

December 3, 2006—First Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Early Morning Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Common Grounds gathering followed by
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Traditional Morning Worship Service
12:00 noon Hanging of the Greens (luncheon and
decorating)

OPENER: Bruce Siffert **CLOSER:** Chris Thomas

GREETERS: Jim & Lil Collier

ACOLYTES: Derrick Stephenson / Tyler Stephenson

WORSHIP LEADER: Jenny Bliss

PREACHER: The Reverend Dr. Janet A. Long

TELLERS: Jane Hutson and Brenda Keenan

ELDER (8:30): **PIANIST (8:30):**

Tim Widman

Carolyn Long

ELDERS (10:45): **HOME COMMUNION:**

Steve Bond

Alice Paul

Jane Hutson

Cheryl Grapes

DIACONATE: Team I

8:30 - Bud and Polly Simmons

10:45 - Arlene Burch, Gail Haywood, Karen McCall,
Steve McCall, Chris Thomas, Barbara Western, Keith
Western, and Allison Widman

YOUTH NEWS

Sprouts (Gr. 3-5); Chi Rho (Gr. 6-8); CYF (Gr. 9-12)

This Sunday, December 3: Sprouts, Chi Rho and
CYF will participate in the all-church luncheon and
Hanging of the Greens (and luminary inspection)
following the 10:45 a.m. Worship Service. *(Those
who made reservations will attend "The Nutcracker"
to watch Lauren Wainwright perform as a dancer.
The group will leave from the church with Pastor
Janet after the Hanging of the Greens.)*

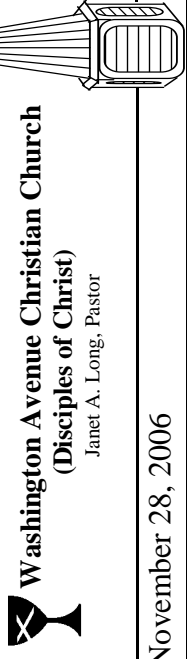
Next Sunday, December 10: All three youth
groups and their families are invited to Pastor Janet
Long and Dan Clark's open house at their home,
356 Georgia Ave., 12:30-2 p.m.

Saturday, December 16: Sprouts and Chi Rho
members are invited to a Christmas party at my
home, 350 Lark Lane, 3-5 p.m. Please remember
to bring one or more nnwrapped gifts for a child
served by the Cleveland Christian Home. (I'll have
presents for you, too!)

Coming Up: Save December 17 for the All-Church
Caroling Party, 5 p.m.-? And, we'll set out
luminaries on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m.

Love, *Glenna* (324-6891) youth@waccelyria.org

THE SPREE



Washington Avenue Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Janet A. Long, Pastor

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November 28, 2006

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Janet's Jottings

Dear Friends,

The news of an abandoned baby, left alone for days inside a garage in Lorain, has been the source of much disbelief and sadness. The infant was found naked and cold, hungry and malnourished. Sores cover his little body. He was crying out, by whimpering, for someone to come to his aid. Fortunately, someone did.

Maybe it's the preacher in me, but I can't help but draw parallels between that little one and the Little One sent by God. He, too, was to be found in an unusual place: in a manger in a stable in Bethlehem. He came to rid the world of disbelief and sadness, by offering hope and faith. He came to teach us how to love, by caring for the abandoned, the naked, the hungry, the ill—those in any kind of need. He still cries out for someone to come to their aid. Will we respond to the whimpering of the world?

The mother of the Lorain baby has stepped forward. She had hidden her pregnancy, given birth secretly, kept working at her job, and not known what to do with the little one entrusted to her care. I wonder about the baby's father, about the young mother's family, about the kind of fear that hides such news. I wonder...

And, I wonder if we know what to do with the One who has entrusted us with a mission of love and caring. Will we cower in fear, hiding such news? Or, will we open our hearts to the coming of God's Son—as the Babe of Bethlehem and as the Lord and Savior of our lives — and of the world—and share the Good News? Will we step forward and make worship and service the heart of this Advent season? I wonder...and I hope...

I'll be looking for you Sunday. Advent blessings and...

Love,

Janet

Washington Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



301 Washington Avenue
Elyria, OH 44035-5124
Janet A. Long, Pastor
Phone: (440) 323-4213

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY

Nonprofit Org.
U.S.
POSTAGE
PAID
Elyria, OH
Permit No. 332

2007 WACC Directory Slated

Your Info. Is Needed ASAP!

A new church directory will be ready for pick-up this Christmas Eve—but only with your help:

1. Please let us know of any **changes** in your household information (i.e., address, telephone, children who have moved out, etc.) not already reflected in your current *Spire* mailing label.
2. **Email** and/or **cell phone numbers** will be listed ONLY by individual request.
3. Please let us know if we don't already have all birth and anniversary dates for your household.

To submit listing preferences or new/updated household information, you may call the church office (323-4213) OR fill out one of the forms which will be available in the narthex December 3 and 10. *If we don't receive a form from you, we will assume the information printed in our 2004 directory remains current.*

The deadline for submitting directory information is December 11.

Have you remembered the church in your will?

Advent Devotional Book Available

Partners in Prayer is available from the literature rack by the stairs leading to the sanctuary. Please take one as a gift from the Christian Education Committee.

Did you know that the CE Committee also provides—free of charge—*The Upper Room*, a quarterly devotional booklet with daily readings? These are also available from the literature rack described above.

These are wonderful resources for daily meditation; please make use of them.

December 3 Lectionary Corner

Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Psalm 25:1-10
Luke 21:25-36*

**Sermon focus*

NHA Giving Tree Deadline Extended

The Neighborhood House

Association Giving Tree deadline has been EXTENDED to Wednesday, December 13. **Please consider taking one of the dozen cards remaining on the tree in the church office.** Gifts should be wrapped, with the original nametag affixed to the bag/bundle, and placed under the tree by the deadline.

The All-Church Christmas Card Needs Your Signature...and Your Gift

Don't just stop to admire the giant

Christmas card in our narthex—leave your gift to the Christmas Special Day Offering in the box provided, and then add your name to the card. **Please consider contributing the amount you would have spent on individual cards and postage for all your WACC friends.**

Our thanks to Marilyn Sicoti and the Turner Family for making this year's card.

CCH Deadline is December 10

The deadline for placing unwrapped gift items in the Cleveland Christian Home box in the narthex is December 10. Specifically-requested items for men and boys include boxer shorts (XL sizes) and adult jigsaw puzzles. Duffel bags, small suitcases, hooded sweatshirts and socks are needed for boys and girls.

EHC Collection Challenge

Many thanks to our adult Church

School classes which have been competing to see who will bring in the most food each week for the Elyria Hospitality Center. Here are December's suggested donations:

- December 3 - Cereal
- December 10 - Pasta and sauces
- December 17 - Canned meats
- December 24 - Beans
- December 31 - Dried and canned fruits

Please keep the above list posted where you'll see it before going shopping.



Bell-Ringers Wanted;

No Musical Skill Required!

Sign up with a friend for an hour-long shift ringing the Salvation Army Bell at the Elyria Giant Eagle. WACC's designated date is Saturday, December 16, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. The sign-up sheet is in our narthex, with cards to remind you of your chosen shift. Thanks for using your time to help others!

2007 Hot Meals Teams Forming

If you don't currently serve on a team to serve the once-a-month Salvation Army Hot Meal but would like to, please notify Glenna Knapp by **December 10**. (*Team captains, if there are changes to your team, or 2007 dates on which your team can't serve, please let Glenna know ASAP.*)

NEWS OF OUR FAMILY

Congratulations!

Lisa Farrar was married in Oberlin this past Wednesday, November 22. Best wishes and blessings, Lisa and Ahmad!

Celebrating anniversaries this week are Jack & Debbie Siffert (11/28, #14), Mike & Debby Willets and John & Helen Farrar (11/29, #31 and #20, respectively), and Benny & Kathy Greer (11/30, #43). Continued best wishes and blessings to all!

Christmas Open House

Chris Thomas and Chris Trunk invite you (and a guest) to their home on Saturday, December 9, 2-6 p.m. for a "Welcome, Christmas!" open house. Snacks, beverages and desserts will be served. Come in cheerful voice and holiday garb to sing around the old piano. (If you play keyboard, bring music to share.) Tour the garden (galoshes are recommended) by daylight and then, after dark, tour the neighborhood's festive lights by car.

Winterberry Lodge is located at 37690 Eagle Nest Dr., in Grafton's Flint Ridge community which is located near the intersection of Grafton Rd. and State Route 57.

Thank You

Many thanks to our WACC family for your prayers and other expressions of caring during my brother's illness and upon his death.
- Al Knapp and family

Prayer Focus

Please pray for abused and neglected children.

Hospitalized

At Southwest General: Maxine Roberts
At LifeCare: Harold Rickel
At Wesleyan Village: Myra Ball
At Home: Dick Burch
Dennis Schmidt

CALENDAR



- Thu., 11/30: - Joanna Circle holiday dinner at the home of Carolyn Long, 420 Park Ave., 6:30 p.m.
- Sun., 12/3: - First Sunday of Advent (see back page for the day's schedule).
- Mon., 12/4: - Stewardship Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 6 p.m.
- Worship Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 7 p.m.
- Tue., 12/5: - Webelos (Pack 131) gathering in their upstairs classrooms, 6:30 p.m.
- Elders' Budget Sub-committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 7 p.m.
- Wed., 12/6: - Chancel Choir rehearsals in Fellowship Hall, 8 p.m.
- Thu., 12/7: - Property Committee meeting in the sanctuary, 7 p.m.
- Sat., 12/9: - Property Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 4 p.m.
- Worship Committee work session (poinsettias), 9 a.m.