

THE SPREE



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

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January 13, 2009

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Janet's Jottings

Dear Friends,

I can't stop thinking about the connection between the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday next Monday and the inauguration of Barack Obama the following day. Though far from fully realized, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of equality is getting closer and closer.

Dreams that bring the human family closer to the will of God fill the pages of scripture. Famous dreamers include Jacob, Joseph, Solomon, Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel, and Joseph (the earthly father of Jesus). One of the biblical promises is that, "your old men shall dream dreams."

Dreams inspire people to do things they wouldn't have considered doing otherwise. Dreams make the impossible seem reachable; the improbable, an option after all. Dreams lead some away from danger and others to do courageous things in the face of danger. Dreams can be calming or challenging.

In the light of a new year, I hope you will take some time for dreaming. How might God be calming or challenging you? What might God be calling you to do as a person of faith? What might God be calling us to do as a people of faith – as Washington Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)?

Once you've given yourself time to dream—and given yourself over to those dreams, I hope you will give voice to your dreams. How might God want to use you/us to bring the human family closer to the will of God? Where might we be used to bring wholeness to a fragmented world?

So, friends, dream on...

Love,

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January 18, 2009

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 Sprouts (gr. 3-5), Chi Rho (gr. 6-8) and
CYF (gr. 9-12) meetings

OPENER: Pete Majewski **CLOSER:** Don Hange, Sr.
GREETER: Carol Mosher

ACOLYTES: Bradley Thimke & Romeo Walker

WORSHIP LEADER: Elliot Wainwright

PREACHER: The Rev. Dr. Janet A. Long

TELLERS: John McKenna and Lauri Warfield

ELDER (8:30): Lauri Warfield

Don Hange, Jr.

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

Bill Clark Debby Willets

Mark Mathes Linda Dull

DIACONATE: Team III

8:30 - Linda Adkins and Jason Higgins
10:45 - Jenny Bliss, Cheryl Grapes, Pam Henry,
Michelle Kazmierczak, Michelle Kersey, Sean Kersey,
Karen Schneider, Laverne Stroup, Wayne Walker, and
Joan Wilhelm

Youth and Young Adult Events

Sprouts, Chi Rho and CYF will meet this
Sunday, January 18 at noon.

Chi Rho and CYF (grades 6-12) are
invited to take part in the annual WANEWL St.
(Washington Avenue, North Eaton, Westlake,
Lakewood, and High St. Christian Churches)
Winter Retreat at Camp Christian January 23-25.
Cost is \$25 per person, **due in the church office**

by January 18. Those attending will need to
bring money for fast food on the way down and
back, sleeping bag, pillow, shower gear and
toiletries, snacks to be shared with the group (i.e.,
chips, cookies, fruits, veggies, etc.), a Bible, pen
or pencil, and game materials (i.e., football,
kickball, board and card games, etc.).

CYF members are reminded to save
March 13-15 for the Ohio Youth Convention at
Hiram College. **Early-bird registration is \$60,**
due by February 15.

Ohio New Church Offering Sunday

How can we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others in Ohio who don't live in our immediate area? How can we offer them the opportunity to grow in the type of reasoned Christian faith that is a hallmark of the Disciples of Christ? How can we ensure the healthy growth of this denomination which empowers its members not only to lead and share in worship but also to live out the kind of faith that honors Jesus' call to inclusive love through action?

Your gift this Sunday, January 18, to the Ohio New Church Fund will help start new Disciples congregations throughout Ohio. These dollars can help provide a regular Christian witness to growing parts of our state.

To offer a donation, 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 "Ohio New Church Fund" written on the memo line. Thank you for giving generously!

Unclaimed Items to Be Donated

Have you checked our coatroom lately for your lost gloves, hats, umbrellas, rain hats, jackets, etc.? Beginning this Sunday, all left-behind items will be stored in the coatroom for four weeks. If still unclaimed after that time, they will be donated to the Elyria Hospitality Center. Thank you for your understanding.

January 18 Lectionary Corner

1 Samuel 3:1-20
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
John 1:43-51*

**Sermon focus*

Have you remembered the church in your will?

Laity Sunday and Coffee Hour

On Sunday, January 25, WACC will observe the ministry of our laity with members of our congregation leading Worship. In addition, the Elders will host a coffee hour in Fellowship Hall so that members of each one's Caring Group can become better acquainted with their Caring Elder. We hope to see you that Sunday!

What IS General Assembly?

"...for the Healing of the Nations"

General Assembly is a gathering of Disciples of all ages, from across the United States and Canada (and often, other parts of the world) who meet to worship, fellowship, learn, and discuss the future of the Church. The 2009 General Assembly will be held July 29-August 2 in Indianapolis, Indiana, with a theme derived from Revelation 22:2: "...and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." The theme complements the Disciples' new identity statement ("We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world"), a message of relevance, energy, conviction—and healing.

You are invited—and encouraged—to attend. General Assembly will have energizing activities for adults, youth and children, including environmental "greening" tips. Learn more (and/or register) at www.disciples.org.

Thank You!

True blessings in our lives come from the kindness of others!

Dear Dr. Long and Congregation at WACC, Greetings from North Carolina! I wanted to thank you all so very much for the many ways you have become church family to my daughter, Allie, as she attends Oberlin College and continues her journey in faith. Her stories of cocoa and snickerdoodles, rides to church, home-cooked meals, trips to McDonald's, and the joy in her voice as she tells church stories warms my heart! Thank you all for the generosity and love you have wrapped her in. May you all have a blessed New Year!

With love and appreciation,
Sandy Lundblad

* * *

Letters of thanks for WACC's year-end outreach gifts have been received from the following:

Cleveland Christian Home
Elyria Hospitality Center
Elyria Salvation Army
Genesis House
Lorain County Habitat for Humanity
Pathways Counseling & Growth Center
Second Harvest Food Bank

These—and others which may follow in the weeks ahead—will be posted on our main bulletin board for all to see.

NEWS OF OUR FAMILY

Congratulations!

Danielle Christine Coffman was born to Heidi & Dan on January 9. She weighed in at 8 lbs., 6 oz. and measures 19 inches long. Big brothers Hayden and Sheldon are excited about their baby sister! Others in the welcoming party are grandparents Chuck & Chris Baumgartner, Uncle Todd and Aunt Liz. And speaking of little ones, Danielle Davis and Bryan Quinones brought their baby, Dylan Scott Quinones, in an act of dedication on Sunday, December 28. Grandparents John & Karen Davis stood with the new family. Best wishes and blessings to all!

Prayer Focus

Please pray for Disciples General Minister and President, the Reverend Dr. Sharon Watkins, as she preaches at the National Prayer Service in Washington, D.C. on the day after the presidential inauguration. She is the first woman to do so. A tradition dating back to the nation's first president, the service includes prayers delivered by various religious leaders.

Hospitalized

No one (of whom we are aware) at press-time. At Home: Gina DeSilvester (in-and-out)
Robbie Hayes (in-and-out)
Frank Wargo (in-and-out)

CALENDAR



- Thu., 1/15: - Sarah Circle gathering in the youth rooms, 10:45 a.m.
- Girl Scout Troop 524 gathering in the youth rooms, 6 p.m.
- Sat., 1/17: - Salvation Army Hot Meal served by Team 4 (Mark & Susan Mathes, captains).
- Sun., 1/18: - See back page for the day's schedule.
- Mon., 1/19: - Church office closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Tue., 1/20: - Daisy Troop 232 meeting in the youth rooms, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday Night LaPorte Group (AA) meeting in Fellowship Hall, 8 p.m.
- Wed., 1/21: - Chancel Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7 p.m.
- Thu., 1/22: - Christian Education Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 6:30 p.m.
- Fri., 1/23: - WANEW St. Retreat at Camp Christian begins (ends 1/25).