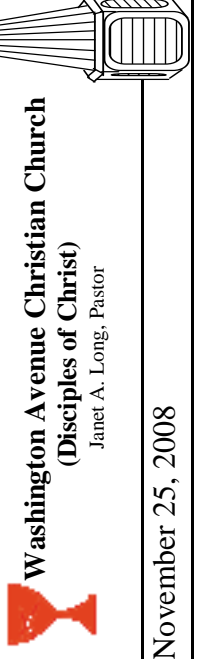


# THE SPREE



**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

November 25, 2008

Vol. 08, No. 46

## Janet's Jottings

Dear Friends,

We are "a people of the table". That phrase has been used to describe our identity as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We are a people who practice hospitality and welcome as we gather each week at the Lord's Table.

We have taken that declaration seriously. We have become linked not only to the communion table but to the tables of fellowship and feasting. The All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner this past Sunday is an example.

What a meal it was—tables laden with food and chairs loaded with diners! Fellowship Hall was crowded with the joyful noise of happy people. We were happy to be together and happy to be enjoying such bounty.

We'll do it again this coming Sunday when we gather in Worship for the Holy Feast and in fellowship for lunch prior to the Hanging of the Greens. Our Hospitality Committee is working overtime these days! Thank you...

Between those two occasions, we will observe Thanksgiving Day – a time for gathering together to thank God for all blessings, great and small. And, we will observe the first Sunday of Advent by lighting the first candle.

Our life together, including our times at table together, is reflective of the Christian year. More times than not, our gatherings are timed by the liturgical calendar. Our traditions remind us that we belong to God and to one another.

I look forward to the very special season which we will usher in this Sunday. This year more than any year in recent memory, we need the gifts of hope, peace, love, and joy. I'll look for you at the table of our Lord throughout Advent...

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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U.S.  
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Elyria, OH  
Permit No. 332

### November 30, 2008—First Sunday of Advent

- 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 Worship Service
- 12:00 noon Hanging of the Greens (with luncheon)
- 5:30 p.m. Fifth Sunday Church Family Fun Night
- OPENER:** Bud Simmons **CLOSER:** Jim Gainer
- GREETERS:** Steve & Joy Bond
- ACOLYTES:** Bradley Thimke and Romeo Walker
- WORSHIP LEADER:** Al Knapp
- PREACHER:** The Rev. Dr. Janet A. Long
- TELLERS:** Larry McIntyre and Dan Walker
- ELDER (8:30):** **PIANIST (8:30):**  
Betty McIntyre Becky Thompson
- ELDERS (10:45):** **HOME COMMUNION:**  
Bill Clark Ken Mundorf  
Debby Willets Jenny Bliss
- DIACONATE:** Team II
- 8:30 -** Teri Hayes and Bob Maxwell
- 10:45 -** Karen Davis, Linda Dull, Thomas Dull, Jean Kennedy, Kay Mundorf, Jack Price, Bob Rieth, Jordan Stephenson, Jeni Sweeten, and Elliot Wainwright

### **Youth and Wider-Church News**

**Sprouts** (grades 3-5), **Chi Rho** (grades 6-8) and **CYF** (grades 9-12) will meet at noon on Sunday, December 7. **CHALLENGE:** Invite someone new to attend with you!

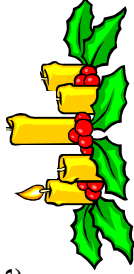
**Women**, have you signed up for the December 13 Advent Retreat at Camp Christian? Those attending will enjoy a variety of ways to "enter into the mystery of Advent", including meditation, crafts and sharing. Event registration is \$30 (Friday overnight lodging at the Monroe Lodge is available for an additional \$20).

**Adults ages 18-29** (who are out of high school) are invited to the December 26-28 Advance Conference Retreat at Camp Christian. Substance use/abuse issues within the realm of adult socialization will be the featured topic.

Contact the church office (323-4213)  
for complete details on the above events.

**Advent Begins This Sunday**  
**Partners in Prayer Will Help You Prepare**

Our Christmas celebrations hold more meaning when we first honor the season of Advent (the weeks leading to Christmas). *Partners in Prayer*, a booklet of Advent devotions, will help you make that spiritual journey from expectant waiting to the blessed arrival of the Christ Child. The booklets, provided free of charge by our Christian Education Committee, are available from the rack near the stairs leading to the sanctuary.



**WACC Mementos on Sale Sunday**

Helen Farrar will be selling WACC votive candle sets, brass replicas of our church (for hanging or displaying on a table stand [stand sold separately]) and matted pictures of WACC and the Elyria area this Sunday following both Worship Services. These items make lovely gifts—at Christmas and throughout the year—or can be enjoyed in your own home. Stop by the table in the narthex and check out these lovely, reasonably-priced items.

**CCH Collection Deadline December 7**

Please remember the children of the Cleveland Christian Home as you shop for the holidays. A list of needed items is posted in the narthex, near the collection box. **Gifts (NOT gift-wrapped, please) must be brought to the CCH collection box by Sunday, December 7.**

**November 30 Lectionary Corner**

Isaiah 64:1-9\* 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Mark 13:24-37\*  
\*Sermon foci

*Have you remembered the church in your will?*

**Fun for Households of ALL Sizes!**  
**Hanging of the Greens AND**  
**Fifth Sunday Church Family Fun Night**

Join us this Sunday in Worship (8:30 and 10:45 a.m.) and again at two special events following.

Our annual Hanging of the Greens chili luncheon and decorating party will allow us, once again, to enjoy the good company of our church family and friends over a delicious meal prepared by our Hospitality Committee. Afterwards, we'll have fun together decorating the church for the season.

Then, at 5:30 p.m., the Christian Education Committee will sponsor another Fifth Sunday Church Family Fun Night. All ages will enjoy the pizza provided, the games we'll all bring to share and the Christmas crafts we'll create.

What a time of celebration! You won't want to miss anything at WACC in the weeks ahead! (And, please remember to share the excitement by bringing friends!)



**They're Here!** Our Neighborhood House Association Giving Tree nametags are now on the tree in the narthex. Please stop by, remove a card or two and shop for gifts for the child whose name appears on your card/s, wrap and bag each child's gifts together, affix the original card to each child's bundle, and return the presents to the church office **by Thursday, December 11.** (Can't get to the tree? Call the church office; Diana will help you select your card/s over the phone: 323-4213.)

**CALENDAR**

- Thu., 11/27: - Happy Thanksgiving! (Church office closed Thu. and Fri.)
- Sat., 11/29: - Fellowship Hall in use.
- Sun., 11/30: - First Sunday of Advent (see back page for the day's schedule).
- Mon., 12/1: - Church Life & Growth Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 7 p.m.
- Tue., 12/2: - Stewardship Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 6:30 p.m.
- Outreach Committee meeting in the Gibbens conference room, 7 p.m.
- Wed., 12/3: - Tuesday Night LaPorte Group (AA) meeting in Fellowship Hall, 8 p.m.
- Chancel Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7 p.m.

**Board Bits**

The Board meeting on Veterans' Day included news about recent/upcoming committee activities, current financial reports and several new business items. At the request of the Outreach Committee, the Cleveland Christian Home was designated as the recipient of the outreach portion of our Covenant for a Miracle capital campaign. The Home will embark on a project of tuck-pointing and painting the oldest portion of their facility on Lorain Avenue, thanks to WACC's contributions over the four-year cycle of our Covenant giving. How blessed we are to continue to expand stewardship, outreach and service. "Thank you" to all who serve and are in the flock!

- Lauri Warfield  
Board Chair

**Joanna Circle**

has scheduled its annual holiday dinner for Thursday, December 11. The group will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Carolyn Long. Those attending are asked to bring a wrapped "white elephant" gift to exchange, and non-perishable food items for the Elyria Hospitality Center (see suggested list in the article in the next column).

**NEWS OF OUR FAMILY**

**Feeding Our Neighborhood Family**

As we gather to feast with family and friends in the weeks ahead, please remember those in our community who may not have the resources most of us enjoy. Please consider leaving some non-perishable groceries for the Elyria Hospitality Center in the shopping cart located in the hall, near the cross. Most-needed items include cereal, pasta and sauce, tuna, and peanut butter.

Thank you for sharing your bounty!

**Kettle Call**

WACC will again be ringing a Salvation Army collection kettle bell at the Midway Giant Eagle, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. on Saturday, December 13. Two volunteers are needed for each 1-hour shift that day. If you haven't already signed up with Outreach Co-Chair Keith Western, let him know that you're interested in helping out. (*Everyone* is invited to stop by and add something to the pot!)  
Thank you for sharing your time AND your resources!

**Prayer Focus**

Please offer prayers of thanksgiving for all God's blessings, prayers of confession for the gifts we take for granted and prayers of petition for those separated from loved ones.

**Hospitalized**

At EMH: Warren Hollis  
At Home: Steve Kistner  
D.A. Knepper  
Bev Lehman  
Ken Oblak