



The Westmorelander

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 57, No. 3

March 2010

College of Wooster Chorus Presents Concert in March

The Chorus of the College of Wooster will be presenting a concert at 8 pm on Friday, **March 12th** at Westmoreland, followed by a reception in the Social Hall. Miles Batson, a member of Westmoreland, is a sophomore majoring in Chemistry at the College and is a baritone in the chorus. Miles grew up in our church and developed his love of singing at the age of 4 when he joined Westmoreland's Children's Choir lead by Daisy Jackson. He continued singing at Westmoreland with the Treble Choir and then the Passing Tones, both ably directed by Sondra Proctor. Miles is excited to have his Church host the final performance of the Chorus's 2010 Spring Tour and hopes that many Westmorelanders will come to the concert.

The Chorus will present *Stars I Shall Find*, an artistic exploration of one's journey through life. The concert will feature the choral music of contemporary composers, including John Tavener, Eric Whitacre, and Jaako Mäntyjärvi, with the timeless poetry of Walt Whitman, e.e. Cummings, and Sara Teasdale. *Stars I Shall Find* is sure to engage the ear, the eye, the mind, and the heart. Under the direction of Lisa Yozviak, the choir has been praised for its high level of artistry, engaging performances, and enthusiastic singing.

There is no charge for the concert, but freewill donations will be collected to help support the Chorus's spring tour. Fellow Westmorelanders will be feeding and housing members of the chorus overnight and the Music and Arts Committee will host the post-concert reception. Mark your calendar now and plan on attending this wonderful evening of music, poetry, and refreshments.

If you would like to volunteer to help make and serve dinner to the choir prior to the concert, contact me at 301-907-8826 or nlb_5526@verizon.net.



Nancy Batson

Worship Topics and Themes

Sunday, March 7

Children's Musical
"Jonah"
A Whale of a Tale

Sunday, March 14

"God's Place is Like..."
Rev. Dr. Bob Maddox
Holy Communion

Sunday, March 21

"How Do We Love Jesus?"
John 21: 15 - 17 and Matthew 25: 35 - 40
Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte

Sunday, March 28

"Palms and Passion: the Storm Before the Calm."
Selections from Luke 22 and 23

Looking Ahead

Thursday, April 1 - Maundy Thursday

Service of Tenebrae 7:30 pm
A contemplative service to prepare us for Easter

Sunday, April 4 - Easter

Sunrise Service 7 am

Let It Snow, Let It Snow - Oh, no!

Westmoreland cancelled church services on December 20 due to snow and again on February 7 during "Snowmageddon 2010!" Even as the Westmorelander goes to press, we are challenged by reduced parking area and some significant damage to our building due to snow and ice falling from the roof. But spring is coming!

Senior Minister.....Rev. Richard L. Smith
Minister of Discipleship....Rev. Dr. Robert L. Maddox
Minister for Children, Youth & Families ..Rev. Jessica Petersen
Director of Music....Dr. Alejandro Hernandez Valdez
Membership Coordinator & Newsletter Editor...Janet Moyer
Office Hours: 9 am - 5 pm

Annual Meeting 2010 Report

The Annual Meeting of the congregation, held January 24, was both efficient and productive. Ministers, staff and board chairs gave brief remarks.

The following were highlights:

- Resolutions of thanks for the assistant treasurers and for John Graves' astute management of the endowment;
- Thanks were expressed for the memory of Kate Mahaffey and her contribution to BCA;
- The 2009 deficit was reported at \$43,686;
- Pledge contributions were received at a 96% fulfillment rate;
- Expenses were in line with budget except for the HVAC and building;
- The 2010 proposed budget of \$835,413 was passed unanimously and includes a deficit of \$15,000;
- Membership stands at 545 members (417 "active" and 128 "inactive") and includes 21 new members received in 2009;
- The slate of officers and board members was elected to include: David Batson, Moderator; Pierre Toureille, Moderator-Elect; Pete Davis, Recording Clerk; and Mike Weber, Treasurer.

Middle East Pilgrims

Share Their Journey with WCUC

The group of Westmorelanders who journeyed to the Middle East in November will, at last, get to share their experience with the congregation at a visual/narrative presentation on **Sunday, March 28** following the worship service. (The presentation was originally scheduled for January 31.) The Westmorelandnet postings from the group during the trip are printed out in two binders that can be found on the What's Happening Table in the Social Hall.

Westmoreland's Middle East Committee will host a themed Coffee Hour.

Prime Timers

The Prime Timers invite all members of the AARP generation for a festive afternoon to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with appetizers at 12 Noon followed by lunch in the Social Hall. Then the group will be treated to piano solos performed by Alejandro Hernandez Valdez, Westmoreland's Director of Music. The cost of lunch is \$8. RSVP to Nona Cox at 301-229-6334 or sign up in the Social Hall.

Children's Musical

Oh, Jonah! (written by Allen Pote and Carole McCann) is "a whale of a tale," a story "about a fish and a man named Jonah, who was a lot like you and me." Based on the book of Jonah, it follows Jonah as he struggles to take responsibility and follow God's call to do something he really doesn't want to do. God approaches Jonah and tells him to go to the great city of Nineveh at once and cry out against it because the Ninevites have not been living in God's way. Immediately, Jonah runs off in the opposite direction and hitches a ride aboard a ship headed to Tarshish. But when a big storm comes along, Jonah, thrown into the sea, is swallowed by a large fish. After thinking things over in the fish for a few days, Jonah promises to live up to his responsibility, and he is saved as the fish spits him up. Now back on dry land, Jonah heads to Nineveh and proclaims God's message to the Ninevites. To Jonah's dismay they repent, and Jonah sulks away angrily. God gets the final word: He uses a tree to teach Jonah about real responsibility and that "everyone and everything is precious in the sight of the Lord."



Join us on Sunday, **March 7** as the children and youth of Westmoreland present this wonderful musical during worship.

A Perspective on the Cross

Vertical faith is about one's relationship with God; an awareness of God's teachings and his presence in your life.

Horizontal faith is about sharing those vertical discoveries; serving outside our comfort zone; reaching out and touching others with God's love.

True faith needs both components: our love and action (the horizontal piece) is grounded in the love we receive from God (which we discover through the vertical piece). Without the horizontal piece, there is a disconnect between faith and life.



Missionary Anil Henry
Synodical Board of Health Services
of the Church of North India
Acting Director at Christian
Hospital, Mungeli, India

Parish Notes

We are deeply saddened to announce the death of **Gordon H. Livingston**, who died on Sunday, February 7 at Asbury Methodist Village. Gordon attended Westmoreland for most of his 97 years, having joined our predecessor, Mt. Pleasant Congregational Church, where he was confirmed nearly 84 years ago. He faithfully ushered at Westmoreland for decades. Our prayers of condolence are extended to Marion, his beloved wife of 40 years, and his sons, Arno, Eric and Hall. A memorial service will be held at Westmoreland on Saturday, May 29, 2 pm.

Congratulations to **Sue Kirk** on the birth of her granddaughter, Olivia Harper Connors, born February 16 to Sue's daughter, Rebecca, and her husband, Patrick.

Extend a Welcome to Our New Member

Christine "Chris" Lawrence, who joined Westmoreland on January 24, has been attending Westmoreland since September 2007. Her connections to Westmoreland before she began attending here include Nancy Batson, Nancy La Vigne, and Roberta Beary. She is an active member of the Chancel Choir. Chris is a professor of communications at American University. In her leisure time she enjoys writing, gardening, singing, and tennis. She lives in Bethesda with her husband Andy and their two sons, Reid, a college sophomore and Matt, a freshman at B-CC.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days

"A Place to Call Home: Immigrants, Refugees and Displaced Peoples" is the theme of the 2010 Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD), **March 19 – 22**. The goal of this ecumenical Christian community, its partners and allies is to strengthen the Christian voice and advocate on a wide variety of U.S. domestic and international policy issues. The event includes informational sessions and a lobby day. Among the speakers is Sister Helen Prejean, anti-death penalty activist and author of "Dead Man Walking" This is an opportunity to be part of an action weekend addressing global injustice.

For further information and/or to register, visit www.advocacydays.org.

Outreach Ministries

OGHS Offering to be Collected on March 21

Our church's offering to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) will be collected on Sunday, March 21. Nine denominations, including the UCC, join together to support global outreach projects through OGHS. The majority of the money goes into international development, aimed at education, health care, and agricultural assistance. OGHS also supports refugee assistance and responds to natural disasters, such as the recent earthquake in Haiti.

The theme of this year's OGHS offering is "Feed My Sheep," a statement that Jesus makes at three different times. This is our chance to offer help to our neighbors around the globe, supporting projects that reduce poverty and give people hope. Envelopes will be available in the pews on **March 21**. If you won't be in church that day, just clearly mark your contribution "To OGHS" and mail it to the church or drop it into the offering plate on another Sunday.

Christmas Offering Report

The Christmas Offering this year totaled \$8,332, a significant donation but down about \$5000 from last year, largely because church was cancelled the Sunday before Christmas due to heavy snow. This money goes to the Outreach Ministries Board, which uses it to respond to requests from (primarily) local organizations. In the past, these funds have gone to many of our local partner organizations, such as Shaw Community Ministries, the Marie Reed Tutoring program, Bethesda Cares, or the organizations where our Volunteer Corps work. This outreach is funded by the Christmas and Easter offerings together. For those who didn't get a chance to make a donation at Christmas, please consider giving a little extra for Easter!

Hospice: Help at the End of Life

Since 1989, Hospice Caring, Inc. has been providing practical and emotional support at no charge to adults and children facing life-limiting illness and grief at no charge. Hospice Caring, Inc. has opportunities for those who would like to facilitate adult or children's grief groups, or become a caregiver and share in someone's end-of-life journey. Our next training class will be held **March 16-17-18**, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. For more information or to register please call Penny at 301-869-HOPE (4673). Make a difference in the lives of others, and become a part of the Hospice Caring

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Westmoreland Congregational UCC

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April Westmorelander
 deadline: March 18

March 2010

Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24 Weekday Study (Carpenter's House)	12 Noon	Wednesday, March 17 Prime Timers	12 Noon
Thursdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25 Chancel Choir	8 pm	Friday, March 19 High School Youth Night	7 pm
Friday, March 5 Middle School Night	7 pm	Saturday, March 20 Prayer Retreat (Carpenter House)	9 am
Saturday, March 6 Children's Musical Rehearsal	10 am	Sunday, March 21 Tech. Committee; Outreach Ministries Bible Study, Nursery, Child. Choir Worship, Church School High School Community Confirmation Class	8:30 am 9 am 10 am 11:30 am 4 pm
Sunday, March 7 Fellowship Breakfast Nursery, Children's Choir Worship, Church School Girl Scout Cookie Sale Confirmation Class	8:30 am 9 am 10 am 11:30 am 4 pm	Tuesday, March 23 Executive Committee	7:30 pm
Monday, March 8 Bd. of Christian Education	7:30 pm	Sunday, March 28 Bible Study, Nursery, Child. Choir Worship, Church School Middle East Pilgrimage Presentation	9 am 10 am 11:30 am
Friday, March 12 College of Wooster Choral Concert	8 pm	Tuesday, March 30 Sandwich Making	10:30 am
Sunday, March 14 Volunteer Corps Board Bible Study, Nursery, Children's Choir, Worship, Church School Bd. of Membership & Fellowship	8:30 am 9 am 10 am 11:30 am	<i>Looking ahead....</i>	
		Thursday, April 1 - Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae: 7:30 pm	
		Sunday, April 4 - Easter Sunrise service: 7 am; Festival Service: 10 am	