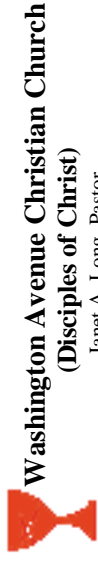


THE SPREE



Washington Avenue Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Janet A. Long, Pastor

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December 9, 2008

Vol. 08, No. 48

Janet's Jottings

Dear Friends,

Serving as your pastor is an honor and a joy. In recent days, several things have happened that solidify my sentiments.

Backing up to Consecration Day, your responses of generosity as you made commitments for 2009 are very heartening. Many of you increased your pledges, stepping up to new giving levels. While so many are tightening their hold on all things financial, WACC is moving forward in faith and trust.

Waking up this past Sunday morning to a heavier snowfall than anticipated, I thought attendance would be lacking – especially at the 8:30 Service. That was not the case! You came out in good number throughout the morning, with good spirit and good humor. “You should know we’d be here!” was the comment of one worshiper.

Walking through the narthex on my way into the sanctuary, I noticed the considerable number of tags still hanging on the Neighborhood House Giving Tree. I reminded you that a lot of children were counting on us. After the second Service, all the tags were gone—and we could have given out a few more!

You are to be commended. You come through, time and again, in so many ways. I am proud of the ways you are living out your faith—through your financial commitments, your worship attendance and your caring outreach. I see the way you greet one another, expressing joy and concern and welcoming the stranger.

Yet another opportunity: Join us this Sunday for Christmas caroling to those who are homebound. It’s another way to show the WACC spirit—Christ’s Spirit at work...

Love,



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December 14, 2008—Third Sunday of Advent

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
5:00 p.m. All-Church Caroling (party following at the Mathes home)

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

GREETERS: To be announced

ACOLYTES: Halley Novak and Taylor Novak

WORSHIP LEADER: Gerald Western

PREACHER: The Rev. Dr. Janet A. Long

TELLERS: Mark Mathes and Ken Oblak

ELDER (8:30): PIANIST (8:30):
Tim Widman Rosalie Gainer

ELDERS (10:45): **HOME COMMUNION:**
Janet Stevens-Brown Nancy Huller

Bill Clark Laverne Stroup

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

Our thanks to the Junior and Senior High Church School Classes for providing this year’s All-Church Christmas Card, AND for bringing us this year’s Christmas Pageant which will be enjoyed Sunday, December 21, at 9:45 a.m.

A dress rehearsal for the pageant will be held in the sanctuary on Saturday, December 20, at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided.

Chi Rho and CYF will go ice skating at the North Park Ice Arena on Sunday, December 21 at 12:30. You will need a permission form (available on the youth bulletin board) signed by your parent or guardian. Watch this space for additional details.

Adults ages 18-29 (who are out of high school) will enjoy the December 26-28 Advance Conference Retreat at Camp Christian. Alcohol use and adult socialization will be featured topics.

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



All-Church

Christmas Caroling and Party

Meet friends back at the church this Sunday at 5 p.m. for Christmas caroling to our homebound members and friends, followed by a party afterwards at the home of Mark & Susan Mathes, 1730 Gulf Road. Please bring a finger-food snack to share; pizza and beverages will be provided.

Gather Those Receipts!

We've just been informed that, to help support the Neighborhood House Association, the Nordson Corporation will match all monies spent by WACC members for the NHA Giving Tree presents.

Please gather the receipts for the gifts you've purchased for the NHA children and give them to Teri Hayes or Glenna Knapp. Our thanks to Teri for helping to arrange this additional contribution source, and our thanks to the Nordson Corporation for its generosity!

2009 Offering Envelopes Available

Offering envelopes—and calendars—for 2009 will be available in the hallway of the new building this Sunday, December 14. Please stop by the tables for yours.

Are your 2008 General Fund and Covenant pledges current? Contributions for credit in 2008 must be in the church office or postmarked by December 31.

December 14 Lectionary Corner

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Psalm 126 John 1:6-8, 19-28*

*Sermon focus

Have you remembered the church in your will?

Sarah Circle

will enjoy its annual holiday luncheon at the home of Pastor Janet Long on Thursday, December 18, at 12 noon. Pastor Janet will present the program, "SENSES: Incarnation of Life." All women of the church are invited. Those wishing to attend are asked to make a reservation to 323-4213 by December 15.

Purchases Aid Church Anniversary Costs

Helen Farrar will sell 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. Proceeds from these sales continue to help offset expenses related to WACC's 125th anniversary celebration.



Your Gifts to Provide Ministry

Please remember to support the leadership, resource and training ministries of the Ohio Region of Disciples by taking part in our All-Church Christmas Card which will benefit the Christmas Special Day Offering. Our thanks to WACC's Junior and Senior High Church School Classes for providing this year's card.

To help, sign your name on the large card in the narthex. Then, contribute a gift* by using the designated envelope from your personalized packet of offering envelopes, the designated envelope found in the pew racks, or the special envelope which will be found in the December 16 issue of *The Spire*. Or, you may simply place your gift in the box below the card. (Checks may be made payable to "WACC" with "Christmas offering" written on the memo line.) A list of all who participate will be printed in the Epiphany (January 6) issue of *The Spire*.

* *Suggested contribution is the amount you would normally spend sending individual Christmas cards to your WACC family members.*

NEWS OF OUR FAMILY

Christmastide Office Hours and Publication Schedule

The church office will be closed December 25-January 2 while Diana enjoys her remaining 2008 vacation days.

The final 2008 edition of *The Spire* will be published December 23. Information about all church activities and committee meetings occurring through January 17 will need to be relayed to Diana by December 22.

Thank You

My thanks to everyone who took part in my surprise birthday party. Your presence, gifts and cards were very much appreciated. You all made it a very special and happy occasion for me.

Sincerely,
Sue McKain

Prayer Focus

Please pray for a heart—and a world—open to God's gifts of hope, peace, love, and joy.

Sympathy

Our love and prayers surround... Evelyn Hollis and the Gottschling family in the death of Warren Hollis this past Wednesday. Calling hours will be held at the church on Saturday, beginning at 2:30 p.m. A memorial service will follow at 4:30 p.m., with Pastor Janet Long officiating.

...Ken & Kay Mundorf and Chris in the death of Ken's sister, Pat, on Sunday morning. Services will be held tomorrow (Wednesday) in Ashland.

May God's presence bring peace and comfort to all who mourn.

Hospitalized

No one (of whom we are aware) at press-time. *At Home:* Don Mosher

CALENDAR

- Thu., 12/11: - Deadline for bringing in gifts for the Neighborhood House Association Giving Tree.
- Joanna Circle holiday dinner at the home of Carolyn Long, 420 Park Ave.
- Sat., 12/13: - Worship Committee work session (pointsettias), 9 a.m.
- Salvation Army bell ringing at the Midway Giant Eagle, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Calling hours (2:30-4:30 p.m.) and memorial service (4:30 p.m.) for Warren Hollis.
- Sun., 12/14: - Third Sunday of Advent (see back page for the day's schedule).
- Mon., 12/15: - Stewardship Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 6:30 p.m.
- Tue., 12/16: - Elders' supper meeting in the Elders' conference room, 5:30 p.m.
- General Board meeting in the youth rooms, 7 p.m.
- Wed., 12/17: - Tuesday Night LaPorte Group (AA) meeting in Fellowship Hall, 8 p.m.
- Thu., 12/18: - Chancel Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7 p.m.
- Sarah Circle holiday luncheon at the home of Pastor Janet Long, 356 Georgia Ave., 12 noon.
- Girl Scout Troop 524 gathering in the youth rooms, 6 p.m.
- Sat., 12/20: - Children's Christmas Pageant rehearsal in the sanctuary, 10:30 a.m. (lunch served).
- Salvation Army Hot Meal served by Team 5 (Keith Western, captain).