



The Westmorelander

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

February 2014



Parents Night Out!

Friday, February 14, 5:00-8:00pm

Looking to spend some quality alone time with your someone special on Valentine's Day? No problem! Bring your children to Westmoreland! From 5:00-8:00pm on Friday, February 14, Westmoreland's Youth Group will be holding a Parent's Night Out! This is your opportunity to enjoy an evening out and about, while your children play the night away with fun activities, like Valentine's-themed arts and crafts, games, snacks and a movie!

The youth are raising money for the summer mission trip and request a donation of \$20 per child and \$5 for each additional sibling. All proceeds will benefit the youth group, so please come and bring the little ones for a fun-filled evening!

Please RSVP by February 9 to Alexis Kassim, alexis@westmorelanducc.org or 301-229-7766



Martin Luther King Weekend of Service at Westmoreland



Twelve of our sixteen Confirmation students (and Alexis Kassim) after their service project on MLK Day at the Montgomery County International Cultural Center. Our students packed snacks for a weekend lunch program.



Westmorelanders wrote notes to residents at Friendship Terrace Retirement Community, veterans at Walter Reed Hospital, and patients at Washington Children's Hospital.



Over 100 Westmorelanders, friends and neighbors made 1000+ sandwiches for Martha's Table as part of the MLK Weekend of Service. Here are the sandwiches on their way to be delivered.

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda, Maryland 20816
www.westmorelanducc.org, 301-229-7766

Worship Plans for February 2014

"The Lord is my Shepherd..."

Each Sunday during February our choir and other musicians will present a musical version of the Psalm 23. This ancient psalm is consistently a "favorite" scripture passage for many. The poetry speaks with a power that transcends time and place, offering a stillness for which our harried lives yearn.

February 2

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." ~ Psalm 23: 1

Sermon: "Should Washington's Professional Football Team Change its Name?"

Scripture: Hebrews 2:10-13

February 9

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." ~ Psalm 23:2-3

Sermon: "The Kindest ZIP Code in the Country"

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16

February 16

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Psalm 23:4

Sermon: "What Do You Do When Someone Shoots Your Church Building"

Scripture: Matthew 5:21-24

February 23

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." Psalm 23:5

Sermon: "What Should You Wear to Church?"

Scripture: I Corinthians 3:10-11, 16

March 2

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." Psalm 23:6

A Celebration of Lincoln-Westmoreland Housing

Sermon: "Where Does God Live?"

Scripture: Matthew 17:1-8

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, through March 2

9-9:45am in the Library. Tim Tutt & Jill Johnson 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.



Thoughts from the Minister: Overcoming World Wars in Spring Valley

Earlier today (mid-January as I write this column) I visited with two neighbors—Cyrille Payot, the pastor at the French Protestant Church that meets at Wesley Seminary, and Olaf Wasssmuth, the pastor of the German Lutheran Church that meets at Pilgrim Lutheran. We had coffee in Spring Valley.

I like Olaf and Cyrille. We are all three about the same age. There are teachers in each of our homes. We have children more or less the same age. We all began our current pastorates in the fall of 2013. Our churches worship on the same street – the French 9/10 of a mile to our southeast and the Germans 8/10 of a mile to our northwest. Our conversation today was easy, fun, neighborly.

Ninety years ago – and then again sixty years ago – we would have been told that such conversations were intolerable. The powers of the day in World Wars I and II would have told us to be enemies. We would even have been trained to kill each other, or – assuming we had been chaplains – pray with and for soldiers who were killing each other.

To that, I say, “Hogwash!” To the powers that be that are alive and well now – powers that would divide and exclude and fuss and teach hate – I say (with Jesus’s words to Satan), “Get thee behind me.” Or more succinctly, “No.” No, we are not required to have enemies. No, it is never okay or necessary for one person to shoot another. No, we are not required to respect the differences of language or nation or economics or race. The thought of missing out on my coffee and conversation this morning is abhorrent to me.

On a more positive note I would say, times change, systems change, old ways die, and new ways can be born. National enemies can – and should – become friends. Boundaries and borders of the past beckon to be crossed. This is not just for geo-politics. This is the truth of Gospel in all our lives: New life is always possible. Do not be trapped by your own sense of what is right and proper. Do not fall prey to the we’ve-always-done-it-that-way voices that live in your own head. Transcend the expectation of assumptions.

Sometimes it’s as simple as a cup of coffee with neighbors. Amen.

Welcome Our New Members

Please introduce yourself and give a warm welcome to the following people who joined Westmoreland on December 8, 2013.

Helen and Frank DiGiammarino are snowbirds who have attended Westmoreland for a couple of years when they were here in the winter months. Now they are here year round, except for January and February when they escape to a warmer climate, and they are joining our congregation. They are the parents of our own Peggy Alfonso. Both are retired educators and pursue their interests in golf and square dancing; Helen also plays bridge. They have been married for 61 years. Helen and Frank live in the Residences at Thomas Circle in Washington, DC. They joined by reaffirmation of faith.

John Timmer has been attending Westmoreland since last April. Now retired, he was an Air Force pilot, worked as an attorney for a few years and flew twenty-five years for American Airlines. His hobbies and interests include travel, grandchildren, bridge, college sports, Washington Nationals, golf, and tennis. He has two grown daughters, one of whom lives in Colorado Springs and is the mother of his two grandchildren; the other is in graduate school in Illinois. John spends a lot of time on planes visiting them both regularly. He lives in nearby northwest DC and he joined by letter of transfer from National Presbyterian Church.

Did You Know . . .

That Westmorelanders gave a total of \$98,586.25 to outreach efforts in 2013?

\$45,900 was from the church budget to our denominational and mission partners.

\$52,686.25 was from off-budget gifts such as our Outreach Ministries grants, concerts fundraisers and other avenues.

Thanks for your generosity.

Director of Christian Education News

There are several opportunities for children and youth to explore their relationship with God, each other, and the world this summer! Important deadlines are coming up, so please contact Alexis Kassim (alexis@westmorelanducc.org) if interested in attending.

Children (Preschool – 5th grade) mark your calendars for “Peace Camp”, June 23-27, 2014, 5:30-8:00pm. Snack supper included. Lots of adult volunteers needed! Be on the lookout for more information to come.

Middle School (6th-8th grade) youth will have the opportunity to participate in a local mission experience with Reach Beyond Mission in Washington, DC. Westmoreland youth will join middle schoolers from other Potomac Association United Church of Christ churches to explore issues of culture, gender, and poverty in urban Washington, DC. Youth will volunteer with various agencies working with the homeless, low-income families, children, people with disabilities and the elderly. Reach Beyond Mission provides speakers, age-appropriate activities, and discussion starters to help young people explore the biblical, theological, economic, social, and political issues related to poverty. Food and lodging onsite at Calvary Baptist Church in DC is provided, along with two trained young adults who serve as hosts, coordinators, and mentors to youth. Interested? Save the week of July 20-24, 2014.

A special information meeting for parents will be held at Westmoreland on Thursday, February 6 from 6:00-8:00pm.

Executive Director of Reach Beyond Mission, Mary Lu Johnston will be joining us to describe the program and answer any questions. The cost of attending is \$305/youth; \$50 due at registration, \$100 due to Alexis by March 15, balance due by May 1.

High School (9th-12th grade) youth are invited to participate in the Almost Heaven

Habitat for Humanity mission trip to West Virginia with other youth from Potomac Association United Church of Christ churches. This year we have been asked to rebuild the Greenbriar County Volunteer Center at Camp Arthur Wood in White Sulphur Springs. Interested? Save the week of June 29 – July 5 2014.

We have a limited number of spots this year, so please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in attending. The cost of attending the trip is \$385/youth. Registration (along with \$100 nonrefundable deposit) is due to Alexis by Sunday, March 30. The remaining \$285 is due May 4. Checks are to be made to the Potomac Association UCC.

--Alexis Kassim

Children/Youth Save the Dates

June 23-27 - Preschool – 5th grade “Peace Camp”. 5:30 - 8:00pm.

June 29-July 5 - High School Mission Trip. Habitat for Humanity in West Virginia.

July 20-24 - Middle School Mission Week. Local mission experience with Reach Beyond Mission in Washington, DC.

Children & Youth Music News

Land of the Lost and Found: Plans are underway for the children and youth musical at Westmoreland. This year, our musical will be “Land of the Lost and Found” and will be presented during worship on Sunday, May 11 (Mother’s Day).

It’s his first day at a brand new school and Morris is feeling scared, insecure, and LOST. He stumbles into Room 316, the Lost and Found, where he finds a life-size Bible, and a mysterious suit of armor who invites him to “Step into the Word.” Morris steps into the pages of Luke 15, where the “Lost and Found” parables spring to life in costume, humor, drama, and song. Will the lessons of the Lost Coin, the Lost Sheep, and the Prodigal Son be the compass that helps Morris through “the Land of the Lost”?

All interested children and youth should plan to meet on Sunday February 9 at 9am in the Mabry room. There are roles for both youth and young children, so all are welcome. Consider inviting a friend or relative to join us as well. Parts will be assigned and distributed at the first practice, which will be Sunday February 16. Most practices will take place on Sundays at 9:00am. A schedule will be provided by February 16 so that everyone can plan accordingly. Please contact Brian Frye at frye.brian@gmail.com if you have any questions.

--Brian Frye



What's Happening at Westmoreland and other Congregational Churches

2014 LEADERSHIP PLANS

February 2 - Blessing and installation of officers, council, board and committee members. During Worship.

February 9 - Leadership retreat and orientation for all officers, council, board and committee members. In the Parlor following the Chili Lunch.

- Preview the calendar for 2014 at Westmoreland with Tim Tutt.
- Learn best practices for productive and spiritually centered meetings.
- Share board and committee hopes and dreams for the year.

Childcare will be available for children through 5th grade.

TENDING YOUR SPIRIT - ALL ARE WELCOME

Yoga: Weekly yoga practice at Westmoreland on Saturdays, 9:30-10:45am. \$40 for two months/or \$10 drop-in fee. Contact Lorrie Lynch Meier at lorriemeier@gmail.com.



Meditation: New session begins on February 13. Led by Marge Harvey, the group meets at the Briggs Center's Carpenter's House, 5148 Massachusetts Avenue. Classes are usually held Thursdays, 12:00 noon until 1:00pm, but check with Linda Maddox to confirm for the week. For more information contact Linda at lcmaddox@comcast.net.

MEN'S GROUP

Tuesday, February 18

Please mark Tuesday, February 18 for a conversation on current issues in American foreign policy with Jim Schear and Alton Frye. We'll do it at the Frye home, 1242 Titania Lane, McLean, VA with Chinese take-out to fortify us for the evening. Contact Alton Frye or Jim Schear for more information.

CHILI & CHICKEN WING LUNCH

Sunday, February 9, following worship



The Board of Membership and Fellowship will host a "Chili & Chicken Wings" lunch following worship. We need your help, and cooking skills, to make it FUN and FILLING! We are in need of several variations of chili, chicken wings, and cornbread. If you cooked for this event last year, we'd love it if you could WOW us again this year! We are adding CHICKEN WINGS to the menu because they are delicious and fun to make (and eat!). Try something new OR call your great-aunt for her secret recipe! Please bring your creation, - preferably in a crockpot - already heated up, to the kitchen before church.

BMF will pick up the sour cream, cheese, and tortilla chips. Looking for volunteers to make pasta and rice. Please RSVP to Stacey Fannon at csfannon@gmail.com.

WESTMORELAND STILLREADING

March 2, 4:30-6:00pm, Parlor

Westmoreland's StillReading" book group will next read "Black Robe" by Brian Moore, a historical novel set in 17th-Century New France. Father Paul Laforgue, a Jesuit missionary, is traveling upriver among the Iroquois and Algonkin tribes to bring salvation to the Hurons. Moore juxtaposes the "superstitious" religious beliefs of the Native peoples with the Christian religious beliefs of Father Laforgue, which the reader can see very nearly mirror each other. Copies are available in the Montgomery, DC, Fairfax, and Arlington libraries.



Brad Case will lead the discussion in the Parlor. Snacks are always served, and we welcome you for the discussion regardless of whether you've read the novel. See you there!

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE & HUMAN SKILLS WORKSHOP

February 11, 9:00am - 5:00pm, Christ Congregational Church

The Center for Emotional Intelligence and Human Relations Skills offers a one-day workshop to introduce participants to the world of emotional intelligence and its potential for greater personal and professional effectiveness. Workshop Facilitators are Jim Henkelman-Bahn and Jackie Bahn-Henkelman.

Participants will: complete a personal emotional intelligence (EQ) inventory; broaden awareness of specific skills of emotional intelligence; expand self-awareness and its centrality to greater EQ; gain insight into the skills of empathy through practice; recognize the centrality of EQ in pastoral and leadership effectiveness within congregations.

Fee - \$155.00 (lunch included). Register - at www.eqhrcenter.org.

The “Messiah” Project: Sing and Study

Lenten Concert, Saturday, March 5, 7:00pm

Easter Concert, Saturday, June 7, 7:00pm

Background: Legend says that England’s King George II, attending the London premiere of “Messiah” in March of 1743, was so moved by the “Hallelujah” Chorus that he stood. And if the king stands, everybody stands. Since then, the story goes, most of the English-speaking world has stood to honor the beauty of that piece of music.

And Handel’s “Messiah” is a masterpiece. It is one of the best-known, most-loved choral works in the world.



Written in three parts, Handel’s work offers a musical commentary on the nativity, passion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. While George Frederic Handel composed the majestic score, the libretto is the work of Charles Jennens, who used passages from the King James Version of the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer.

Performance: During the 2014 season, the Westmoreland Chancel Choir will present the Lenten and Easter portion of the “Messiah” in two concerts: The Lenten Portion will be on Saturday, March 8; and the Easter Portion will be performed on Saturday, June 7. You are welcome to join the choir at anytime.

Study: In addition to soaring music, the text of Handel’s “Messiah” offers ways to explore the Bible, to think about faith, and to contemplate our own life and work. With that in mind, Westmoreland Church will offer a two-part study of “Messiah.” The Kerygma Program has produced a study guide entitled “Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel’s Messiah.” Rev. Tim Tutt, the senior minister of Westmoreland Church, will lead the study.

Dates: If members of the Westmoreland Choir would like to take part in this course, the group will meet on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm (just prior to choir rehearsals.) If not very many choir members want to take part, the study will take place at others times that work for more church members.

Spring “Messiah” Study (Lent)

Thursday, March 13, “Behold the Lamb of God”

Thursday, March 20, “He Trusted in God”

Thursday, March 27, “Who is the King of Glory?”

Thursday, April 3, “I Know That My Redeemer Liveth”

Thursday, April 10, “Why Do the Nations Rage?”

Thursday, April 17, No study (Maundy Thursday)

Thursday, April 24 “Hallelujah, Worthy Is the Lamb, Amen”



Workbook Cost: The participants curriculum from The Kerygma Program costs \$17.00 per book. Participants may order their own book online. The participants’ workbook is entitled, “Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel’s Messiah” (Resource Book). It may be purchased from Kerygma.com or from Amazon.com. Owning the workbook will enhance the participants’ experience, because there are worksheets and homework.

Sign Up: If you would like to take part, contact Tim Tutt at timtutt@westmorelanducc.org or 301-229-7766.

Meet your New Governance Council



Jeanine Derr
(Moderator)



Doug Gaddis
(Moderator Elect)



Lisa Choate
(Clerk)



Kay Jansky



Gary Walbridge



Paul Leistra
(& Samuel)



Amy McKee
(& Alexandra)



David Bennett



Nancy Pielemeier



Sarah Smith

Committee and Board Members

Property

Roy Grossnick (Chair)
Sean O'Malley

Bebe Mutz
Robbie Squibb
Margo Squire (Chair)

Personnel

Peggy Alfonso
Nancy Batson (Co-Chair)
Paul Connor (Co-Chair)
Beth Hayes

Christian Education

Sarah Craven
Patricia Frye
Maryn Goodson
Pat Nelson
Jane Oakley
John Paracini
Amy Tutt (Chair)

Finance

George Christo
Trey Holloway (Chair)

Outreach

Lee Alekel (Chair)
Ruth Grove
Kent Hughes
Jill Johnson
Matt Leasure
Caryn McTighe Musil

Deacons

Richard Bertaut
Brad Case
Janet Hofmeister
Diane Kupelian
Ann Morales

Ann Norman
Kate Pielemeier

Membership & Fellowship

Robert Benton
Becky Brindle (Co-Chair)
Kim Christo (Co-Chair)
Nathan Engle
Stacey Fannon
Pamela Mertz

Volunteer Corps

Joe Bush
Beth Ferris
John Graves
Edrie Hough
Mary Sue Johnson
Chris Lawrence
Lorrie Meier
Robert Mertz

Jason Moskowitz
John Pielemeier
Jane Williams

Treasurer

Mike Weber

Central Atlantic

Maryn Goodson
Will Irwin

Potomac Association

Betsy K. Bennett
John Hatch

February Calendar

Saturday, February 01

Yoga Class-9:30a-MR

Shaw Community Ministry Board-1:00p-P

Sunday, February 02

Confirmation Class-8:30a-YL

Adult Lectionary Bible Study-9:00a-P

Adult Study-9:00a-L

Chancel Choir Rehearsal-9:00a-S

Children's Music Age 3-Grade 5-9:00a-MR

Youth Class-Grades 6-12-9:00a-YL

Child Care through age 2-9:00a-N

Church School 1: Ages 3, 4, 5-10:00a-Yellow

Church School 2: Grades K through 2-10:00a-Red

Church School 3: Grades 4 through 5-10:00a-Blue

Worship Service-10:00a-S

Installation/Blessing of 2014 Leadership

Fellowship of the Ringers Rehearsal-11:30a-MR

Fellowship Hour-11:30a-SH

Forum: "Should Washington's Professional

Football Team Change Its Name?"-11:30a-P

BMF Meeting-11:30a-L

JuBELLation Ringers Rehearsal-12:15p-MR

Tuesday, February 04

Staff Meeting-2:00p-L

Middle East Group Meeting-7:30p-P, SH

Thursday, February 06

Middle School Mission Trip Information -6:00p-SH

Deacons Meeting-7:30p-L

Chancel Choir Rehearsal-8:00p-CR

Saturday, February 08

Yoga Class-9:30a-MR

Sunday, February 09

Adult Lectionary Bible Study-9:00a-P

Adult Study-9:00a-L

Chancel Choir Rehearsal-9:00a-S

Children's Music Age 3-Grade 5-9:00a-MR

Youth Class-Grades 6-12-9:00a-YL

Child Care through age 2-9:00a-N

Church School 1: Ages 3, 4, 5-10:00a-Yellow

Church School 2: Grades K through 2-10:00a-Red

Church School 3: Grades 4 through 5-10:00a-Blue

Worship Service-10:00a-S

Fellowship of the Ringers Rehearsal-11:30a-MR

Chili & Chicken Wings-11:30a-SH

Leadership Retreat-11:30a-P

JuBELLation Ringers Rehearsal-12:15p-MR

Tuesday, February 11

Staff Meeting-2:00p-L

Wednesday, February 12

Board of Christian Education Mtg.-7:00p-MR

Governance Council Meeting-7:30p-L

Thursday, February 13

Chancel Choir Rehearsal-8:00p-CR

Friday, February 14

Parents Night Out-5:00p-L, N, P

Saturday, February 15

Yoga Class-9:30a-MR

Sunday, February 16

Adult Lectionary Bible Study-9:00a-P

Adult Study-9:00a-L

Chancel Choir Rehearsal-9:00a-S

Children's Music Age 3-Grade 5-9:00a-MR

Youth Class-Grades 6-12-9:00a-YL

Child Care through age 2-9:00a-N

Church School 1: Ages 3, 4, 5-10:00a-Yellow

Church School 2: Grades K through 2-10:00a-Red

Church School 3: Grades 4 through 5-10:00a-Blue

Worship Service-10:00a-S

Fellowship Hour-11:30a-SH

JuBELLation Ringers Rehearsal-12:15p-MR

Monday, February 17

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, February 18

Prime Timers-12:00p-SH

Staff Meeting-2:00p-L

Thursday, February 20

ESL Classes-9:00a-

Chancel Choir Rehearsal-8:00p-CR

Saturday, February 22

Yoga Class-9:30a-MR

Messiah Rehearsal-10:00a-CR

Sunday, February 23

Volunteer Corp. Board Mtg.-8:30a-Blue

Adult Lectionary Bible Study-9:00a-P

Adult Study-9:00a-L

Chancel Choir Rehearsal-9:00a-S

Children's Music Age 3-Grade 5-9:00a-MR

Youth Class-Grades 6-12-9:00a-YL

Child Care through age 2-9:00a-N

Church School 1: Ages 3, 4, 5-10:00a-Yellow

Church School 2: Grades K through 2-10:00a-Red

Church School 3: Grades 4 through 5-10:00a-Blue

Worship Service-10:00a-S

Fellowship of the Ringers Rehearsal-11:30a-MR

Fellowship Hour-11:30a-SH

Mid-East Committee Mtg.-11:45a-P

JuBELLation Ringers Rehearsal-12:15p-MR

Gathering for Youth Sr. High Trip-6:00p-SH

Tuesday, February 25

Sandwich Making for Martha's Table-10:30a-K

Staff Meeting-2:00p-L

Thursday, February 27

Chancel Choir Rehearsal-8:00p-CR

CR ~ Choir Room

K ~ Kitchen

L ~ Library

MR ~ Mabry Room

N ~ Nursery

P ~ Parlor

S ~ Sanctuary

SH ~ Social Hall

YL ~ Youth Lounge

RED ~ Red Class

BLUE ~ Blue Class

YELLOW ~ Yellow Class

This calendar lists WCUC activities only. Please visit the church website for a complete listing of activities. Contact Mimi Miller if you would like to add or change anything on the calendar.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH WESTMORELANDER IS FEBRUARY 23

Please send your submission to Mimi Miller at mmiller@westmorelanducc.org.

Westmoreland Staff

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Senior Minister

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Master Pianist and Organist

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Rev. Alexis Kassim

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Mr. Martell Galloway

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Ms. Maricela Manzano

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Ms. Jill Johnson

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Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

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