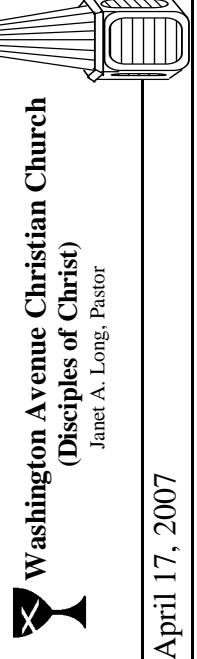


THE SPREE



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

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April 17, 2007

Vol. 07, No. 16

Janet's Jottings

Dear Friends,

Yesterday's tragedy on the campus of Virginia Tech is sad beyond words. Our hearts and prayers are with everyone affected. As students and faculty, family and community, staff and trustees, we are reminded of our vulnerability to such senseless acts of violence. If it can happen in bucolic Blacksburg, it can happen anywhere.

The rhetoric has begun in the elusive search for someone to blame. Could the school administration have sounded an earlier warning? Could the gun laws of our country, making it possible for a person to acquire such weapons, be the cause? Could anyone have detected the rage in the young student and anticipated such action?

The newscasters are insightful about at least one thing: There are far more questions than answers. That is true from a faith standpoint as well: Those who believe that everything happens for a divine reason – and that this is somehow part of God's plan – will be hard-pressed to explain this as being within the will of a loving God.

Such unimaginable horror and heartbreak leaves us with mournful hearts and melancholy spirits. It reduces us to prayer and brings us to our knees. If we allow it, such an event also can bring us to our senses. It puts things in perspective as we recognize what is insignificant and realize what is truly important in life.

You see, I was going to write this column about the minor technical difficulty with the organ pedal board which delayed Sunday's afternoon dedication concert to the evening. I was going to comment on the combination of grace, humor and patience exhibited by the wonderful folks of WACC and our many good-natured guests.

But, now, that inconvenience seems inconsequential. What matters is our relationship with God and one another, our faith in a God of community and compassion who offers hope and healing, our mission to worship and to witness to a God of love, and our belief that – through the Risen Christ – love and life will win over hate and death.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. And, may your perspective of what is important reflect the Divine...

Love, Janet

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April 22, 2007

8:30 a.m. Early Morning Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Common Grounds followed by
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Traditional Morning Worship Service
12:00 noon Sprouts and Chi Rho gathering
OPENER: Steve Woosley **CLOSER:** Don Hange, Sr.
GREETERS: Nancy and Claire Huller
ACOLYTES: Jillian Kazmierczak and Sarah Turner
WORSHIP LEADER: Arlene Burch
PREACHER: The Reverend Dr. Janet A. Long
TELLERS: Dan Clark and Tim Haywood

ELDER (8:30): Don Hange, Jr.
ELDER (10:45): Becky Thompson

HOME COMMUNION: Alice Paul
Lynn Obechi

DIACONATE: Team IV

8:30 - Marilyn Bauer and Roger Bauer
10:45 - Amy Anderson, Claire Huller, Sean Kersey, Audrey Lauffer, Jeff Lauffer, Gary McIntyre, Sharon Siffert, Kathy Wainwright, Lauren Wainwright, and Mark Wainwright

Youth News

Camp/Conference Dates, Fees and Deadlines
Lowest-rate registration ends THIS SUNDAY.
Forms are available on the bench outside my office.

Camp Otter (Sprouts) AND Camp Cuyahoga (Chi Rho) **together at Camp Christian** June 17-23
CYF Hiram Conference June 24-30
Camp Badger (Sprouts) July 8-14
Camp Beaver (Sprouts) July 22-28

Sprouts registration is \$290 through April 22 or \$300 through June 4. Chi Rho/CYF registration is \$240 through April 22 or \$265 through June 4.

Scholarships of up to \$145 (Sprouts) or \$120 (Chi Rho/CYF) may be earned through participation in Worship, Church School and youth group.

This Sunday, April 22: Sprouts and Chi Rho will gather in the youth rooms, noon-3 p.m.

Sunday, May 6: CYF will gather at the home of Pastor Janet Long and Dan Clark, 6-8 p.m.
Love, Glenna

**For the "Geese"
Convocation**

2007 Ohio Women's Ministries
THIS SATURDAY—April 21
"God!! Can You Hear Me Now?"
Keynote Rev. Mary Jo Bray will speak about the power of prayer, special interest workshops will be offered, and Project "Under Cover" will provide new socks and underclothes for boys and girls of the Hocking Valley Parish. (Please bring these items with you to the event.) Registration is \$60; forms are available on our main bulletin board and through the church office. You may also register on-line at: www.ccinoh.org

* * *

Ohio Women's Ministries Spring Gathering
May 19 at First Christian Church, Ravenna
Women of Districts 2, 3, 4, 7 and 15 will meet to network and worship at 9:30 a.m. Lunch is included in the \$10 registration fee. The church is located at 420 S. Prospect Street, Ravenna. Call 330-296-6383 to R.S.V.P.

The "Ganders" Turn

Are you interested in joining other men of WACC for fellowship, service to the church and FUN? Contact Tim Widman (call 458-4266 or email tjawidman@oh.rr.com) to add your name to the list of those interested in putting together such a group.

* * *

Disciples Men's Fellowship
Spring Retreat

May 18-20 at Camp Christian

Registration forms and complete information will soon be posted on our main bulletin board, and can also be obtained through the church office (323-4213).

April 22 Lectionary Corner

Acts 9:1-6, 7-20
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19*

*Sermon focus

Have you remembered the church in your will?

For Everyone...Even the "Goslings"
Disciples Fellowship Retreat
Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-27
at Camp Christian

This flexible-stay retreat is for families, singles, children, youth, and couples...of all ages. It offers scheduled activities (worship, crafts, swimming, nature hikes, singing, fishing, Bible study, music class, camp history, World War II stories, work projects, talent show, etc.) as well as free time. Registration starts at 8:30 Friday evening. The event ends Sunday at 1 p.m. so you can return home in time to enjoy your own Memorial Day traditions.

Fees are based on a per-person rate, age, and desired length of stay. Maximum rate for one adult is \$50; an entire household can enjoy the weekend for just \$150. These rates include lodging and all meals. Complete information is available on our main bulletin board, or by contacting the church office (phone 323-4213 or email office@waccelyria.org).

Speaking of Camp: Parents, early-bird (a.k.a. "most affordable") registration for children's and youth camps ends **THIS SUNDAY, April 22.** Details may be found in this issue's "Youth News".

CROP Walk is May 5

The 31st annual Lorain/Elyria CROP Walk will take place Saturday, May 5, at 8 a.m. at the Day's Dam Picnic Area of the Lorain County Metroparks. The walk will take place on the beautiful trails of the park system.

Fifty percent of all CROP proceeds raised locally are retained by our local hunger-relief centers, such as the Elyria Hospitality Center. The remaining funds fight hunger abroad through the trusted network of relief agencies of which Church World Service is a part.



Contact Keith Western to walk or to sponsor a walker. (Register ASAP to have more time to raise funds. Can we beat WACC's record total of \$3,889?)

Lenten Supper & Study Reprise

A requested reunion of the participants of this year's Lenten Supper & Study series will be held on Monday, April 30 at 5:55 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you were part of the study, you will want to share in this wrap-up event!

NEWS OF OUR FAMILY

Congratulations!

Jeff Walker and Austra Anusauskaite were married on Saturday, April 14, in Middlefield, Connecticut. Best wishes and blessings to the newlyweds!

Celebrating anniversaries this week are Warren & Evelyn Hollis (4/17, #59), Bill & Diane Wallhead (4/18, #54) and Gerry & Debby Higgins (4/19, #6). Continued best wishes to all!

WACC General Board Retreat Slated

Elders, Committee Chairs, Diaconate members, and other interested members of the congregation are invited to an afternoon retreat on Sunday, May 6, 12 noon-3 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. We will be envisioning future directions for WACC.

Hospitality Center Collection

Please remember to bring in the following for the Elyria Hospitality Center:
April 22 - Paper products
April 29 - Boxed macaroni & cheese

Prayer Focus

Please pray for everyone affected by the tragic shootings at Virginia Tech.

Sympathy

Our love and prayers surround...

... Marion Wiles in the death of her nephew, Ralph Cummings.

... Wilma Yanick in the death of her sister-in-law, Mary Yanick.

May God's peace comfort all who mourn.

Hospitalized

At Grace, Amherst: George ("Bob") McNulty

At LifeCare: Barb Boehler

At Home: Louise Huffman

CALENDAR

Thu., 4/19: - Sarah Circle luncheon at the home of Carolyn Long, 420 Park Avenue, 12 noon.
- Property Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 4 p.m.

- Christian Education Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 6:30 p.m.
Sat., 4/21: - Salvation Army Hot Meal served by Team 2 (Carol McIntyre, captain).

Sun., 4/22: - See back page for the day's schedule.
Mon., 4/23: - Youth rooms in use, 8 a.m.

Tue., 4/24: - Outreach Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 7 p.m.
- Church Life & Growth Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 7 p.m.

Wed., 4/25: - Tuesday Night LaPorte Group (AA) gathering in Fellowship Hall, 8 p.m.
- Inquirers Class gathering in the Elders' conference room, 3:30 p.m.

Fri., 4/27: - Chancel Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7 p.m.
- Church office closed (vacation day).

