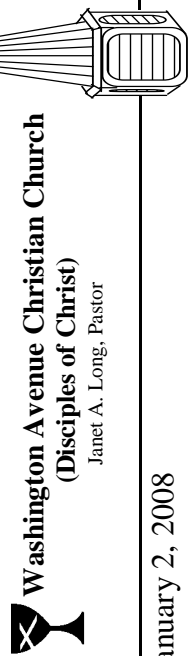




THE SPREE



Washington Avenue Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Janet A. Long, Pastor

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January 2, 2008

Vol. 08, No. 01

Janet's Jottings

Dear Friends,

The year 2008 has arrived! Its unblemished quality is much like the snowfall which blankets the earth this morning. Its endless possibilities stretch out before us like the clean calendar pages containing 366 little blank blocks.

How will you approach those days? As gift and grace, as duty and drudgery, as hopeful and happy, as passive and perfunctory? How you choose to spend your days—your actions, your emotions, your motives, your moods—matters.

I don't know about you, but my new year's resolutions sound like a broken record from year to year, as familiar as the strains of "Auld Lang Syne". Eat less; exercise more. Work less; pray more. Buy less; recycle more.

This year, I thought I'd mention a few ideas in the form of an acronym...

Worship more often and more intentionally. After all, worship is at the heart of the Christian life. It's what makes our faith ring true.

Aim to be more agreeable. Abraham Lincoln wisely observed, "People are just as happy as they make up their minds to be."

Count your blessings and act out of gratitude for all that God does for you and all that others do for you. Say "please" and "thank you" regularly (religiously!).

Commit to more acts of kindness, forgiveness, generosity, reconciliation, and compassion. Respond to all situations in love.

May the year ahead be blessed for you and by you.

Love,

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



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

January 6, 2008—Epiphany
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 Epiphany Celebration, including luncheon
and storing of the greens

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

GREETERS: To be named

ACOLYTES: Daniel March and Romeo Walker

WORSHIP LEADER: Ashley Walker

PREACHER: The Reverend Dr. Janet A. Long

TELLERS: Mark Mathes and Ken Oblak

ELDER (8:30):

Steve Bond

ELDER (8:30):

Carolyn Long

ELDERS (10:45):

Jane Hutson

Barbara Terrell

DIACONATE: Team I

8:30 - Bud and Polly Simmons

10:45 - Liz Everhard, Pam Henry, Steve McCall,

Stephanie Thimke, Chris Thomas, Dan Walker, Nancy

Walker, and Keith Western

YOUTH NEWS

Portahoga Toga Party: Chi Rho (grades 6-8)

are invited to First Christian Church, Alliance

January 11-12 for an overnight toga party with youth

from Districts 2, 3, 7 & 15. Cost is \$5 per person

plus a snack to share. There will be food, worship

and lots of activity options...including a quiet room

for those who want to sleep. Note: Toga wearers

must be fully dressed beneath their togas. ☺

"WANAW 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

453-6521

jstephenson9@oh.rr.com

Have you remembered the church in your will?

Epiphany Celebration This Sunday

Be with us for worship this Sunday as we celebrate Epiphany.

The 10:45 a.m. Service will include the presentation of Bibles to our 4th-graders and a gift to our Acolytes. A noon luncheon will take place after that Service, followed by the taking down of the Christmas decorations throughout the church. Please plan to include your family in this special tradition.



Lost and Found

Please remember to check the coatroom if you think you may have lost anything (umbrella, hat, gloves, etc.) at church recently. However, items of greater value (i.e. jewelry, electronic games, etc.) are kept locked in the church office. The following items have been turned in recently:

Children's pop-up book (*Daniel in the Lion's Den*)
Electronic game (left after the Christmas pageant rehearsal?)

"Pony Friends" Nintendo game card

Ear phones (for ipod? Found in parking lot.)

Tie clasp back

Please call 323-4213 if any of these items belong to you.

Book Club to Meet January 17

The Book Club will meet in the Elders' conference room on Thursday, January 17, at 7 p.m. The group will discuss Khaled Hosseini's, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.

January 6 Lectionary Corner

Isaiah 60:1-6
 Ephesians 3:1-12
 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
 Matthew 2:1-12*

**Sermon focus*

All-Church Christmas Card

The following send holiday wishes through their support of our All-Church Christmas Card which benefits the Ohio Region as part of the Christmas Special Day Offering:

Roger & Marilyn Bauer
 Chuck & Chris Baumgartner

Janet & Richard Brown
 Jim & Lil Collier
 The Davis Family
 Doris Dodrill

John & Helen Farrar
 Jim & Rosalie Gainer
 Pat Gohle

The Hange Family
 Jane Hutson
 Sherry and Cameron

Hyder
 Judy Jackson
 Michelle and Jillian

Kazmierczak
 Brenda Keenan
 Rick & Jean Kennedy
 Kim Kiser

Al & Glenna Knapp
 Janet Long & Dan Clark

The Majewski Family
 Melanie Majewski
 Mark & Susan Mathes
 Sue McKain
 Ken & Kay Mundorf

Pat & Sandee Murphy
 Halley and Taylor Novak

The Obechi Family
 Becky Papenbrock
 Jack & Audrey Price
 Shirley Shubert

Bud & Polly Simmons
 Sheila Smith
 Skye Stephenson

Barbara Terrell
 The Thimke Family
 Sarah Turner

John & Missy Vitullo
 The Wainwright Family

Nautica Walker
 Pauline Wallace
 Lauri Warfield
 Frank & Harryette Wargo

Gerald & Barbara Western
 Keith Western
 Sandy Woosley

Holiday Greetings Received

The following sent holiday greetings to the entire WACC family:

Families and Individuals

George & Adelle Baker
 Jane Herrington
 The Mattern Family
 Wayne & Carol McMullen

Organizations

Christian Church Foundation Staff
 Lexington Theological Seminary
 LifeTouch Directories
 Pathways Counseling & Growth Center Staff
 Pension Fund of the Christian Church
 Ross Builders

Their cards and notes are posted on our main bulletin board.

Congregational Meeting Set

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, January 13, following the 10:45 a.m. Worship Service, for the purpose of adopting the 2008 operating budget. All church members are encouraged to attend.

Laity Sunday is January 20

On Laity Sunday, we celebrate the Christian ministry carried out by all church members. Please be with us (and say, "Yes!" if you are asked to help) as our friends in the pews lead us in Worship on January 20.

NEWS OF OUR FAMILY

Congratulations!

Alan & Mary Lou Petersen welcomed a second grandson, Oliver Maxwell Brown, on December 21. Parents Leslie & Mike and big brother Sam are happy with the early Christmas gift! Aunt Amy was home from Chicago just in time for the celebration. Best wishes and blessings to all!

Deanna White has accepted a call to serve as pastor of the Hocking Valley Parish, an association of five small Disciples congregations in rural southeastern Ohio. Our prayers go with her!

Our year-end anniversary couples include Sam & Lynn Obechi (12/21, #19); Steve & Joy Bond and Ken & Kay Mundorf (12/22, #34 for both couples); and, Mike & Katie Contreras (12/24, #1).

Thank You

The WACC staff is grateful to the Elders and members of the congregation for the thoughtful greetings and gifts at Christmastime.

Prayer Focus

Please pray for peace in the Middle East and Africa.

Hospitalized

At EMH: Helen Farrar
At Community Health Partners: Lil Collier
At Wesleyan Village: Anne Prentice
In rehab in Florida: Mildred Wainwright
At Home: Larry McIntyre

CALENDAR

Thu., 1/3: - Joanna Circle gathering at the home of Janet Long, 356 Georgia Ave. (note location change), 7 p.m.

Sun., 1/6: - Epiphany (children-focused worship, 10:45 a.m.; lunch and storing of the greens, 12 noon).

Mon., 1/7: - Worship Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 7 p.m.

Tue., 1/8: - Elders' supper meeting in the Elders' conference room, 5:30 p.m.

- General Board meeting in the youth rooms, 7 p.m.

- Tuesday Night LaPorte Group (AA) meeting in Fellowship Hall, 8 p.m.

Wed., 1/9: - Chancel Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7 p.m.

Thu., 1/10: - Property Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 4 p.m.

- Brownie Troop #524 gathering in the youth rooms, 6 p.m.

Fri., 1/11: - Chi Rho Portahoga Toga Party overnight at First Christian Church, Alliance (ends 1/12).

