



The Westmorelander

September 2014

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

Invitation to our 9th Annual Westmoreland All-Church Retreat October 3-5, 2014



Dear Fellow Westmorelanders,

We enthusiastically invite you to attend our Annual Westmoreland Retreat, October 3-5, 2014 at Camp Wabanna, Edgewater, Maryland. Please join us for a weekend of friendship, sharing, fellowship, and fun.

In the various Small Group Discussions this spring, everyone was asked to share the key reasons they stay engaged with our church. The retreat and the opportunity it provides to strengthen our community was a frequently repeated highlight. People appreciate being able to make new friendships and deepen existing ones, relax in the natural beauty of the Chesapeake Bay, test their daring on the giant swing, and sing old favorites around the campfire. Now in its ninth year, come join 100 or more fellow members of our Westmoreland community for this special weekend.

To make the retreat as inclusive as possible, we would like to highlight two new features:

- ✚ First, **we want to facilitate the transportation to and from the retreat. There will be transportation from Westmoreland Church for people coming for Saturday only.** It will depart at 8:15 am, in order to arrive in time for the first discussion session at 9:30, and depart at 6:30 pm, following dinner. (If you need transportation for the whole weekend, we can help with that as well.)
- ✚ Second, **we have changed the pricing policy.** In order to encourage as many people to attend as possible, we are establishing a **flat price of \$50 per person over 2 years old for those staying overnight and \$35 per person for Saturday only** (which is less than even the discounted price for children and newcomers in past years). Many Westmorelanders have offered to make an additional voluntary contribution to offset the additional cost of the retreat beyond what is covered by the per-person fee. If you would like to support this church activity, we welcome your contributions. Any gift above the per-person price is tax deductible as a charitable contribution.

The registration form is available at the church. **Registration must be received by Sunday, September 21, 2014.** Please complete it and either drop it off on any Sunday morning in the offering plate or in the Church Office, or mail it to the attention of the "Retreat Committee."

We look forward to seeing you at Camp Wabanna. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at Westmoreland.Retreat@gmail.com or at 301-320-0229.

Sincerely,
Mary and Doug Hallward-Driemeier
Co-chairs, Retreat Committee



AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

1 Westmoreland Circle | Bethesda, Maryland 20816 | www.westmorelanducc.org | 301-229-7766

Welcome Back Sunday! - September 7



9:00 AM, GROUPS FOR ALL AGES

Children's Choir, Youth Group, Studies for Adults and Chancel Choir rehearsal

10:00 AM, WORSHIP

First Sunday back in our refurbished Sanctuary

11:30 AM, WELCOME BACK PICNIC

The Board of Membership and Fellowship will provide chicken, mac-n-cheese, rolls & lemonade. You're invited to bring a salad or side (last names A-R) or dessert (last names S-Z) table-ready to share. Entertainment for children. We have invited the Briggs Center Sunday English as a Second Language students and the various work crews from our sanctuary work to join us. No need to RSVP, but join the fun and bring enough to share.

September Sunday Schedule

9:00am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary Children's Music Age 3-Grade 5, Mabry Room Youth Class-Grades 6-12, Youth Lounge Child Care through age 2, Nursery Adult Class, Library
10:00am	Worship Service, Sanctuary <i>Children begin worship in the sanctuary and are invited to their classrooms following the Time for Children</i> Ages 3, 4, 5, Yellow Classroom Grades K through 2, Red Classroom Grades 4 through 5, Blue Classroom
11:30am	Fellowship of the Ringers Rehearsal, Mabry Room <i>(beginning September 14)</i>
11:30am	Fellowship Hour, Social Hall
12:15pm	JuBELLation Ringers Rehearsal, Mabry Room <i>(beginning September 14)</i>

Thoughts from the Minister: Debtors, Trespassers and Other Sinners

Are you a debtor a trespasser or another kind of sinner?

I'm talking of course about The Prayer of Our Savior. Each Sunday in worship, we pray that prayer (sometimes called The Lord's Prayer). Most churches include that in their worship experience. The Prayer of Our Savior is presented in two places in the Bible – in Matthew 6 and Luke 11. Interestingly, but not surprisingly, the two writers quote Jesus differently in those two places. And the version that we most frequently use in worship is not true to either Gospel rendition.

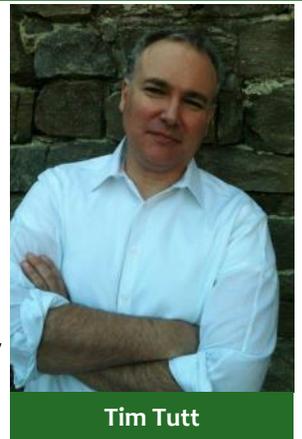
A few weeks ago, a Westmorelander asked me why we are 'debtors,' rather than 'trespassers.' My answer, "I don't know. 'Debtors' was printed in the bulletin when I got here, and we've just kept praying that way." This church member mentioned growing up a trespasser. That was my childhood prayer language as well. At the first church I served, we were 'trespassers;' at the second we were 'debtors;' and here at Westmoreland we are 'debtors.'

That church members' question sent me to the archives. I looked through worship bulletins from the 1920s to the present. Here's what I found: First, the Lord's Prayers has not always been part of worship at Westmoreland. Second, it looks like we were trespasser until the 1980s or 1990s.

After the archives, I turned to the Bible. The Greek word in Matthew 6:12 ("forgive us our debts") is *opheilo*, which literally means financial debts and metaphorically means anything that is owed. You can find the same word in Luke 16:5 ("he called his master's debtors"). The Greek word in Luke 11:4 ("forgive us our sins") is *harmartia*, a word that means missing the mark or falling short—think of being a bad aim in basketball; sin is the shorthand definition. The same word is used in Romans 5:12.

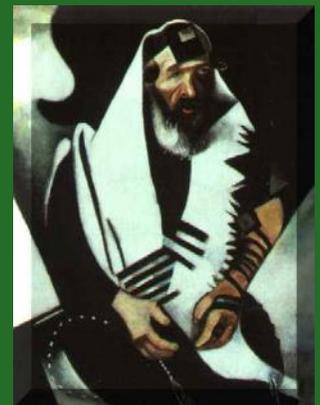
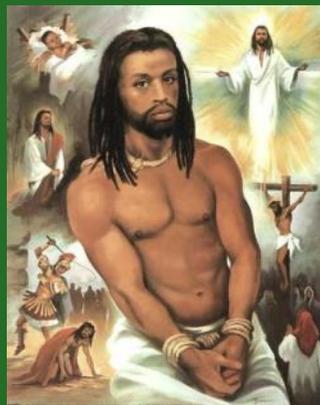
After old bulletins and the Bible, I turned to a church history text. The word 'debts' appears in the oldest English translation of the Bible, prepared by John Wycliffe in the late

1300s. William Tyndale's 1526 version of the Bible used "trespasses." My next stop was to the church library where I ran across a great little book entitled "The Greatest Prayer" by John Dominic Crossan. The subtitle gives you some idea of Crossan's themes: "Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the Lord's Prayer." Crossan does some of what I've done in this article: he explores the history and use of the prayer. And he explains that this very Jewish prayer of Jesus' time points the way to rejecting violent methods of resisting their Roman captors, and instead working for the coming of the Kingdom of God as a means of achieving true freedom.



Tim Tutt

(Continued on page 4)



These three different pictures represent different versions of Jesus praying, reminding us of the "bigness" of Christian interpretation.

(Continued from page 3)

So what, you may be asking (if you've read this far). That's a great question. Here's what:

First, we should never take our traditions for granted. What we think we've always done, we probably haven't.

Second, the Prayer of Our Savior has room for different interpretations. Both the Bible and Christianity are bigger than any single point of view and bigger than our words

Third, even the brief Lord's Prayer has tremendous amounts of import to unpack. Along those lines, I would invite you to take part in a study at 9:00am each Sunday in the fall. We

will use Crossan's book, "The Greatest Prayer, as our starting point and will work our way through this revolutionary prayer. This class should appeal to those of you who are contemplatives and to those of you who are social justice-focused.

Fourth, the different versions of the Lord's Prayer remind me of the breadth of the church. The UCC ad campaign used the line, "No matter who you are or what you've done, you are welcome here." Debtors, trespassers, sinners all— there's room for every one of us. And that is very good news.

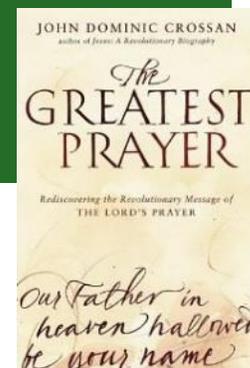
Book Study

9:00am each Sunday
Beginning September 7

Meets in the Library

John Dominic Crossan's
"The Greatest Prayer
Rediscovering the
Revolutionary Message of The
Lord's
Prayer"

Tim Tutt,
Leader



Thoughts from the Children & Youth Music Director

Tim and I spent an amazing two weeks in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and France at the beginning of August. We had a great time visiting castles, cathedrals, and medieval towns to name a few. Before embarking on our cruise ship, we spent some time in London. While exploring, we noticed that Westminster Abbey had an Evensong that evening. We attended that worship service and I could not help feeling disappointed that the Westminster Abbey Choir was on their summer break. However, the visiting choir from Germany provided an evening choral worship service which left me feeling fresh and new. They were great! I must admit that my mind did wander a couple of times as I began to think about music in Westmoreland!

The Westminster Abbey Choir consists of about a dozen professional adults and approximately 30 boys. Wow! That brought me to think about our work at Westmoreland. Having our children lead worship is a special time in the church. From singing the introit, presenting a 40 minute musical each spring, or having our youngest Westmorelanders dressed as Angels during the Christmas Eve service, our children make us smile! I hope that your child will consider being part of the music ministry at Westmoreland this year. There are opportunities for all ages.

Children's Choir will begin on Sunday September 7 at 9:00am in the Mabry Room. Primarily, this choir consists of PreK -5th grade students. They will practice every Sunday and lead worship about once a month.

The Fellowship of the Ringers (our intergenerational handbell choir) will begin on Sunday September 14 at 11:30am in the Mabry Room. This is open to anyone from upper elementary to adult. They will practice every Sunday and lead worship several times a year.



Brian Frye

Other opportunities will come up throughout the year. Please read the bulletin for more details. If you have any questions or ideas for our Children and Youth Music Ministry this year, please email me at frye.brian@gmail.com. See you on September 7!

Thoughts from the Director of Music: Let's Be Upfront About Joining the Choir

Let me be upfront about it. Joining a choir is a significant commitment that demands much from those who undertake it.

That is however, only one side of it.

What a choir can give you physically, socially, and spiritually greatly outweighs anything you could give up by joining. Through clinical research, especially over the past ten years, it has been proven that the activity of singing is accompanied by measurable physiological, neurological, and emotional benefits. In case this is not convincing enough let's look at it from a different angle. When you join a choir you join a family of caring, sympathetic, and interesting individuals. No scientific study or research is needed to demonstrate that those folks who have joined a choir are generally happy people. Just ask any of them

and you will get a glowing review of their experience!

Another aspect of singing in a choir that needs pointing out is its importance within the stewardship of a church or a community. By becoming a choir member you give time and talent to enrich the church and/or the community in one of its most meaningful activities. No amount of money can substitute for this.

Not yet convinced?

Then let me point out that there is an emotional and spiritual component to singing with others that can only be described as inspiring. When you are in the middle of singing Mozart's "Requiem," Handel's "Messiah," or a Bach Cantata, to name just a few examples, and you are surrounded by the magical sounds of choir and

orchestra coming together to recreate monuments of humanity, the world and all its troubles and tribulations cease to exist and the spirit truly becomes one with the body.



Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez

If you find at least one of these above mentioned reasons compelling enough to give it a whirl please don't hesitate to join us at least just to see what it is like. The Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursdays from 8:00 to 10:00pm and on Sundays from 9:00 to 9:45am. Our first rehearsal is on Thursday, September 4 in the choir room. We hope to see you then!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name of the director of music.

Middle School News - Our Whole Lives (OWL)

This fall, as is tradition, Westmoreland will be offering Our Whole Lives (OWL) to the 7th and 8th graders. OWL is a faith-based sexuality education program, jointly developed by the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association, and is meant for congregations to support the sexual health of our youth and encourage a value system in which faith and sexuality are not mutually exclusive. The OWL curriculum has been widely praised for its strong faith values, its developmentally appropriate activities, and its accurate information. OWL teaches caring, compassion, respect and justice in all relationships.

Class will meet Sunday mornings from 10:00-11:30am in the parlor, except on the first Sunday of each month when students are invited to attend worship. Our tentative date to begin classes is October 19. OWL class

will run through May and regular attendance is expected. Because of the sensitive nature of the material, it is not effective for drop-ins or occasional participation.

Parental permission is required for youth to enroll in OWL, so please be on the lookout for information on the parent orientation and OWL calendar to follow soon.

Please feel free to contact Rev. Alexis Kassim, Associate Minister for Christian Education, alexis@westmorelanducc.org or (301) 229-7766 with any questions.



WALK TO END HIV WASHINGTON OCT 25, 2014

Walk with Westmoreland's Team on Saturday, October 25

Please join Westmoreland's team in the Walk to End HIV on October 25, or if you won't be walking with us that day, please donate to support our team effort. The welcome program of music and speakers begins at 8:15am, the timed run starts at 9:15am and the walk steps off at 9:20am. The walk will begin and end at Freedom Plaza (Pennsylvania Avenue and 13th Street, NW).

Details about our team and on-paper forms to register or donate will be available at coffee hours, from September 21 – October 19.



The Walk to End HIV is a fundraising walk and 5K timed run benefiting and produced by Whitman-Walker Health, DC's non-profit community-based health organization that provides dependable, high-quality, comprehensive and accessible health care to those infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS.

To learn more about the walk, register or donate on line now at www.aidswalkwashington.org. If you want to register to walk, use the green "register" link at the top of that page; be sure to join the team Westmoreland Congregational UCC when you register. If you want to donate in support of our team, enter Westmoreland Congregational UCC in the Participant Search box on the left side of the page, click on search and the correct donations page will appear.

Can You Hear Me Now?

Learn About the New Sound System, Sunday, September 7, 9:00am

This summer, while the church sanctuary was being refurbished, we took the opportunity to install an induction loop system that enables people who use hearing assistance devices to hear much more clearly. Unlike our old FM system, the loop is a wire that has been placed around the room. It takes sound straight from the source and delivers it directly to the listener's ear. The old hearing assistance equipment will no longer work in the sanctuary. (The old equipment will be available and useable in the social hall.)



If you currently use our assistive hearing system, or think you might like to, you are invited to come to the Quiet Room (formerly known as the Bride's Room) at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday, September 7, 9:00am. A representative from Hearing Technologies will explain how to use the new system with T-coil hearing aids or headphone or earbud. An audiologist will answer your individual questions (e.g. Does my hearing aid have a T-coil?). About 9:30 you will go into the sanctuary to try out the gear, adjust volume, etc. Both the HT representative and the audiologist will be available again after the service to answer individual questions.

--Janet Moyer

60's Generation Super Sunday Supper

September 14, 6:00pm

Hosted by Marolyn & John Hatch, 596 Russell Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877 (Asbury Methodist Village).



They will provide Barbequed Brisket on Rolls. Please bring wine or beer and one of the following: potato salad, coleslaw, tomatoes, corn salad, or one of those Westmoreland famous desserts.

RSVP by September 9 to let them know what you will bring!
(301) 216-4875 or M_Jhatch@msn.com

“We are a group of church minded adults who grew out of and were shaped by the 1960's. We share an outlook on life; we work and we work OUT, we travel, we care for parents as well as for children and grandchildren, we engage enthusiastically with the world around us, yet seek refuge in the world within. We take pleasure from the bond of a shared journey with peers in our faith community, and from social interactions that have continued year upon year.”

National Service of Mourning for Gaza

Wednesday, September 3, 2014, 6:00pm

Calvary Baptist Church, 755 8th St. NW, DC

The loss and suffering resulting from the latest conflict between the Israeli military and Palestinian groups in Gaza is staggering. More than 1,400 civilians have been killed and hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have been displaced. Weeks of overwhelming destruction have devastated land, homes, and infrastructure. The siege of Gaza and the military occupation of Palestinian territory cripple normal life. As the people of the region cry, “How long, O Lord”?, we join our prayers with theirs in a service of worship. In the midst of sorrow and grief, please join us in a witness to faith, hope and love.

Contact: Mike Merryman-Lotze, AFSC at MMerryman-Lotze@afsc.org.

Westmoreland T-Shirts For Sale

T-Shirts have been designed with Westmoreland's logo! They are perfect to wear when representing Westmoreland in the community or at the retreat. Orders will be taken starting September 7 at the welcome back picnic, and will continue through September 21 during fellowship hour. Shirts will arrive in time for the retreat.

The cost is \$15 per shirt. Checks or cash accepted at the time of order. Questions? Contact Cindy Sanders cindy.sanders@verizon.net.

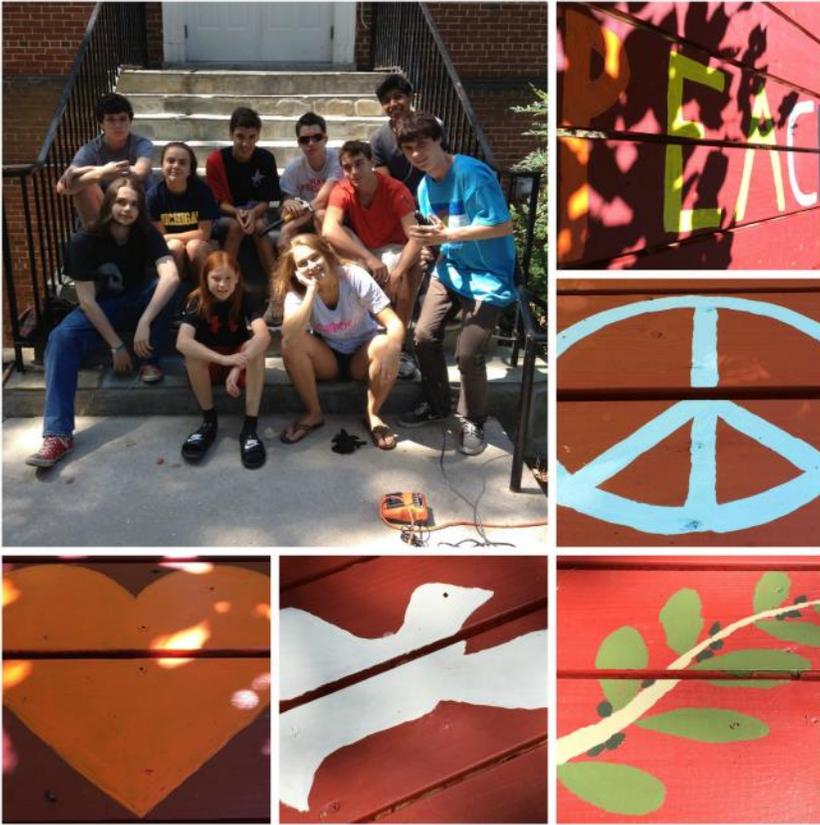


Sanctuary Renovation Photographs



Photos of the sanctuary during the August renovation

Westmoreland Youth



Signs of peace painted on picnic tables built as part of an Eagle Scout project by one of our Westmoreland youth (with a little help from his friends!)

Westmoreland youth who participated in the summer mission trip.



Retirement of UCC General Minister and President

August 13, 2014

Today I received official notification from our General Minister and President, Geoffrey Black, of his intent to retire early, specifically with the conclusion of the 30th General Synod in June 2015. Geoffrey has graciously agreed to serve until his successor is ready to take office, sometime next summer.

I want to express my gratitude to Geoffrey for his leadership during his time in office - through the challenging and difficult discussions over the governance of the United Church of Christ to the successful transition to a new and unified governance structure. Geoffrey has been tireless in his ecumenical work with both our domestic and international partners. Moreover, he has spoken to the tough issues of our time, whether they are natural or human caused, Geoffrey has been a kind, gentle and thoughtful manager of our affairs in the national setting of the Church. We cannot begin to thank him enough for his service as General Minister and President, as New York Conference Minister, as a national staff member and as a local church pastor.

As we look ahead and move forward, I want to outline the task before us and how I hope to help us accomplish it. I will immediately put together a search committee tasked with the responsibility of recommending a new General Minister and President. With UCCB confirmation, I hope to have the search committee up and running by the end of August 2014.

The search committee will require careful, prayerful discernment but will also need to adhere to a tight timeline. The committee will need to collect and review the profiles of those called to apply for consideration. The committee then will need to interview those candidates it considers worthy of the tremendous responsibilities of the Office of the General Minister and President, and it will need to select one candidate and present that candidate at the March 2015 meeting of the UCCB. At that meeting, a two-thirds confirmation vote is necessary to forward the recommendation to the 30th General Synod for call by election in Cleveland next summer. I am tasking the search committee with finalizing its recommendation for UCCB consideration by early February 2015, so the board of directors will have a month to reflect, discern and decide. That's roughly five and a half months from now.

Geoffrey will continue to serve until his successor is prepared to assume his or her new position, sometime after the General Synod. The bylaws require transition to occur sometime within 90 days of the call by election.

I ask for your prayers for Geoffrey and his wife Pat, for those who will serve on the search committee and for those who will come before it. I also ask that you pray for our beloved United Church of Christ as we move into the future God has before us.

Yours in Christ,
Bernard R. Wilson
Chair, The United Church of Christ Board of Directors

Memorial Service and Interment

Milton J. Stickles, Jr.

Milton J. Stickles, Jr. "Jack" will be interred Tuesday, September 30, 2014, 1:00 PM at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia. A reception will be held at 3:00pm at Westmoreland following the service, in the Mabry Room.

Death Notice

We mourn the death of Robert "Bob" Boies who died on August 25. Bob had been a member of Westmoreland since 1958 and taught youth Church School classes during the 1960's. His memorial service will be held on September 20, 11:30am at Westmoreland.

September Calendar

(This calendar does not include contracted use by the Washington Conservatory)

Monday, September 01		11:45a	Mid-East Committee Meeting	P
Church Office Closed for Labor Day		12:15p	JuBELLation Ringers Rehearsal	MR
Tuesday, September 02		Tuesday, September 16		
10:00a	Space Planning Meeting	12:00p	Prime Timers	SH
2:00p	Staff Meeting	2:00p	Staff Meeting	L
Wednesday, September 03		Wednesday, September 17		
6:30p	Nat'l. Service of Mourning for Gaza	7:30p	Nominating Committee Mtg.	L
7:30p	Music Team Meeting	Thursday, September 18		
Thursday, September 04		8:00p	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	CR
8:00p	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Saturday, September 20		
Saturday, September 06		9:30a	Yoga Class	MR
9:30a	Yoga Class	11:00a	Robert Boies Memorial Service & Reception	MR, SH
10:00a	Teacher Orientation	Sunday, September 21		
Sunday, September 07		9:00a	Adult Study	L
Welcome Back Sunday		9:00a	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	S
9:00a	Adult Study	9:00a	Children's Music Age 3-Grade 5	MR
9:00a	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9:00a	Youth Class-Grades 6-12	YL
9:00a	Children's Music Age 3-Grade 5	9:00a	Child Care through age 2	N
9:00a	Youth Class-Grades 6-12	10:00a	Church School 1: Ages 3, 4, 5	Yellow
9:00a	Child Care through age 2	10:00a	Church School 2: Grades K through 2	Red
10:00a	Church School 1: Ages 3, 4, 5	10:00a	Church School 3: Grades 4 through 5	Blue
10:00a	Church School 2: Grades K through 2	10:00a	Worship Service	S
10:00a	Church School 3: Grades 4 through 5	11:30a	Fellowship of the Ringers Rehearsal	MR
10:00a	Worship Service	11:30a	Congregational Conversations	SH
11:15a	Welcome Back Picnic	11:30a	Fellowship Hour	SH
Tuesday, September 09		12:15p	JuBELLation Ringers Rehearsal	MR
2:00p	Staff Meeting	Tuesday, September 23		
7:00p	Board of Christian Education Mtg.	2:00p	Staff Meeting	L
Wednesday, September 10		Thursday, September 25		
7:00p	Deacons Meeting	8:00p	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	CR
7:30p	Governance Council Meeting	Saturday, September 27		
Thursday, September 11		9:30a	Yoga Class	MR
8:00p	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	2:00p	Turqman/Photiadis Wedding	S
Saturday, September 13		Sunday, September 28		
9:30a	Yoga Class	9:00a	Adult Study	L
9:30a	Arts Committee	9:00a	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	S
1:00p	Memorial Service G. & B.J. Kenney	9:00a	Children's Music Age 3-Grade 5	MR
Sunday, September 14		9:00a	Youth Class-Grades 6-12	YL
8:30a	Volunteer Corp. Board Mtg.	9:00a	Child Care through age 2	N
8:30a	Outreach Ministries	10:00a	Church School 1: Ages 3, 4, 5	Yellow
9:00a	Adult Study	10:00a	Church School 2: Grades K through 2	Red
9:00a	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10:00a	Church School 3: Grades 4 through 5	Blue
9:00a	Children's Music Age 3-Grade 5	10:00a	Worship Service	S
9:00a	Youth Class-Grades 6-12	11:30a	Fellowship of the Ringers Rehearsal	MR
9:00a	Child Care through age 2	11:30a	Fellowship Hour	SH
10:00a	Church School 1: Ages 3, 4, 5	12:15p	JuBELLation Ringers Rehearsal	MR
10:00a	Church School 2: Grades K through 2	Tuesday, September 30		
10:00a	Church School 3: Grades 4 through 5	10:30a	Sandwich Making for Martha's Table	K
10:00a	Worship Service	1:00p	Interment for Jack Stickles	Off-Site
11:30a	Fellowship of the Ringers Rehearsal	2:00p	Staff Meeting	L
11:30a	Fellowship Hour	3:00p	Memorial Reception for Jack Stickles	MR

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 includes only Westmoreland events. Contact Mimi Miller to schedule a room.

September Worship Plans

September 7

Sermon: "How to Live in a Group House"
 Scripture: Matthew 18:15-20

September 14

Sermon: "The World's Biggest Welcome Mat"
 Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

September 21

Sermon: "But that's Not Fair..."
 Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16

September 28

Sermon: "Bad Theology May Kill You"
 Scripture: Matthew 21:23-32

Welcome Back Luncheon for Prime Timers Tuesday, September 16

No one will want to miss this very special luncheon. Our program will be "Readings of her own Poetry" by Prime Timers Poet Laureate, Jayne MacLean. Follow her from pre-teens, through the war years to present day. To add to the excitement of the day, we will celebrate the birthday of one of Westmoreland's Nifty Ninetys. All Westmoreland retirees are invited to share this day with us.

We will gather in the Parlor at 12 noon for appetizers and conversation followed by lunch in the Social Hall at 12:30pm. Cost is \$10. Sign-up during coffee hour or call Nona Cox at 301-229-5334.

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Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.
 --Mark Twain

THE DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER WESTMORELANDER IS SEPTEMBER 22

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

Westmoreland Staff

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