, Claudia Thurber, Marge Harvey, and Ed Moyer for taking Westmoreland's casseroles and shelf staples to the SOME kitchen on O Street during 2013.



Photo courtesy of Thom Wolf
SOME relies on the support of volunteers and Provide-A-Meal groups to serve more than 800 meals to hungry people each day.

Over the last 40 years SOME has grown from a small, interfaith group offering meals to the homeless and hungry out of the basement of St. Aloysius Church to a very large community-based and supported organization caring for so many homeless and extremely poor citizens of the District of Columbia. SOME offers a truly holistic program of services, including job training, substance abuse recovery, a medical clinic and affordable housing. Still, SOME is best known for food, with SOME volunteers serving more than 1000 meals a day in their dining room and other programs. Westmoreland is one part of the widespread community base that provides the frozen ready-to-heat-and-serve casseroles so important to SOME's food service.

When you pick up the foil casserole pans and recipe you'll need for your casserole this month (or enough pans for the next few months) from the table in the social hall, please take a minute to look at the updated information about SOME, the summary of services they provided in 2012, and some other opportunities to volunteer and support SOME posted on the sign board there.

If you have questions about or ideas for our support of SOME's Prepare-A-Meal program, or if you can volunteer to take our food to SOME's kitchen one month in 2014, please contact Betsy Bennett, 301-657-8565 or betsybennett@rcn.com.

Mark your Calendar

1/1	Office Closed		
1/4	Yoga*	9:30am	Mabry Room
1/5	Get Acquainted Breakfast	8:30am	Social Hall
1/5	Board of Membership & Fellowship Mtg.	11:30am	Library
1/5	StillReading Book Group	4:30pm	Parlor
1/8	Board of Christian Education Mtg.	7:00pm	Mabry Room
1/9	Choir Rehearsal	8:00pm	Choir Room
1/15	Governance Council Mtg.	7:30pm	Library
1/16	Choir Rehearsal	8:00pm	Choir Room
1/19	Congregational Budget Mtg.	11:15am	Sanctuary
1/21	Prime Timers	12:00pm	Social Hall
1/26	Annual Congregational Mtg.	11:15am	Sanctuary
1/28	Sandwiches for Martha's Table	10:30am	Kitchen
1/30	Choir Rehearsal	8:00pm	Choir Room

*Check the weekly bulletin and emails for the January Yoga schedule

Senior Minister Housing Update

The Governance Council asked three church members to serve as a study group to identify options for senior minister housing. The full report is available on the Westmoreland website, in the member section under the "minutes" heading.

1. A review of several local churches (both large, small, UCC and non-UCC) showed that churches throughout this area have used a wide variety of methods to provide housing for Senior Ministers. The principal theme of these contacts was that the Church worked with the Senior Minister to provide housing or at least some equity share. These churches worked to find a solution that was workable for the church finances but also ensured that the Senior Minister had appropriate housing within the local community.
2. The Central Atlantic Conference and the National UCC offices were contacted to help evaluate options.
3. Five principal options were considered: (1) Parsonage; (2) Shared Equity; (3) Church Purchases Home: Rent to Own; (4) Loan to Minister to Cover Down Payment; (5) Equity Allowance. The advantages and disadvantages of each option are laid out in the report.
4. The final selection process was left for the Governance Council to consider with a recommendation that independent legal counsel be secured for the Senior Minister to ensure a fair and equitable solution for both the Church and the Senior Minister.

Coffee Hour Needs You

Do you enjoy our time of fellowship and refreshments following the worship service? Then please consider hosting a Coffee Hour in 2014. The church provides coffee, tea and juice. You provide simple refreshments such as a sweet item (cookies, brownies) and a savory item (vegetables/dip, fruit, cheese/crackers); set up and clean up. Whether you are a first-timer or a veteran, you can team up with another individual or family to host a Coffee Hour. Sign up early in the year for the best choice of dates. Contact Kim Christo at kim.christo@gmail.com.



THE DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY WESTMORELANDER IS JANUARY 15.
Please send your submission to Mimi Miller at mmiller@westmorelanducc.org.

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