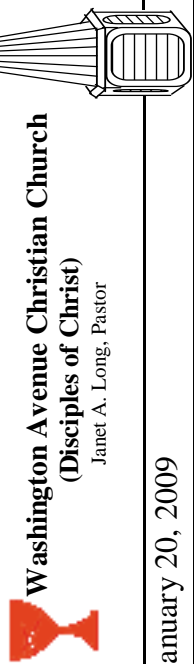




THE SPREE



Washington Avenue Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Janet A. Long, Pastor

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January 20, 2009

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Janet's Jottings

As I sit down to write this article, President-elect Barack Obama is 23 minutes away from taking the oath of office. By the time I finish, he will be President Obama. One of my colleagues uses this occasion every four years to share an open letter to the new president. I would use this occasion—and this space—for a similar purpose.

Dear President Obama,

Your inauguration gives us reason to be proud to be Americans. Regardless of whether or not we supported your candidacy, we are part of an historic moment that many did not think possible. We pray that the spirit of excitement and possibility felt so palpably by so many today will continue to inspire hope in our nation and in the world.

May you be blessed by surrounding yourself with good people—people with clear minds and caring hearts—who will speak the truth as they see it. May you be a blessing by remembering those who are powerless and unable to speak for themselves: the poor, the elderly, the children, and those with special challenges. Please speak up for them.

As you seek to inspire us, please seek the inspiration that comes from a life of spiritual discipline and practiced faith. Let us see you in church regularly, reflecting the values you espouse. Lead us in ways that will build bridges and cause our appreciation for one another to grow. Unite us in a common cause for the good of all humanity.

Please pay attention to your family, to your health, to your ideals. Help us to forge truthful, faithful relationships that care for the common good over the personal gain. Show us how we can live and serve with those who differ and with those who are different. Restore us to diplomacy and the peaceable settling of differences.

May you allow the grace and peace of God to dwell deeply in your soul and be reflected in your efforts. We pledge our prayers. God bless you, President Obama.

In faith,
Janet Long

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January 25, 2009—Laitv Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Early Morning Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m. Common Grounds, followed by Church School
- 10:45 a.m. Traditional Morning Worship Service
- 12:00 noon Coffee hour hosted by the Elders
- OPENER:** Bud Simmons **CLOSER:** Jim Gainer
- ACOLYTES:** Halley Novak & Taylor Novak
- WORSHIP LEADER:** Laitv Sunday participants
- SPEAKERS:** Deanna Forbush, Ken Oblak and Becky Papenbrock (via Carol McIntyre)
- TELLERS:** Jane Hutson and Brenda Keenan
- PIANIST (8:30):** Carole Weinhardt
- ELDER (8:30):** Tim Widman
- ELDERS (10:45):** Janet Stevens-Brown and Ken Mundorf

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

YOUTH NEWS

Sprouts, Chi Rho and CYF will gather for lunch in the youth rooms, followed by fun and faith growth on Sunday, February 1, at noon. The Sprouts will welcome back Allie Lundblad and Chi Rho and CYF will meet with Tony Hampton.

CYF members are reminded that **early-bird registration for the March 13-15 Ohio Youth Convention is due by February 15.**

This cost-saving early registration rate is just \$60 for the entire weekend and covers food, lodging and program components. The Convention will be held at Hiram College and be attended by high school-aged Disciples from throughout Ohio. This year's theme is, "This Little Energy-Efficient Light of Mine" so you can count on coming away from the Convention with some spiritually-grounded tips to help save our planet. **DON'T WAIT 'TIL THE LAST MINUTE—REGISTER NOW AND SAVE YOURSELF SOME "GREEN"!** Forms and complete information are posted on the bulletin board outside Tony's office.

Laity Sunday and Coffee Hour

This Sunday, January 25, our 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. Worship Services will be led by members of the congregation in observance of Laity Sunday.

Afterwards, you are invited to attend a special coffee hour hosted by our Elders. The gathering will afford the opportunity for you to meet your Caring Elder as well as other members of your Caring Group.

We'll look for you this Sunday in Worship and in fellowship!

District 2 News

Washington Avenue Christian Church is one of nearly 4,000 congregations in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Our region of Ohio aligns geographically with our state's boundaries, though not all regions are so defined. Our district is comprised of the congregations in Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties.

Our neighbors at North Eaton Christian Church recently said, "Goodbye" to their pastor of 26 years, the Rev. Dr. Paul H. Durbin, who retired at the end of 2008. As Paul moves into the field of interim ministry, the Rev. Ralph S. Wearstler has been called to serve as North Eaton's Intentional Interim Minister while a search for a settled pastor for that congregation begins.

Lakewood Christian Church has voted to sell its building. The congregation, which has a year to relocate, is studying options for moving to a different site.

Laity Sunday Scriptures

Psalms 133
John 17:20-23

Have you remembered the church in your will?

Wider-Church Events for YOU

You'll want to note on your calendar the following events and make plans to attend:

- ❖ **Lenten Retreat**
(for women)
March 6-7
at Camp Christian, Magnetic Springs
- ❖ **"Equipping the Saints" Workshop**
(for those seeking personal and congregational growth)
March 7
at St. Andrew Christian Church, Dublin
- ❖ **Advance Conference Spring Retreat**
(for post-high school adults ages 18-29)
April 3-5
at Camp Christian, Magnetic Springs
- ❖ **CCH Work Day**
(for everyone)
April 4
at the Cleveland Christian Home, Cleveland
- ❖ **Anti-Racism Team Walk-a-thon**
(for everyone)
April 18
at Camp Christian, Magnetic Springs
- ❖ **Ohio Women's Ministries Convocation**
(for women)
April 18
at Gender Road Christian Church,
Canal Winchester

For complete information on the above, visit www.ccinoh.org or call 440-323-4213.

February Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Jeni Sweeten | 17 | Jennifer Anderson |
| 3 | Bob Hood, Jr. | 18 | Connor Murphy |
| 5 | Cheryl Majewski | 19 | Bud Krugman, Jr. |
| 6 | Jerry White, Jr. | 19 | Emily Gardner |
| 7 | Molly Knight | 20 | Brendon Parsons |
| 7 | Trisha Dahm | 20 | Thomas Parsons |
| 9 | Jerry Everhard | 20 | Perry Mattern |
| 9 | Taylor Novak | 21 | Bob Rieth |
| 9 | Jane Cleary | 21 | Barbara Western |
| 9 | Morgan McNulty | 22 | LaDonna Maxwell |
| 11 | Margaret Ryan | 22 | Johnny Silvis, Jr. |
| 11 | Diane Borthwick | 23 | Laverne Stroup |
| 12 | Dick Burke | 23 | Michelle |
| 12 | Brenda Keenan | 23 | Kazmierczak |
| 12 | Steve Kistner | 26 | Donna Lauffer |
| 12 | Chris Myers | 26 | Anne Prentice |
| 13 | Frank Wargo | 26 | Wes Shirley |
| 13 | James Baker | 27 | Heidi Thimke |
| 14 | Mark Novak | 27 | Sarah Feierabend |
| 14 | Mike Yanick | 28 | Michelle Thimke |
| 15 | Tracey Britton | 28 | Lois Schmidt |
| | | | Heidi Smith |

February Acolytes

- | | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Katie Kostohryz & Sammie Kostohryz |
| 8 | Aaron Kuzela & Jacob Kuzela |
| 15 | Bradley Thimke & Tyler Schneider |
| 22 | Deanna Forbush & Sarah Turner |



Have you registered yet for General Assembly? Early registration deadline is January 31. Visit www.disciples.org for complete information.

July 29-August 2 in Indianapolis, Indiana

CALENDAR

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 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). |
| Sun., 1/25: | - Laity Sunday (see back page for the day's schedule). |
| Mon., 1/26: | - Outreach Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 6 p.m. |
| Tue., 1/27: | - Tuesday Night LaPorte Group (AA) meeting in Fellowship Hall, 8 p.m. |
| Wed., 1/28: | - Chancel Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7 p.m. |
| Thu., 1/29: | - Girl Scout Troop 524 gathering in the youth rooms, 6 p.m. |



NEWS OF OUR FAMILY

In Loving Memory

As a new year begins, so does a new tradition: Sharing the names of those remembered through contributions to our church's Memorial Fund. Such gifts have recently been received honoring James Borthwick, Virginia Cummings (Marion Wiles' mother) and Warren Hollis. We are grateful to those who remember their loved ones in this way.

Thank You

Check our main bulletin board for notes of gratitude from the Cleveland Christian Home and the Lorain County Free Clinic. Their letters join with others already posted, expressing thanks for WACC's generous outreach spirit. Your sharing continues to make a wonderful difference in the lives of so many!

New Address, Old Phone

Walt & Joan Norton now reside at 103 Waverly Dr., Bardstown, KY 44004-2244. Their phone number has not changed. Please note this information in your church directory.

Prayer Focus

Please pray for President Obama, Vice President Biden, the Cabinet, and all elected leaders of our country.

Hospitalized

No one (of whom we are aware) at press-time. At Home: Jane Schuster