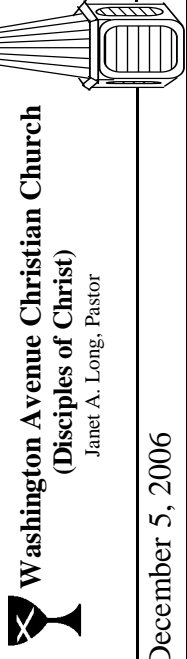




# THE SPREE



Washington Avenue Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
Janet A. Long, Pastor

301 Washington Avenue, Elyria, OH 44035-5124  
Phone: 440-323-4213 Fax: 440-323-4214  
Web Site: www.waccelyria.org  
E-mail: office@waccelyria.org

December 5, 2006

Vol. 06, No. 48

## Janet's Jottings

Dear Friends,

At this time of year when marketing explodes, when money is spent freely, and when meaning is often associated with giving and getting presents, the church dares to speak a contrary message: Money matters, not for what it can buy, but because its use sets the direction of a person's heart. Jesus said, *where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* (Matthew and Luke record that teaching in exactly the same way.) Our hearts follow our money...

Where is your heart going these days? No doubt it is going to the people you love and want to remember with gifts at Christmas. And it is going to feed your family (of one or many), heat your home, pay the rent/mortgage, and cover the rest of the bills. I pray that your heart is also here at Washington Avenue Christian Church where your gifts are used to feed the spirits of our church family, heat God's home, pay the mortgage, and cover the rest of the bills. But your gifts do so much more than that: they help to align your heart with the purposes of God—feeding the hungry, providing shelter to the homeless, sharing Good News with those in need, offering a haven of hope and peace. Every year, I feel God's challenge to me to grow in gratitude and generosity—and to give more - not so the church will have more, but so that my heart will be in a better place.

For me, that place is a place of peace as I recognize my dependence on God. Peace is more than an absence of war; peace is the presence of wholeness experienced through the presence of God's spirit in daily life and work and worship. Peace comes when God's will is fulfilled—when the lion and the lamb lie down together, when children are prized and protected, when our hearts follow our investment in the causes of the Prince of Peace.

I'll be looking for you Sunday as we prepare for the coming of the One who brings peace...

Love,  
*Janet*  
- Janet & Dan

Please come to our  
Open House  
this Sunday, December 10  
12:30 p.m.-2 p.m.  
356 Georgia Avenue  
- Janet & Dan

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**December 10, 2006—Second Sunday of Advent**  
*Deadline for turning in Cleveland Christian Home gifts.*  
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  
12:30 p.m. Open house at the home of Pastor Janet Long and Dan Clark, 356 Georgia Avenue

**OPENER:** Dan Clark **CLOSER:** Al Knapp  
**GREETERS:** Lauri Warfield and Shirley Shubert  
**ACOLYTES:** Halley Novak and Taylor Novak  
**WORSHIP LEADER:** Gary McIntyre  
**PREACHER:** The Reverend Dr. Janet A. Long  
**TELLERS:** Cheryl McKenna and Gerald Western  
**ELDER (8:30):** PIANIST (8:30):  
Dan Clark Rosalie Gainer  
**ELDERS (10:45):** HOME COMMUNION:  
Don Hange, Jr. Barbara Terrell  
Carol McIntyre Gary McIntyre  
**DIACONATE:** Team II  
**8:30 -** Mike Crocker and Robin Crocker  
**10:45 -** Peggy Haywood, John Henry, Jean Kennedy, Cindy Knapp, Debby Lance, Jack Price, Jim Stephenson, Jordan Stephenson, Sue Stephenson, and Ben Willets

## Youth News

Sprouts (Gr. 3-5); Chi Rho (Gr. 6-8); CYF (Gr. 9-12)  
**This Sunday, December 10:** All three youth groups and their families are invited to Pastor Janet Long and Dan Clark's open house, 356 Georgia Avenue, 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 unwrapped gifts for a child served by the Cleveland Christian Home.  
**Sunday, December 17:** All three youth groups (and their families) will take part in the All-Church Caroling Party, 5 p.m.-? Meet at the church with a festive snack to share afterwards at the home of Alan & Alice Paul, 10865 Deer Run Drive, Grafton.  
**Christmas Eve, December 24:** Sprouts, Chi Rho and CYF will set out luminaries at NOON (note time change) and then enjoy a "light" lunch. Please dress for the weather (hat and gloves). At 5 p.m., I'll need 4 people to help LIGHT the luminaries.  
Love, Glenna (324-6891) youth@waccelyria.org

## Last Call for Directory Information

*Info. is due Monday, December 11*

To help us prepare your 2007 WACC directory:

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. Specify if you want your **email** and/or **cell phone number** listed (and also note if your household phone number is unlisted). *Email and cell phone numbers will NOT be listed unless you ask us to do so.*
3. Please let us know of any birth or anniversary dates for your household that we may not already have.

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 on December 10.

### All directory information is due

**December 11.** *If we don't receive a form from you, we will assume the information printed in our 2004 directory remains current.*

Directories may be picked up Christmas Eve.

*Have you remembered the church in your will?*

### Experiencing Too Much Change?

If all the change in your life is weighing you down, why not toss it in the "Children's Change Changing Lives" jar each Sunday morning? That good feeling from helping the children of the Cleveland Christian Home will be sure to lighten your load!

*Remember the holiday open house this Saturday, December 9, at the home of Chris Thomas and Chris Trunk, 37690 Eagle Nest Dr., 2-6 p.m.*

### December 10 Lectionary Corner

Malachi 3:1-4  
Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 1:68-79  
Luke 3:1-6\*

\*Sermon focus

## 🌟 🌟 🌟 Holiday Happenings and Seasonal Sundries

### 🌟 🌟 🌟 This Sunday

 **The Cleveland Christian Home** collection ends. Please add your unwrapped gifts to the box in the narthex.

 **The Salvation Army Hot Meal Teams** sign-up ends. Please contact Glenna Knapp if you want to join a team that serves twice a year.

 **Enjoy the holiday open house** at the home of Pastor Janet and Dan Clark, 356 Georgia Avenue, 12:30-2 p.m.



### The Neighborhood House Association's

"Adopt-a-Family" program needs individuals to provide Christmas gifts to client families with several children. Another way to help is to give a monetary donation to the program and let the NHA staff shop for the children's gifts. Sponsor forms are posted on the youth bulletin board across from Glenna Knapp's office door.

*Please also remember WACC's NHA Giving Tree in our church office. Five children's names remain on the tree, and the deadline for having wrapped gifts under this tree is*

*December 13.*

*For more information on any of the above, contact the church office, 323-4213.*

# CALENDAR

- Thu., 12/7: - Property Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 4 p.m.
- Sat., 12/9: - Worship Committee work session (poinsettias), 9 a.m.
- Sun., 12/10: - Second Sunday of Advent (see back page for the day's schedule).
- Mon., 12/11: - Stewardship Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 6 p.m.
- Tue., 12/12: - Elders' supper meeting in the Elders' conference room, 5:30 p.m.
- Webelos (Pack 131) gathering in their upstairs classrooms, 6:30 p.m.
- General Board meeting in the youth rooms, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday Night LaPorte Group (AA) gathering in Fellowship Hall, 8 p.m.
- Wed., 12/13: - WACC hosts the Elyria Senior Women's Fellowship holiday luncheon, 10:30 a.m.
- Chancel Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7 p.m.
- Thu., 12/14: - Last day of Preschool until January 3, 2007.
- Christian Education Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 6:30 p.m.
- Sat., 12/16: - Salvation Army bell ringing at the Elyria Giant Eagle, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Sprouts and Chi Rho Christmas party at the home of Al & Glenna Knapp, 350 Lark Lane, 3 p.m. (ends 5 p.m.; bring unwrapped toys for the CCH).
- Salvation Army Hot Meal served by Team 5 (Alan & Alice Paul, captains).

## NEWS OF OUR FAMILY

### Congratulations...

...to Elliot and Jasmine Necker on their 2<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary (12/1)!

### Money Matters

Did you know...

...that contributions are being received to cover the cost of our new pipe organ?  
...that your 2006 commitment may be fulfilled until December 31?

...that if you are 70½ or older, you may direct the mandatory payout of your IRA to the church, bypassing any tax liability?

...that your giving to Washington Avenue Christian Church makes a difference to many?

Thank you for holding our church in your heart.

### All-Church Caroling Party

Meet at the church at 5 p.m. on

Sunday, December 17 for our annual caroling party. Bring a snack to share afterwards at the home of Alan & Alice Paul, 10865 Deer Run Drive, Grafton.

### Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers surround the Greer family in the death of Benny's mother, Jackie Waldron, on Sunday.

Services will be held tomorrow (Wednesday), with Pastor Janet Long officiating.  
May God's presence and peace be known.

### Prayer Focus

Please pray for peace.

### Hospitalized

EMH: Ginette ("Gina") DeSilvester

At LifeCare: Harold Rickel

At Wesleyan Village: Myra Ball

At Home: Ken Mundorf (in-and-out)

Maxine Roberts (Anchor Lodge)

### Salvation Army bell ringers

We have seven slots open on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Ringers are needed for one-hour shifts on Saturday, December 16 at the Elyria Giant Eagle.



**Remember to add your signature—and donation—to our all-church Christmas Card** in the narthex. Gifts will support the work of the Ohio Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



### The Elyria Hospitality Center collection

continues:

December 10 - Pasta and sauces

December 17 - Canned meats

December 24 - Beans

December 31 - Dried and canned fruits



**Sarah Circle's Holiday Luncheon** will be held

on Thursday, December 21, at noon, at the home of Pastor Janet, 356 Georgia Avenue. R.S.V.P. to the church office (323-4213) by Monday, December 18.

