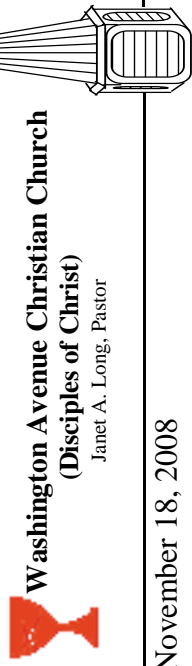




THE SPRE



Washington Avenue Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Janet A. Long, Pastor

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November 18, 2008

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Janet's Jottings

Dear Friends,

Joyful giving. It's what God hopes for us and wants from us.

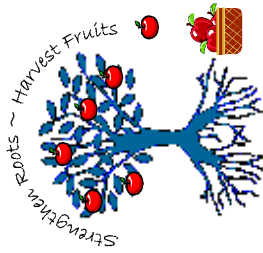
Thanksgiving Sunday and Consecration Day meld into the perfect occasion for joyful giving. We will have the opportunity to practice joyful giving in three distinct ways...

- 🍎 through worship: Singing hymns of praise, offering prayers of gratitude and communing at the Lord's Table by partaking in "the great thanksgiving";
- 🍎 through promises: Seeking to reflect our thanksgiving to God, we will prayerfully complete our financial commitments for 2009 as an act of worship; and,
- 🍎 through fellowship: Sharing in the abundance of our annual All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner is an experience of enjoying God's great bounty of food and friends.

As your pastor, I witness your joyful giving as a constant of congregational life. You joyfully give support to one another through prayer and encouragement. You joyfully give by participating in the life of the church. You joyfully give by representing our congregation in your workplace and in your volunteer efforts beyond our doors. You joyfully give by engaging in dialogue, inviting others to join you in the great journey of the spirit, and inspiring others through your example of faith and trust in God's grace.

I look forward to this Sunday when I will witness your joyful giving once again!

Love,



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**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY**

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Elyria, OH
Permit No. 332

November 23, 2008—Consecration Day

Poinsettia order deadline

- 8:30 a.m. Early Morning Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m. Common Grounds, followed by Church School
- 10:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
- 12:15 p.m. All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner
- OPENER:** Roger Bauer **CLOSER:** Gary McIntyre
- GREETERS:** Judy Jackson and Kim Kiser
- ACOLYTES:** Samantha Moore and Nautica Walker
- WORSHIP LEADER:** Cheryl McKenna
- PREACHER:** The Rev. Dr. Janet A. Long
- TELLERS:** Dan Clark and Tim Haywood
- ELDER (8:30):** Nancy Huller
- PIANIST (8:30):** Rosalie Gainer
- ELDERS (10:45):** Don Hange, Jr. and Mark Mathes
- DIACONATE:** Team IV

- 8:30 -** Marilyn Bauer and Roger Bauer
- 10:45 -** Arlene Burch, Dick Burch, David Eby, Nicole Eby, Gail Haywood, Jane Hutson, Brenda Keenan, Jody Kostohryz, Gary McIntyre, and Sharon Siffert

Wider-Church News

WOC to Get New Director

The Rev. Amy Gopp has been named Executive Director of Week of Compassion. Rev. Gopp will replace the Rev. Johnny Wray who will step down at the end of 2008 to spend more time with family while serving the church in other ways.

Rev. Gopp has served three years as Associate Director of WOC, following ministry as a missionary, preacher, global activist, and peacemaker. She hails from Kent, Ohio!

Pastoral Letter Urges Faith, Hope, Love

In a recent letter to congregations, Disciples General Minister and President Sharon Watkins shared good news of the financial stability of our denomination's financial ministries, despite other news of fluctuating international economic health.

She has called us, "to be in prayer for those who are most adversely affected" during times of economic instability, "to give voice through public policy for those whose voices are all too often left out of the international conversation", and, "in the midst of financial fragmentation, [to] be the movement for wholeness!"

Her letter, in its entirety, is published in the most recent edition of *The Buckeye Disciple* and is also posted on our main bulletin board.

Poinsettia Deadline This Sunday

Honor or remember a loved one with a poinsettia in our sanctuary this Christmas.

- M** 6" (5-8 blooms) \$ 5.50
- L** 7½" (10+ blooms) \$ 9.50
- XL** 8½" (15+ blooms) \$13.75

(If ordering for shut-ins, please consider that the 6" plant fits best in their rooms.)

Orders and payment must be in to the Church Office by **Sunday, November 23**. *(Orders placed in the offering plate must be in a sealed envelope marked, "Poinsettias".)* Checks may be made payable to: Washington Avenue Christian Church.

SIZE	No. of Red	No. of White	No. of Jingle Bell (Red & White mix)	No. of Marble (Pink & White mix)	\$ Total
M					
L					
XL					
GRAND TOTAL					\$

Please specify in **Honor** or **Memory** of:

(Name) _____

From: _____

(Name) _____

Distribution: _____

(Number/color/size to be picked up) _____

(Number/color of 6" plants for shut-in delivery) _____

Have you remembered the church in your will?

Community Thanksgiving Service

Remember to be with us for the Community Thanksgiving Service this Tuesday, November 25, at 7 p.m., at Wesleyan Village. This annual event is sponsored by the Elyria Ministerial Alliance and the Elyria Ministerial Association.

Reminder: Harvest displays are to be taken down following this Sunday's 10:45 a.m. Service.

Book Club Gathering

The Book Club will meet this Thursday, November 20, at 7 p.m. in the Elders' conference room. The group will discuss, *The Time Traveler's Wife*.

Partners in Prayer, an Advent devotional booklet, is available free of charge from the rack near the stairs leading to the sanctuary. Advent begins November 30.

November 23 Lectionary

Ezekiel 34:1-16, 20-24 Ephesians 1:15-23*
Psalm 100* Matthew 25-31-46

**Sermon foci*

Additional Outreach Opportunities: Please remember the Cleveland Christian Home collection box (deadline December 7) and Children's Change "Changing Lives coin wagon (ongoing), Neighborhood House Association Giving Tree (deadline December 11), and Elyria Hospitality Center shopping cart (ongoing—spaghetti and sauce, cereal, tuna, peanut butter, etc.).

CALENDAR

Thu., 11/20: - Sarah Circle gathering in the youth rooms, 10:45 a.m.

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

- Christian Education Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 6:30 p.m.

- Book Club gathering in the Elders' conference room, 7 p.m.

Sat., 11/22: - Grounds clean-up, 9 a.m.-12 noon.

Sun., 11/23: - Consecration Day (see back page for the day's schedule). *Poinsettia order deadline.*

Tue., 11/25: - Worship Committee work day (trees), 9 a.m.

- Community Thanksgiving Service at Wesleyan Village, 7 p.m. (choirs assemble at 6 p.m.)

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

Thu., 11/27: - Happy Thanksgiving! (Church office closed Thu. and Fri.)

Sat., 11/29: - Fellowship Hall in use.

December Birthdays

- 1 David Russell
- 1 Paul Kersey
- 16 Tanya Diedrick
- 17 Jim Stephenson
- 17 Debbie Walker
- 17 Bud Anderson
- 2 Sammie Kostohryz
- 2 Jenny Bliss
- 3 Sue McKain
- 3 Amy Anderson
- 3 Libby Nasipak
- 3 Taylor Anderson
- 3 Daniel March
- 3 Glenna Knapp
- 7 Brianna Payne
- 7 Chris Anderson
- 7 Darlene Henes
- 8 Rick Kennedy
- 8 Lisa Adkins
- 8 Sean Kersey
- 8 Steve Bond
- 9 Carolyn Long
- 9 Dolores Zechman
- 9 Amanda Hood
- 9 Sarah Thompson
- 9 Bob Maxwell
- 9 Phil Hastings
- 10 Linda Fridenstine
- 10 Grace Stock
- 10 Gail Hayward
- 10 Julianna Grindle
- 12 Ron Gardner
- 12 Carrie Chariton
- 12 Dan Walker
- 13 Chris Thomas
- 13 Doug Hayes
- 14 Alison McMahan
- 14 Lorrie Osborn
- 15 Mark Wainwright
- 15 Emily Siffert



December Acolytes

- 7 Cody Schneider and Tyler Schneider
- 14 Halley Novak and Taylor Novak
- 21 Aaron Kuzela and Jacob Kuzela
- 28 Katie Kostohryz and Sammie Kostohryz

NEWS OF OUR FAMILY

Congratulations!

James & Amy Filbert are celebrating their 5th wedding anniversary (11/21). Continued best wishes and blessings!

Thanksgiving Special Day Offering to Benefit Disciples' Higher Education

For nearly two centuries, Disciples colleges and universities have trained Disciples leaders to think clearly and rationally and to minister to the world around them. Disciples undergraduate institutions serve nearly 27,000 students in a wide variety of settings. These schools all share a commitment to the church, emphasize spiritual faith and values and cherish a commitment to a liberal arts education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Special Day Offering supports the training of our church's emerging leaders—an investment in our church's future.

To offer your gift, please use the enclosed envelope, the designated one from your personalized packet of offering envelopes, or a specially-marked one from the pew rack this Sunday. Checks should be payable to WACC, with "Thanksgiving" written on the memo line. Thank you for giving generously!

Prayer Focus

Please pray for God's guidance as you consider your 2009 financial commitment to the mission and ministry we share through Washington Avenue Christian Church.

Hospitalized

No one (of whom we are aware) at press-time. At Home (*The AbbeWood, Room 107* [*note new number!*]: Harold Rickel

