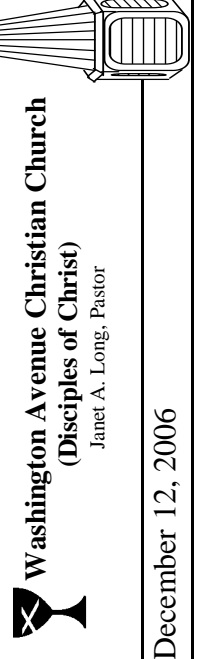




THE SPREE



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.waccelelyria.org
E-mail: office@waccelelyria.org

December 12, 2006

Vol. 06, No. 49

Janet's Jottings

Dear Friends,

This Sunday is one of the most anticipated of the year: "Madrigals' Sunday". The angelic voices of the Elyria High School Madrigal Singers will grace our 10:45 a.m. Worship Service. We are fortunate to be one of the congregations to host them on a Sunday morning during the season of Advent! Please be with us to welcome them...and to be blessed by their gift of music.

That evening, we will have the opportunity to share the music of the season with our homebound members and friends. Our annual All-Church Caroling Party will start at the church at 5 p.m. (or as soon as possible after the EHS Choir Concert). We will visit in homes and care facilities, offering carols of joy and greetings of love. Unlike the Madrigals, singing ability is not a requirement. Please join us in spreading Christmas cheer!

The following Sunday, December 24, is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The two morning Services will focus on that important occasion. The children will share their Christmas Pageant with the congregation between the Services—and breakfast will be served then, too. Children are part of the magic and wonder of Christmas. Please be with us to show your support and to enjoy their special presentation.

That evening, Christmas Eve, is one of the most cherished times in the life of the church. We will gather to celebrate the gift of the Christ Child. Three Services (4:30, 7:30 and 11:30) make it possible to weave worship and family time on this blessed occasion. Please be with us to welcome the Babe of Bethlehem...and to worship the Newborn King. Your presence is a gift to offer the Baby Jesus.

Continued blessings this Advent season...

Love,
Janet

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DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

December 17, 2006—Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Early Morning Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m. Common Grounds gathering followed by Church School
- 10:00 a.m. Breakfast for EHS Madrigal Families
- 10:45 a.m. Traditional Morning Worship Service
- 5:00 p.m. All-Church Caroling Party
- OPENER:** Pete Majewski **CLOSER:** Bob Wilhelm
- GREETERS:** Gerald Western and Keith Western
- ACOLYTES:** Deanna Forbush and Katie Kostohryz
- WORSHIP LEADER:** David Eby
- PREACHER:** The Reverend Dr. Janet A. Long
- TELLERS:** Jane Hutson and Brenda Keenan
- ELDER (8:30):** Chris Baumgartner
- PIANIST (8:30):** Lauri Warfield
- ELDERS (10:45):** Nancy Huller and Ken Oblak
- DIACONATE:** Team III
- 8:30 -** Linda Adkins and Sheila Smith
- 10:45 -** Jenny Bliss, Cheryl Grapes, Don Harold, Dennis Jackson, Ryan Mathes, Carol Mosher, Lynn Obechi, Sandy Rieth, Janet Stevens-Brown, and Joan Wilhelm

YOUTH NEWS

- Sprouts (Gr. 3-5); Chi Rho (Gr. 6-8); CYF (Gr. 9-12)
- This 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.
- This 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 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.
- Wednesday, December 27:** Sprouts and Chi Rho will meet at the church at 11 a.m. to retrieve luminaries and enjoy a pizza party and a fun outing.
- Thursday-Friday, December 28-29:** Hiram Conference CYF Lock-in (7 p.m.-11 a.m.) at High Street Christian Church, Akron. Bring \$5 and your own bedding and toiletries, plus a dozen cookies OR 6-pack of soda to share. **R.S.V.P. to me by December 21.** Love, *Glenna* (324-6891)

Go Tell It On the Mountain

2006 Christmas Special Day Offering

Thank you for giving generously!

Advance Conference Winter Retreat

Adults ages 18-29 (out of high school) are encouraged to attend the Advance Conference Winter Retreat December 29-31 at Camp Christian. The theme for Adult Conference events in 2006-2007 is "Lights! Camera! Action!" The Winter Retreat will feature the first part of that theme.

Registration is just \$30 for participants who sign up before December 24 (\$40 after that date). Complete information is posted on our main bulletin board.

Elyria Hospitality Center

Suggested donations for the remainder of December's collection includes:
 December 17 - Canned meats
 December 24 - Beans
 December 31 - Dried and canned fruits

December 17 Lectionary Corner

Zephaniah 3:14-20
 Isaiah 12:2-6
 Luke 3:7-18*

**Sermon focus*

*God sent his Son
 to be the Savior of the world.
 We saw his Son and are now
 telling others about him.
 - 1 John 4:14 (CEV)*

The Christmas Special Day Offering will support the work of the Ohio region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). To offer your gift, you may use the enclosed envelope, a specially-marked one from the pew rack this Sunday or the designated envelope from your numbered packet of offering envelopes. Or, place your gift in the box beneath the All-Church Christmas Card in the narthex.

Have you remembered the church in your will?

Adopt-A-Family

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.

All-Church Caroling Party

Meet at the church at 5 p.m. this 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 (Flint Ridge).

**Sarah Circle's
 Holiday Luncheon**

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

Money Matters

1. Please remember that all contributions to be credited to your 2006 pledge must be in to the church office (or postmarked) by Sunday, December 31.
2. Personalized 2007 offering envelope packets will be available in the narthex on Sunday, December 24. Please remember to discard your unused 2006 envelopes (including Covenant envelopes) after December 31.
3. It's not too late to submit a stewardship pledge for 2007. Pledge cards are on the small table in the narthex.

CALENDAR

- Thu., 12/14: - 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).
 Sun., 12/17: - Third Sunday of Advent (see back page for the day's schedule).
 Tue., 12/19: - Webelos (Pack 131) gathering in their upstairs classrooms, 6:30 p.m.
 - Tuesday Night LaPorte Group (AA) gathering in Fellowship Hall, 8 p.m.
 Wed., 12/20: - Chancel Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7 p.m.
 Thu., 12/21: - Sarah Circle holiday luncheon at the home of Pastor Janet, 356 Georgia Ave., 12 noon.



NEWS OF OUR FAMILY

Congratulations

Jim & Diane Borthwick are celebrating their 51st wedding anniversary (12/10).

You Are Invited...

...to the wedding of Katie Majewski and Mike Contreras on Sunday, December 24, at 5:30 p.m. in the WACC sanctuary. A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall immediately following the ceremony.

Sympathy

Our love and prayers surround Missy & John Vitullo and Skye Stephenson in the loss of baby Dominic Vincent Vitullo on Saturday. He was born prematurely and survived only a short time. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, December 20 at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary, with Pastor Janet Long officiating.

May God's presence and peace bring comfort.

Prayer Focus

Please pray for the peace and love of Christ to fill our hearts, our homes and our world.

Hospitalized

At Wesleyan Village: Myra Ball
At Home: Karen Davis (in-and-out)
 Gina DeSilvester
 Steve McCall
 Harold Rickel (Abbewood)
 Maxine Roberts (Villa Camillus)*

**Please note corrected location.*