

### December 16, 2007—The Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Early Morning Worship Service  
9:15 a.m. Common Grounds, followed by  
9:45 a.m. Christmas Pageant  
10:45 a.m. Traditional Morning Worship  
5:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling and Party  
**OPENER:** Pete Majewski **CLOSER:** Don Hange, Sr.  
**GREETERS:** Sue McKain and Barbara Terrell  
**ACOLYTES:** Deanna Forbush and Sarah Turner  
**WORSHIP LEADER:** Polly Simmons  
**PREACHER:** The Reverend Dr. Janet A. Long  
**TELLERS:** Cheryl McKenna and Gerald Western  
**ELDER (8:30):**  
Jane Hutson  
**ELDERS (10:45):**  
Barbara Terrell  
Becky Thompson  
**DIACONATE:** Team III  
**8:30 -** Linda Adkins and Jason Higgins  
**10:45 -** Jenny Bliss, Cheryl Grapes, Gary Knapp,  
Carol Mosher, Lynn Obechi, Bob Rieth, Sandy Rieth,  
Janet Stevens-Brown, Wayne Walker, and Joan  
Wilhelm

### YOUTH NEWS

**This Saturday, December 15:** Rehearsal for our Christmas Pageant will be Saturday, December 15, 12:30-2 p.m. in the sanctuary.

**This Sunday, December 16:** You won't want to miss the Christmas Pageant this Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary! Then, don't forget to return to WACC at 5 p.m. for Christmas caroling; bring a snack to share for the party afterwards.

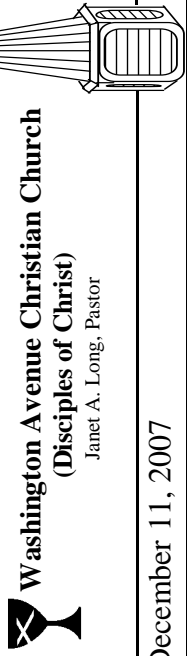
**Sunday, December 23:** The EHS Madrigals, with our own Lauren Wainwright, will sing at 10:45 a.m.  
**Monday, December 24:** We'll meet at 5 p.m. for a light supper, then place and light our traditional Christmas Eve luminaries. Dress for the weather!

**"WANEW St." Winter Retreat:** The Washington Avenue, North Eaton, Westlake, and Akron High St. (W.A.N.E.W. St.) Christian Church winter retreat at Camp Christian will be January 25-27. This event is for Chi Rho (grades 6-8) and CYF (grades 9-12).

**Hiram Conference Mid-Winter Retreat:** The CYF (grades 9-12) Hiram Conference Mid-Winter Retreat will be held February 8-10 at First Christian Church, Wadsworth. Registration information is posted on our main bulletin board.

- Jim Stephenson

# 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 11, 2007

Vol. 07, No. 48

## Janet's Jottings

Dear Friends,

Have you ever found yourself amused by a child who unwrapped a gift, only to prefer the box in which the toy was packaged to the gift itself?

Is it possible we have done the same thing? Has the packaging of Christmas become the focal point? Have we come to cherish the traditions of the season—the parties, the ornaments, the cookies, the gift exchanges—and left behind the true Gift of Christmas?

It is cute when little kids can't distinguish levels of value. It signals serious trouble when adults have the same problem. We have to watch the allure of the wrappings and the trappings of the season or we will miss the true treasure that is Christmas.

The prophets proclaimed the need for watching and waiting, for repenting and rejoicing. How will you prepare your heart to receive God's Love?

Please consider these possibilities:

- Share the blessing of Advent and Christmas in worship and fellowship here at WACC.
- Share the joy of the season by going Christmas caroling this Sunday.
- Share the gift of yourself with someone who needs holiday cheer.

These days of preparation are a gift from God. Blessings as you "prepare the way of the Lord..."

Love,

### 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

### Pageant and Caroling Set for 12/16

Be with us on Sunday, December 16 for our annual Christmas Pageant. This year's not-to-be-missed program will be held at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary, following a holiday version of Common Grounds at 9:15 a.m.

At 5 p.m., please meet back at the church for the All-Church Caroling Party.

We'll set out in small groups to bring holiday cheer to some of our homebound friends, and then gather for a post-caroling party. Please bring a snack to share.

*Pageant rehearsal is this Saturday, December 15, 12:30-2 p.m. in the sanctuary.*

### Last-Minute Gift Ideas

We have WACC candle holders (\$20), gold-tone keepsake ornaments (\$10) and matted photos of WACC and scenes from the Elyria area (\$25 and \$20) for sale. If any of these items can help you complete your Christmas shopping, call the church office or Helen Farrar. Proceeds will benefit Worship Committee projects.

### Dates to Remember

**December 30**—Fifth Sunday Church Family Fun Night, 5:30-7:30 p.m., featuring pizza and games.

**December 31**—Last day for mailing or dropping off 2007 contributions to WACC.

**January 6**—Epiphany celebration, including children's focus in the 10:45 Service, lunch and taking down the Christmas decorations.

**January 13**—Congregational meeting to vote on the 2008 operating budget.

### December 16 Lectionary Corner

Isaiah 35:1-10  
James 5:7-10  
Psalm 146:5-10  
Matthew 11:2-11\*

\**Sermon focus*

### Have you remembered the church in your will?

#### Free Piano Available

A spinet piano no longer needed by the church is being given away free to a good home. The recipient needs to make arrangements to pick up the piano before Christmas. Contact the church office (440-323-4213; office@waccelyria.org) if interested.

#### Women Inmates Subject of Film Study

Joanna Circle will view the film, "What I Want My Words to Do To You" at the group's January 3 meeting. The movie follows a four-year journey of 15 women inmates who are part of a writing workshop at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. The film closes with a performance of the inmates' work, by actors Glenn Close, Rosie Perez, Marisa Tomei, and others.

Glenna Knapp, who will lead a discussion afterwards, was introduced to the film at one of her lay ministry classes. Joanna Circle will meet at 7 p.m. at the home of Helen Farrar, 298 Longford Avenue.

#### Christmas Eve Services

4:30 p.m.—Service of Carols and Celebration  
7:30 p.m.—Service of Candlelight and Carols  
11:30 p.m.—Service of Candlelight and Communion

Thu., 12/13: - Brownie Troop #524 gathering in the youth rooms, 6 p.m.

Fri., 12/14: - Youth rooms in use, 6-8 p.m.

Sat., 12/15: - Worship Committee work session (pointsettias), 9 a.m.

- Salvation Army bell ringing at the Midway Mall Giant Eagle, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

- Christmas Pageant rehearsal in the sanctuary, 12:30 p.m.

- Salvation Army Hot Meal served by Team 5 (Glenna Knapp, captain).

- Third Sunday of Advent (see back page for the day's schedule).

Tue., 12/18: - Tuesday Night LaPorte Group (AA) meeting in Fellowship Hall, 8 p.m.

Wed., 12/19: - Chancel Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7 p.m.

Thu., 12/20: - Sarah Circle holiday luncheon at the home of Pastor Janet, 356 Georgia Ave., 12 noon.

### Thank You!

Dear WACC Members,

Thank you all for your weekly support of the Elyria Hospitality Center through food, clothing and money. With a growing (unfortunately) clientele, your continued support is a blessing to us. The spirit of Christmas is a year-round miracle!

Love,

*Bud & Polly Simmons*

*Co-Directors, Elyria Hospitality Center*

What a generous and loving church family you are! All 50 nametags were gone from the Neighborhood House Association Giving Tree by Sunday afternoon! I took an astounding mound of gifts (more than I could get into my full-sized van) to NHA's main office on Monday—and will make another trip on Friday. You not only provided many gifts, but they were as beautifully and lovingly wrapped as if they were for your own children.

I have a personal interest in this special outreach effort which has become an annual Christmas tradition here at WACC. Four members of my extended family (including my daughter, Amy Anderson) work for NHA helping to care for these children all year 'round. I feel blessed to be a part of WACC's mission and ministry to our community. On behalf of the children of the NHA and our church's Outreach Committee, thank you!

Love and blessings,  
*Glenna Knapp*

*Please recycle your 5"x7" Christmas cards by giving them to Glenna for next year's Giving Tree.*



### NEWS OF OUR FAMILY

#### Congratulations!

Jim & Diane Borthwick are celebrating their 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary (12/10)!

#### Music of the Season

Several WACC youth will be featured in weekend holiday concerts. The Oberlin Choristers will perform Saturday, December 15 at 7:30 p.m. in Finney Chapel. The Elyria High School a capella choir concert is Sunday, December 16 at 3 p.m. in the EHS auditorium.

#### More Thanks

My dear WACC family,

Thank you for the outpouring of your love of which I was the recipient these past few days and, in fact, throughout all the years I've had the privilege to be with you!

Thank you for wonderful greetings at church and at the surprise birthday party Sunday at Janet and Dan's.

With grateful love,  
*Carolyn*

#### Prayer Focus

Please pray for those affected by recent shooting rampages.

#### Hospitalized

At EMH: Helen Farrar

LifeCare Elyria: Bruce Siffert

At Wesleyan Village: George Baker

Anne Prentice

In rehab in Florida: Mildred Wainwright

At Home: Debi Knowlton

Don Mosher