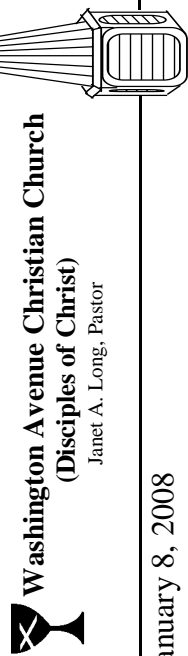




THE SPREE



Washington Avenue Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Janet A. Long, Pastor

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January 8, 2008

Vol. 08, No. 02

Janet's Jottings

Dear Friends,

A significant realization occurs, resulting in a change of behavior. "She saw the light," we observe. "He came to his senses," we remark.

When we catch a glimpse of God's reign hidden in this old world of ours, we experience an epiphany. We catch sight of the holy.

Has this ever happened to you? Something suddenly becomes clear. God's presence becomes real. You say that you finally "get it".

Epiphany—the season after Christmastide—is the time of the church year dedicated to opening ourselves to experience God made manifest.

The gift of God's Son opens us to see the gift of God in one another. The light of the star beckons us to come and worship. Hope is rekindled. Grace seeps in.

Epiphany calls us to look for God in the mundane, the familiar, the everyday. What we find will be anything but. God continues to be made known.

Stop. Look. Listen. Breathe deeply of God's peace. Pray for God's direction. Be open to an epiphany. Rejoice that God comes – again and again and again...

Epiphany blessings to you.

Love,

Washington Avenue Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

January 13, 2008

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 Congregational meeting to adopt the
2008 operating budget

OPENER: Dan Clark **CLOSER:** Keith Western

ACOLYTES: Dan McGann and Bradley Thimke

WORSHIP LEADER: Allison Widman

PREACHER: The Reverend Dr. Janet A. Long

TELLERS: John McKenna and Lauri Warfield

ELDER (8:30): **PIANIST (8:30):**

Tim Widman

Rosalie Gainer

ELDERS (10:45): **HOME COMMUNION:**

Nancy Huller

Betty McIntyre

Dan Clark

Joan Wilhelm

DIACONATE: Team II

8:30 - Teri Hayes and Bob Maxwell

10:45 - Peggy Haywood, John Henry, Jean Kennedy,
Debby Lance, Jack Price, Karen Schneider, Jim
Stephenson, Jordan Stephenson, Sue Stephenson,
and Jeni Sweeten

YOUTH NEWS

Portahoga Toga Party January 11-12: Chi Rhoers (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. (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. This year's theme will be, "Here I Am, Lord...Send Aaron!" Registration information is posted on our main bulletin board.

- Jim Stephenson
453-6521
jstephenson9@oh.rr.com

FREE Calendar—Upcoming Events

Be sure to take a free calendar (and your 2008 offering envelopes) from the hall of the new building. You'll want to note on it the events below for adults:

- ❖ **Lenten Retreat for Women**
March 7-8: *"Praying Our Way to the Cross"*
- ❖ **Advance Conference Spring Retreat**
April 18-20
For post-high school adults through age 29
- ❖ **Ohio Women's Ministries Convocation**
April 19
Gender Road Christian Church, Canal Winchester
Keynote Speaker: Rev. Brenda Webster, Regional Program Minister
- ❖ **Homecoming and Open House**
May 3-4
- ❖ **Ohio Disciples Men's Spring Retreat**
May 16-18
- ❖ **Disciples Fellowship Retreat**
May 23-25
- ❖ **Sessions 2008**
July 17-20 / Oklahoma City, OK
For men of the church; a bus will be available for Ohio attenders (R.S.V.P. by February 8)
- ❖ **Advance Conference**
August 10-17
For post-high school adults through age 29
- ❖ **Ohio Disciples Women's Fall Retreat**
September 12-14
- ❖ **Ohio Disciples Men's Fall Retreat**
September 19-21
Keynote speaker: Rev. Johnny Wray, Director, Week of Compassion
- ❖ **Regional Assembly**
October 17 & 18 / Crowne Plaza, Columbus, OH
"Body Building: Strengthen Your Congregation for Mission"

All events will be held at Camp Christian unless otherwise noted. Call 614-433-0343 or email ccio@ccinoh.org for further information on any of the above.

Have you remembered the church in your will?

WACC to Host "Children Worship & Wonder" Training March 7-9

In cooperation with Disciples Home Missions, Washington Avenue Christian Church will host "Children Worship & Wonder" training March 7-9.

The CW&W approach recognizes children as spiritual beings who already have a relationship with God.

Through CW&W, children learn about God as they experience God. They hear Bible stories in a way that allows them to enter into the stories and form responses out of their own life experiences. CW&W can be used with children ages 3-13, with a wide range of ages grouped together in one class. This Montessori-based model often works wonders with children who have attention deficit problems.

Registration for the 3-day workshop is \$120 (before February 2; \$140 for later registrations). Sessions will run Friday, 6-9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and, Sunday, 2-5 p.m. The Reverend Kaye W. Edwards, Disciples' Director of Family & Children's Ministries, will conduct the training. Call 888-346-2631 or email kedwards@dhm.disciples.org for complete information or to register.

- 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).
- Sun., 1/13: - See back page for the day's schedule.
- Mon., 1/14: - Northwood Service Unit Girl Scout Leaders' meeting in Fellowship Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Outreach Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 7 p.m.
- Tue., 1/15: - Tuesday Night LaPorte Group (AA) meeting in Fellowship Hall, 8 p.m.
- Wed., 1/16: - Chancel Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7 p.m.
- Thu., 1/17: - Sarah Circle gathering in the youth rooms, 10:45 a.m.
- Christian Education Committee meeting in the Gibbens conference room, 6:30 p.m.
- Book Club gathering in the Elders' conference room, 7 p.m.
- Sat., 1/19: - Salvation Army Hot Meal served by Team 4 (Mark & Susan Mathes, captains).

Congregational Meeting This Sunday

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

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*. All interested adults are welcome to attend.

Sarah Circle Monthly Meeting

Sarah Circle will gather on Thursday, January 17, at 10:45 a.m. in the youth rooms. Shirley Shubert will lead the program. Please bring a sandwich for lunch; dessert and coffee will be provided.

Laity Sunday is January 20

On Laity Sunday, we celebrate the Christian ministry carried out by all church members. Please be with us as our friends in the pews lead us in Worship on January 20.

January 13 Lectionary

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Matthew 3:13-17*

**Sermon focus*

NEWS OF OUR FAMILY

Join the Celebration

You are invited to a birthday luncheon in honor of Pauline Wallace (whose 85th birthday is that weekend) on Sunday, January 20, following the 10:45 a.m. Worship Service. Hosted by her family, the party will be held in Fellowship Hall. Plan to be part of this special occasion!

Prayer Focus

Please pray for those affected by recent storms.

Sympathy

Our love and prayers surround...

...Richard and Janet Stevens-Brown and the Tobin family in the death of Rich's mother and Liz's grandmother, Mona Brown, last Thursday in North Carolina.

...Phil Hastings and family in the death of his mother, Dorothy Hastings, December 29. Services will be held tomorrow (Wednesday) in Virginia.

Hospitalized

At EMH: Jim Borthwick
Joan Wilhelm

At Wesleyan Village: Anne Prentice

In rehab in Florida: Mildred Wainwright

At Home: Lil Collier
Helen Farrar
Todd Turner

CALENDAR

