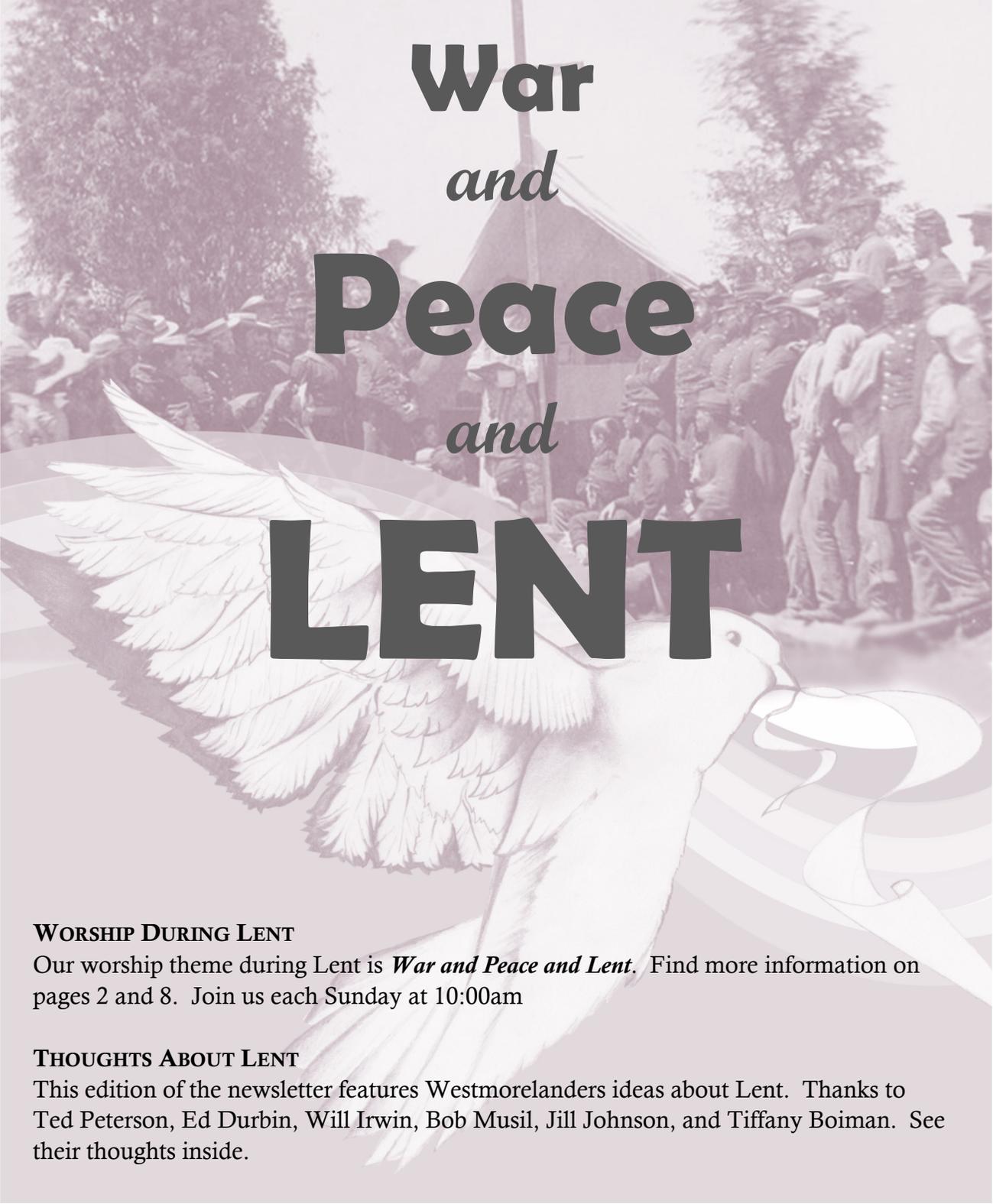




The Westmorelander

March 2015

*A newsletter for the congregation and friends of
Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ*

The background of the main content area is a composite image. At the top, there is a faded, sepia-toned photograph of a large group of soldiers in military uniforms standing in front of a building. Overlaid on this is a large, white, stylized dove with its wings spread, flying towards the right. The dove is holding a white banner in its beak. The text "War and Peace and LENT" is superimposed on the image. "War" and "Peace" are in large, bold, black, sans-serif font. "and" is in a smaller, italicized, black, sans-serif font. "LENT" is in the largest, bold, black, sans-serif font.

War and Peace and LENT

WORSHIP DURING LENT

Our worship theme during Lent is *War and Peace and Lent*. Find more information on pages 2 and 8. Join us each Sunday at 10:00am

THOUGHTS ABOUT LENT

This edition of the newsletter features Westmorelanders ideas about Lent. Thanks to Ted Peterson, Ed Durbin, Will Irwin, Bob Musil, Jill Johnson, and Tiffany Boiman. See their thoughts inside.

WAR *and* PEACE *and* LENT

A worship series commemorating
the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War
and exploring how we live in the world today

Sundays at Westmoreland

March 1

Sermon: "Choices"
Mark 8:27-30

March 8

Special Choral Presentation
"The Word is Peace"
A Celebration of Women Poets and Composers

March 15

Sermon: "Teaching Peace"
John 3:14-21

March 22

Mark Twain's "The War Prayer"
The centerpiece of the service will be a dramatic presentation of Twain's classic satire about prayer during time of war.

Holy Week at Westmoreland

March 29 – Palm Sunday

Sermon: "Killing Jesus"



PALM SUNDAY

Maundy Thursday, April 2

7:00 pm Meal

8:00 pm Service

at Westmoreland

Our friends from the German and French-speaking Protestant churches of Washington will join us again this year for Maundy Thursday.

April 5 – Easter

7 am Sunrise Sermon: "Born Free"

10 am Sermon: "The Unfinished Work of Easter"

Festive Brunch following 10am Service

Lenten Events in the Community

Thursday, March 19

6:00 pm Meal
7:00 pm Service
Rev. Tim Tutt preaching
at Plymouth
Congregational UCC

Good Friday

April 3 Noon-3 PM

"Seven Last Word of Christ"
Metropolitan Memorial United
Methodist Church
Rev. Tim Tutt will be one of
seven preachers

Holy Saturday

April 4

DC area UCC churches are
planning a Holy Saturday
service remembering the
anniversary of Martin Luther
King's assassination.
Place and Time TBA

Thoughts from the Minister: Email and Lent and Tithing Our Time

“So, what do you do every day,” people sometimes ask me.

I think they want me to say, “I read the Bible and pray all day.”

I think they’re secretly thinking, “He probably just plays golf every day.”

Sometimes my answer is flippant, “Mostly I move folding chairs.”

Sometimes I offer a wiser response, “I get to spend my days talking to people about justice and peace and life and death and faith and doubt.”

But the truth is, I read and reply to email. That’s what I do: read and respond to email.

Recently I did some tallying. During December 2014, I received 1741 emails at my work address. I sent 859 emails from my church address. During January I received 1196 emails, and I sent 663.

“I knew it,” you may be thinking. “He receives more than he sends. That proves he didn’t reply to my email.” Maybe. But my inbox includes electronic newsletters, group lists, copies of emails, and some things that don’t need replies.

Those numbers of incoming and outgoing emails don’t include Facebook emails, text messages, or emails to and from my personal email account. My Westmoreland account is mainly for church-related communications, though those numbers include some personal communication as well — arranging the kids’ carpools, confirming a dentist appointment, sending a joke to my siblings, etc.

No doubt, many of you receive and send the same number of emails as I do - or more. I’m neither “humble-bragging” nor complaining by sharing these statistics, simply stating the facts. It’s good for a congregation to see into a minister’s life.

About once a year I pick a month and tally my emails just to see how I’m spending my time.

If I allot three minutes to read and respond to each email that I received, that’s 87 hours spent on incoming emails in December and 43 hours spent on outgoing emails during that month. I can’t say that I spent three minutes per email — some needed more time, some needed less — but if I did, that’s 130 hours, which is a sizeable chunk of an expected 160 hour work month.

The good news is that many of these emails are about the things I mentioned above: talking to people about justice and peace and life and death and faith and doubt. (The bad news is not all of my emails were that august.)

As I pass on these email statistics, it makes me think about time. And about Lent. Lent is essentially a “tithe” of the year — Lent is about one-tenth of our annual calendar. The season asks us to spend a biblical amount of time considering who we are, how we live, what we sacrifice, how we make our way toward new life.

Am I spending my time well? That’s a question I’m considering. Is replying and sending email the best way to use my mind and fingers? Can I, should I, find some way to limit that? Are my emails life-giving, resurrection-looking?

What about you? What do you do all day? Are you spending your time well?



Jim

News From the Board of Christian Education

New Way to Give!

A New Way to Engage!

A New Way to Connect!

New Children's Collection in Worship beginning in March

The Board of Christian Education is beginning something new: A weekly Children's Collection in worship. We gleaned information from the Social Justice and Action board (formerly Outreach Ministries) to connect with our church's work with other organizations to help our neighbors.



In March, the children will be collecting packages of new underwear for Interfaith Works. All sizes, including plus sizes, are needed.

Each week in worship, our children will collect items that others need -- underwear and socks, school supplies, diapers, canned goods, socks, hats, toiletries. We will announce a different item to collect for each month - be on the lookout for this list!

And your role is to bring the items! (So start shopping now.) Beginning March 1, when the children come forward for the Time for Children during the worship service, as we all sing a hymn, the children will walk through the sanctuary and collect the items from you and bring them forward. We will have attractive baskets at the front for the items. During the month we will watch the baskets fill up and know that we are making a difference in the world.

Westmorelanders are very generous. Our special Christmas collections for Shaw Community Ministries and others overflow. The layette items for new mothers at Mother's Day are consistently generous. This new Children's Collection in worship will make those collections more visible. We will see generosity in our sanctuary.

This new Children's Collection will help our children connect the dots of generosity to worship. It will also give them a role to play in the service. And it will demonstrate hands-on stewardship. Furthermore, this new Children's Collection will give children, adults, and youth the opportunity to connect -- a handshake, a hug, a smile, a nod, a word of greeting can accompany the collecting.

Remember: Spread the joy of collecting to several kids. If you bring in lots of items on a Sunday, try to spread out the collection by giving to several children rather than handing all of your items to one child.

What if you forget to bring an item? Fear not! You can give some coins to a child to help them participate. We will have a place for the kids to put monetary donations and we will use those funds to buy additional items for the collection.

So, thank you in advance for your generosity, your connections to our children, and your presence and participation at Westmoreland.

Thoughts About Lent: What Does the Season of Lent Mean To Me

Not much really. I grew up in a family that did not attend church and did not pay much attention to the major Christian holidays. As such I wasn't exposed to anything much beyond Christmas presents and Easter eggs in celebrating the two major Christian Holidays.

I consider myself to be an agnostic. As such I don't put much stock in the religious significance of Lent but I certainly believe that all of us can benefit from a time for reflection, e.g. the New Year's Resolutions that did not work out; should I change jobs; do I spend enough time with my children, etc.

--Ted Peterson

Thoughts About Lent: What Are You Giving Up For Lent?

When I first read the email from Tim, asking for reflections on Lent, the memories came flooding in!

You see, I came from a family of 10, 9 boys and one girl, and yes, we were Catholic! Lent was the time when I was supposed to be preparing for Easter by fasting, repenting, and figuring out how to be a better person. As a very young boy I remember the question that everybody was always asking, “What are you giving up for Lent?” Which usually followed with “candy, comic books, and I will not be mean to my brothers and sister (first one broken every time)”. Then there was Mass/Church every Sunday, which was not hard. We always went to Church every Sunday as my dad was a Lectern and taught Sunday school. But the boldest memory was having to go to Church 3 times before Easter!!! There was Mass on Thursday, Signs of the Cross Service on Friday, and of course Mass on Easter Sunday. I believe the term is the Triduum, Latin for the 3 days leading up to Easter. For those of you that know me, there is no

way that I knew what Triduum was. My oldest brother Dan explained that one to me this week; he was an altar boy back in the day. So Lent to me as a kid was the hard times leading up to the good times, Easter Eggs and Easter Candy! And of course the Catholic Crown Roast, the ham!

Fast forward and I ask myself what does Lent really mean to me today? It still resonates that it is a time of fasting, repenting, and figuring out how to be a better person. Now doing this during the 40 days of Lent can be challenging, with the schedules that we all keep with our kids. But then we have Easter Sunday, where even the slightest preparation, the slightest fasting, or figuring out how to be a better person, comes to a conclusion. It is a joyous day filled with much symbolism and I always leave Church feeling refreshed.

So I appreciate Tim’s request, it’s always fun remembering childhood memories and how they translate to Lent today.

I think that I will go out and buy a ham! Happy Easter!

—Ed Durbin

Stop Hunger Now!

Sunday, March 22, 11:30am, Coffee Hour Fundraiser

Sunday, April 26, 11:30am, Meal-Packing Event

On Sunday, April 26th, Westmorelanders of all ages are invited to take part in a hands-on mission project together with Stop Hunger Now!

Stop Hunger Now is an organization that aims to alleviate global hunger by sending meals and other aid to children and families all over the world. How do they do it? Stop Hunger Now sponsors meal-packing events with churches, schools, and other volunteer organizations to assemble millions of meals to be shipped to partner organizations.

During a meal-packing event, several “packing teams” of 10-12 volunteers each work together to fill bins with raw ingredients, scoop ingredients into meal bags, weigh and seal the bags, box and stack them on pallets, and load the pallets and equipment onto a truck. The assembly process combines rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and a flavoring mix that includes 23 essential vitamins and minerals into small meal packages. The meals are then shipped throughout the world to support school feeding programs, orphanages and crisis relief.

The food is stored easily, transported quickly, and has a shelf-life of two years.



Westmoreland has committed to preparing 10,000 meals on April 26th and we need your help! Please plan on staying after worship for 1-2 hours to join in the meal-packing event. There are roles for everyone—from 5 to 105 years old—in this activity, and will be a fun way for all of us to learn more about global hunger and teamwork together!

Each meal costs 29 cents to make, and on March 22nd our youth group will be raising funds for this event. During coffee hour after worship, everyone is invited to enjoy snacks and coffee as usual... but this time it'll cost you! Delicious baked goods and other special treats prepared by our youth will be available to all for a small fee. All proceeds will go directly to purchasing meals for Stop Hunger Now! Please plan on attending this special coffee hour and supporting our youth and mission work.

If you have any questions and/or are interested in volunteering, contact Alexis at alexis@westmorelanducc.org.

News From the Board of Social Justice and Action

What's In a Name? From Outreach to Social Justice and Action

As many of you may already know, the former BOARD OF OUTREACH MINISTRIES has changed its name to THE BOARD OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION (SJA). The change is not merely a matter of wording, but reflects the Board's commitment to invest in programming and partnerships that help each of us at Westmoreland work together to make the world more humane, just, sustainable, and equalitarian.

Before January 2015, the board's time was primarily driven by the need to review grant applications that were submitted both in the fall and the spring. This year, however, we will only be accepting grant applications in the fall. We will be awarding the same amount of money but only in the autumn. This change allows us time to focus our attention on broader issues of social justice and action. Our change in title reflects this change in focus.

On February 8, 2015, our monthly meeting was devoted largely to strategic planning. We expect to build upon the longstanding partnerships the church already has with many social action organizations and to model the excellent work Rev. Tim Tutt and Rev. Alexis Kassim initiated through their discussion series on race and racism both historic and contemporary. We also expect to partner with plans by Amy Tutt and the Board of Christian Education to interweave social justice and action through church school activities. (See page 4)

Some of the larger themes we are considering as a focus for the 2015 and 2016 work of SJA include: Income Inequality; Race Relations; Sustainability; and Immigration Reform. The Board welcomes your ideas and suggestions as we embark in these new directions.

--Ann Norman, for the Board of Social Justice and Action

Thoughts About Lent: Forty Days and One Book

Jesus is reported to have done a lot of improbable things, so the story of his wandering off into the desert and not eating for forty days isn't particularly surprising.

These days, when the world (and winter) is too much with us, that's perhaps an attractive idea for a retreat -- and not even very radical compared to other fashionable weight-loss regimens. Especially if we might be led by the Spirit (for once) and waited on by angels.

Presumably Jesus didn't take any books with him. Perhaps papyrus and a stylus, to note his reflections.

But if you were to allow yourself -- more likely, force yourself -- to take a forty-day retreat, what would you do?

Perhaps, if you accept the interpretation of this story as having to "give up" something, you would leave all your electronic devices behind. Unless you think you're strong enough to resist Satan's temptations.

Take just one change of clothes, some soap, a toothbrush, and a diary and a pen.

And a book. Only one. To memorize as much of as you can. You choose.

My father's son, mine would be Alexander Pope's poetry. (His couplets are easy to memorize.)

"Know then thyself, presume not God to scan;
The proper study of Mankind is Man."

For me, that would be a meaningful Lent.

--Will Irwin

Thoughts About Lent: That Ol' Lenten Devil

I always wanted Jesus to show up the devil in the desert, to fling himself from parapets and be held up by angels, to turn stones into bread, the way Superman squeezed pencil leads into diamonds! Yes, in my boyhood I was hooked on Superman comics, and Tarzan, and even the fabulously wealthy Uncle Scrooge McDuck who astounded Huey, Dewey, and Louie by bathing in tubs filled with coins!

Like many, I wanted my Messiah to smash the bad guys, to be strong and powerful, and recognized for his superior talents. Now that we live in a wilderness of wealth and wander in a desert of delightful diversions, the hard part of Lent is to wrestle with that ol' devil, the devil that calls us to power, riches, and acclaim. I was even jealous when I read in the Post that the Clintons sit atop a \$2 billion worldwide empire of charity and good works.

I have never been comfortable that the meek shall inherit the earth, or even that Jesus seemed mainly to hang out with social outcasts -- oddballs. As I wrestle in Lent, it is not the lure of candy that gives me trouble. It is, if I am honest, the desire for power, for recognition, for being better, that calls to me to dive from the parapets and show that I have influence. To wrestle with the devil over these forty days, as Jesus did, is to cast your lot with the powerless, the outcasts and oddballs, maybe even with the executed dissenter, not the Emperor. I am not sure I can do any of those things, or even want to. And so I wrestle.

--Bob Musil

News from the Building 2020 Team

"Elevating" Westmoreland

The Building 2020 Team is working to turn your hopes and wishes for the building and grounds of Westmoreland into a plan. Our primary focus is to improve access for all to activities of the church; the rest, particularly proposals for renovations and remodeling the interior of the church, will follow from that. We've already had four meetings, including discussions with the architect for and leaders of a local church that recently added an elevator lobby, and an architect who in the past has considered elevators and other steps to improve access at Westmoreland.

We've heard your repeated calls to retire the elevette. So we're looking very carefully at possible locations, both interior and exterior, for an elevator that would meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. We're also evaluating parking and drop-off areas and pathways to the church entrances.

As we prepare to discuss the interior of the church building, we have compiled your suggestions from many congregational conversations, small group discussions and Space Use Task Force's interviews of church staff, boards and committees. We still have much to do to turn your ideas into cogent proposals which we will soon share with all. If you have questions or ideas to share, please contact David Bennett (davidbennett@rcn.com).



--Building 2020 Team: David Bennett (chair), Gail Edie, Roy Grossnick, Susan Langley, Amy O'Malley, Sean O'Malley, Nancy Pielemeier, Ben Tutt

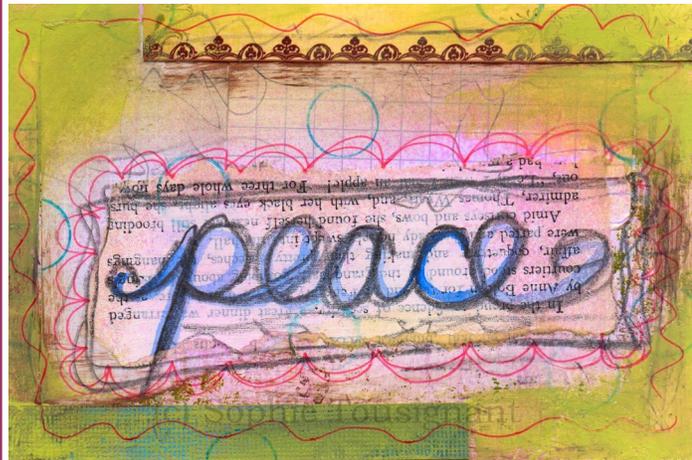
■ It's Happening in March ■

Choir for a Day

Sunday, March 1, 9:00am

Experience Sunday morning from a different perspective
One rehearsal on Sunday, March 1 at 9AM in the sanctuary
No robes, no processing, no pressure -- just beautiful music.

For information contact Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez,
Director of Music.



The Word is Peace

**A celebration of women poets
and composers**

**Sunday, March 8, at 10:00am
at Westmoreland Church**

**Presented by the Westmoreland
Festival Chorus and soloists**

**Directed by
Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez**

Mark Twain's

The WAR PRAYER

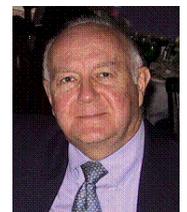
A dramatic presentation
that invites us to consider
patriotism, peace, prayer
and the presence of God.

**Sunday, March 22
10:00am**



Interfaith Peace Panel

Sunday, March 15, 11:30am



L to R: Ambassador Warren Clark, Churches for Middle East Peace; Rabbi Alana Suskin, Americans for Peace Now; Alton Frye, Moderator, Westmoreland Church member, President Emeritus, Council on Foreign Relations

Hosted by the Middle East Committee. For more information, contact Maryn Goodson (mpgoodson@comcast.net).

■ It's Happening in March ■

Special Moments in Journalism With Jeri Watson

Tuesday, March 17, noon

Prime Timers invites you to join us on March 17 as we enjoy learning about special moments in Jeri Watson's career as writer, reporter, and journalist. We'll talk with Jeri over appetizers in the parlor at noon, move to the festively St. Patrick's Day-themed social hall for lunch at 12:30, and enjoy our coffee and dessert there as Jeri moves to the microphone to tell us about some "Special Moments in Journalism, et al." RSVP to Betsy Bennett Betsybennett@rcn.com or 301-657-8565 by March 15.

Stop Hunger Now Youth Fundraiser

Sunday, March 22, 11:30am

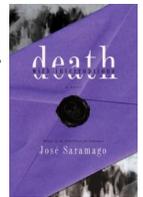
On April 26 Westmorelanders are invited to take part in a hands-on mission project together with Stop Hunger Now! Each meal costs 29 cents to make, and on March 22 our youth group will be raising funds for this event. During coffee hour after worship, everyone is invited to enjoy snacks and coffee as usual . . . but this time it'll cost you! Delicious baked goods and other special treats prepared by our youth will be available to all for a small fee. All proceeds will go directly to purchasing meals for Stop Hunger Now! Please plan on attending this special coffee hour and supporting our youth and mission work.



Westmoreland's StillReading Book Group

Sunday, March 22 at 4:30-6:00, Parlor

We will discuss "Death With Interruptions" by Jose Saramago, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature. What happens when the grim reaper decides there will be no more death? On the first day of the new year, no one dies and there is celebration, for the great goal of humanity—eternal life—has finally been attained. Then reality hits home, while death sits in her chilly apartment and contemplates her experiment. What if she, death with a small d, became human and were to fall in love? Please join us for snacks, fellowship, and discussion led by Brad Case.



SOME Empty Bowls Parties

Tuesday, March 24 and Wednesday, March 25

Invite your friends and family to join you for one of SOME's two Empty Bowls soup suppers, March 24 or March 25. Everyone takes home a beautiful handmade bowl crafted by local artists, and enjoys a supper of soup, bread and dessert donated by local restaurants. There are several choices of soup, all the food is delicious, and the casual meal is fun for all ages. Proceeds from the event help SOME continue to provide more than 1,000 meals each day to hungry and homeless District residents. The Corcoran School of Art faculty, students and alumni to produce 500 of the 1,000 bowls needed for the events. March 24 at The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacramento, DC. March 25, at St. Ann Roman Catholic Church, Arlington, VA. For more information and to purchase tickets (\$25 per person): www.some.org/empty-bowls



David Bennett at the 2013 Empty Bowls Party

Looking Forward - Easter Sunday Brunch on April 5: Westmoreland Church will host an Easter Sunday Brunch. The Board of Membership and Fellowship will provide mimosas, juice, coffee, and tea. Please help make this a festive event by bringing one of the following homemade or prepared foods: deviled eggs, bagels and cream cheese, smoked salmon, quiche, breakfast casserole, coffee or bundt cake, cinnamon or hot cross buns, scones, strawberry shortcake, fresh berries, baby carrots, Easter cookies or cupcakes. Friends, family, and out-of-town guests are welcome. Please RSVP to cspfannon@gmail.com indicating what you will share.



UCC News

THE GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE HAS IDENTIFIED A CANDIDATE TO BECOME THE NINTH LEADER OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. The Rev. John C. Dorhauer, conference minister of the Southwest Conference of the UCC, is the search committee's candidate, named Friday, February 13, chosen to lead the nearly 1-million-member denomination into the future. Dorhauer's candidacy must be confirmed first by the United Church of Christ Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote at its upcoming meeting March 19, then by the delegates of the 30th General Synod, meeting in Cleveland June 26-30, with a 60-percent majority. The 18-member search committee spent four-and-a-half months on the process to identify a candidate for the next general minister and president. They were seeking a leader who is "a person of faith, an articulate and theologically-grounded preacher and speaker, and an innovator who leads with clarity and purpose" to act as CEO and chief spokesperson of the UCC. Dorhauer would be charged with preparing the denomination for the future by planning, coordinating and implementing the mission of the church.



Rev. John C. Dorhauer

CAC ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION (June 12-14) is now open for the 51st Annual Meeting of the Central Atlantic Conference. Hotel rooms are going fast, so get your registrations in today. Information on the Annual Meeting is available at www.cacucc.org/annualmeeting.

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES OF PAST CAC ANNUAL MEETINGS - As part of the two-year celebration of the Central Atlantic Conference's 50th anniversary, the planning committee is interested in hearing from persons with memories of annual meetings they attended. Do you remember your first annual meeting? Which speakers do you remember? What moments inspired you? Please share this request with members of your congregation, particularly older members who may have attended some of the early meetings. Any reminiscences should be sent to Arnetta Jones at ajones@cacucc.org or by mail to the conference offices, 916 S. Rolling Road, Baltimore, MD 21228.

SPRING CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY EVENT (May 9) Based on the book *Real Good Church: How Our Church Came Back from the Dead and Yours Can Too*, the Rev. Molly Baskette, Pastor, First Church, Somerville, MA, will be our presenter. May 9 – St. John's UCC, 1000 S. Rolling Rd, Catonsville MD, 10:00-2:00, includes lunch \$15.00. Contact Arnetta Jones at ajones@cacucc.org for more information.

POTOMAC ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETING, (May 2) UCC of Seneca Valley, Germantown MD.

Thoughts About Lent: Lengthening Days

Lent, for me is like Advent. It's a marker in time, an indicator of the arrival of good news. During Advent, the days grow shorter, darkness comes earlier and we are invited to slow down and be present with anticipation. The story is about to begin -- the baby Jesus arrives. Lent on the other hand, is the lengthening of days. It gives us an opportunity to take stock of our lives, how we are living, a time to re-evaluate what and to whom we give ourselves. For me, this requires discipline over my many distractions, intentional time for reflection and prayer and a willingness to be honest with myself. Am I choosing to do what is good? Do I act justly and love mercy? Then, Easter morning comes. The hard work of self reflection is caught up in the good news of the resurrection. Once again we proclaim, Alleluia! Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed!

--Jill Johnson

Thoughts About Lent: Death and Life

Having been raised in the Presbyterian church, the season of Lent, which, although still attended its own set of trademark rituals, for us, lacked key markers in the form of an Ash Wednesday or a Maundy Thursday, and always seemed to take a back seat to its more celebrated cousin, the season of Advent. Admittedly, even as an adult, and particularly in the last few years, as the parent of a three- and a five-year-old, it is probably the more secular aspects of the holiday that gain traction in our house, too much Easter Bunny-is-coming, not enough Jesus-is-risen. But the passing of my mother in December has given me cause to re-examine the meaning of Lent, and all that it implies, and to take solace in the belief that God gave his only Son that we, and those we love, might have eternal life.

--Tiffany Boiman

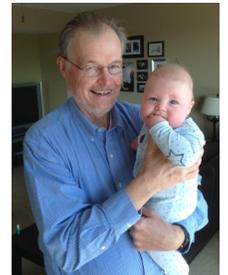
Congregation News

Sorrow

We mourn the death of Margaret "Peggy" Harvey who died on February 22 at age 90. Peggy had been a member of Mt. Pleasant Congregational Church, joining in 1942 and continuing her membership until her death. She was an active member of the old 20-40 Club (a social group for singles and couples ages 20 – 40) and sang in the Chancel Choir for several decades. A memorial service will be held at Chevy Chase House at a date to be determined.

Congratulations

In an email exchange (that was originally about weather differences between Maryland and Arizona), Rich Smith, my predecessor as the senior minister of Westmoreland, told me he has announced that he will retire from First Congregational United Church of Christ in Reno, Nevada, as of May 3. Rich and Pam have a grandson (now nine months old), who Rich says tipped the scales in favor of retirement. Rich and Pam plan to move home to Arizona for days filled with bluegrass music, fishing, and grandparenting. I want to extend my congratulations to Rich and to say how kind he has been to me during my service here at Westmoreland. --Tim Tutt



Rev. Rich Smith

Births



Congratulations to Self Pastora and Anthony Riker on the birth of Noemi Rose Riker on January 20.



Congratulations to Lisa and Trey Holloway on the birth of Baby Boy Holloway on February 26.



On-Going Events at Westmoreland

English as a Second Language Classes
Wednesdays & Thursdays, 9:30-11:30am
Contact: Briggs Center 301-229-7725

Yoga Practice
Saturday Mornings, 9:30-10:45am,
Mabry Room
Contact: Lorrie Lynch Meier - lorriemeier@gmail.com

Meditation
Thursdays, Noon-1:00pm,
Briggs Carpenter House
Contact: Linda Maddox - lcmaddox@comcast.net

Recovery Groups
See Church Calendar on Page 14

Sandwich Making for Martha's Table
4th Tuesday & 5th Saturday
Contact: Briggs Center 301-229-7725

Giving To Westmoreland

Did you know that you can give to Westmoreland online? Whether it's a one-time gift or a weekly or monthly payment toward your 2015 stewardship pledge, supporting your church's ministries is just a click away at www.WestmorelandGiving.org! If you need help learning how to give online, please contact Trey Holloway, Robbie Squibb or Doug Gaddis.



Photos from Ash Wednesday

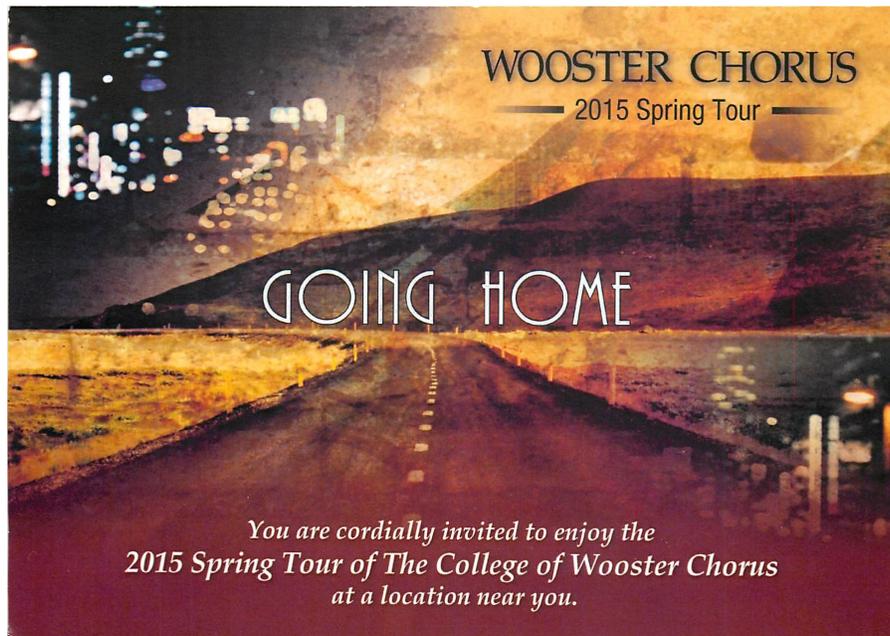


L to R: Rev. Olaf Wassmuth of the German Evangelical Church of Washington; Rev. Alexis Kassim; Rev. Tim Tutt; and Rev. Cyrille Payet of the French Protestant Church of Washington



Rev. Kassim offering ashes to worshipers





WOOSTER CHORUS

— 2015 Spring Tour —

Friday, March 13, 8:00 p.m.
Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ
1 Westmoreland Circle
Bethesda, Maryland 20816

The College of Wooster Chorus is delighted to share an eclectic program of choral music on our 2015 spring performance tour. "Going Home" explores the notion of one's place in a vast, flourishing, and ever-changing world. We examine the concept of home as a physical space, as a journey of imagination, and as an eternal voyage. We are particularly thrilled to premiere three brand new works on this program, including a commissioned piece by award-winning composer, Jake Runestad. Please join us for an evening of exquisite music!

Performance is free and open to the public • Freewill Offering

Our newsletter cover was designed by Westmorelander Amy Rose Oechsler, a graphic design student at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. The design includes a photograph of a Jesuit priest celebrating mass for soldiers during the Civil War; a rainbow as a sign of hope; and a dove as a sign of peace.

Sunday Schedule

- 9:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Children's Music Age 3-Grade 5, Mabry Room
Adult Study, Library
Youth Group, Youth Lounge
Child Care through age 2, Nursery
- 10:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary
Children begin worship in the sanctuary and are invited to their classrooms following the Time for Children
Ages 3, 4, 5, Yellow Classroom
Grades K through 2, Red Classroom
Grades 4 through 5, Blue Classroom
- 11:30am Fellowship Hour, Social Hall
- 11:30am Fellowship of the Ringers Rehearsal, Mabry Room
- 12:15pm JuBELLation Ringers Rehearsal, Mabry Room



THE DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL WESTMORELANDER IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18.
Please send your submission to Mimi Miller at mmiller@westmorelanducc.org.

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