

# THE SPREE



Washington Avenue Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)

Janet A. Long, Pastor

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## Janet's Jottings

Dear Friends,

The week before last, in my letter to President Obama in this column, I stated that Inauguration Day was an occasion for being proud to be an American. The following day, Wednesday, offered an occasion for being proud to be a Disciple. Our General Minister and President, the Reverend Dr. Sharon Watkins, was the preacher at the National Prayer Service. Her message was powerful!

Though hers won't be quoted as broadly or as frequently as the inaugural address, it is deserving of our attention and reflection. Here are some of the insights she shared...  
At times like these—hard times—we find out what we're made of. Is that blazing torch of liberty just for me? Or do we seek the "harmonies of liberty", many voices joined together, many hands offering to care for neighbors far and near? Though tempted to withdraw the offer, surely Lady Liberty can still raise that golden torch of generosity to the world... Even in these hard times, rich or poor, we can reach out to our neighbor, including our global neighbor, in generous hospitality, building together communities of possibility and of hope.

Laity Sunday, an annual observance here at Washington Avenue Christian Church, is a highlight of the year. While I don't always have the opportunity to sit in Worship on Laity Sunday, it is a treat when I do have that chance! It is an occasion for being proud to be your pastor. Adding to the joy of being your pastor are these words penned by Laity Sunday speaker Deanna Forbush as part of an English assignment: I love my church family; we always have fun no matter what we do... I thank my church for my good friends... I love my church very much...they are like my second family. I would do anything for them; I am stuck to them 'til the end.

We are together as a church family for the sake of offering generous hospitality, building together a community of possibility and hope. May it be so...

Love,  
*Janet*

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### February 8, 2009—Week of Compassion Sunday

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  
**OPENER:** Bud Simmons **CLOSER:** Keith Western  
**GREETERS:** Linda Dull and Dorie Hendricks  
**ACOLYTES:** Aaron Kuzela & Jacob Kuzela  
**SPEAKER:** The Week of Compassion Players  
**TELLERS:** Mark Mathes and Ken Oblak  
**ELDER (8:30):** Lauri Warfield  
**PIANIST (8:30):** Rosalie Gainer  
**ELDERS (10:45):** Mark Mathes and Tim Widman  
**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

### WIDER CHURCH EVENTS

#### District 2A Ash Wednesday Worship Service

February 25 at  
Christian Temple, Lorain

#### Women's Lenten Retreat\*

March 6-7

#### "Equipping the Saints" Workshop

March 7 at  
St. Andrew Christian Church, Dublin

#### Ohio CYF Convention

March 13-15 at  
Hiram College, Hiram

#### Advance Conference Spring Retreat\*

April 3-5

#### CCH Work Day

April 4 at  
the Cleveland Christian Home, Cleveland

#### Ohio Disciples' Anti-Racism Walk-a-thon\*

April 18

#### Ohio Women's Ministries Convocation

April 18 at  
Gender Road Christian Church, Canal Winchester

\*To be held at *Camp Christian, Magnetic Springs.*

For complete information on the above, visit  
[www.ccinoh.org](http://www.ccinoh.org) or call 440-323-4213.

**LENTEN OBSERVANCES TO BEGIN**



**Ash Wednesday Worship Service**

Disciples congregations in District 2A (Lorain County and western Cuyahoga County) will share in an Ash Wednesday Service on February 25 at Christian Temple (Disciples of Christ), 540 Fifth Street, Lorain. The first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday is a time for acknowledging our sinfulness and our dependence on God's grace.

The Service, which will begin at 7:30 p.m., will be led by pastors of the participating congregations and will feature a combined choir. The Reverend Kurt Ackley, Association Minister of the Western Reserve Association of the United Church of Christ, will preach. In addition, the imposition of ashes and communion will be offered.

**Monday Supper & Study Series**

"Finding Faith at the Movies" is the topic of this year's Lenten study. Important biblical themes will be discussed, with film clips illustrating each of the themes.

Interactive and entertaining, this study promises to be thought-provoking and faith-strengthening. The gatherings will be held each Monday during Lent (beginning March 2) at 5:55 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. A light supper will be served prior to the start of each session.

**Wednesday Evening Vespers**

Beginning March 4, Vespers Services will be held each Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. Lasting about 25 minutes and filled with guided prayer and quiet meditation, each Service features the sharing of the Lord's Supper. This brief mid-week respite adds a contemplative dimension to the Lenten journey.

*Have you remembered the church in your will?*

**Mediterranean Meal to Help Fund Australian Learning Adventure**

Elliot Wainwright (with the help of the Hospitality Committee) will host a Spaghetti Dinner on Monday, February 16, 5-7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Suggested donation is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children ages 10 or younger. Proceeds will help pay for Elliot's trip to Australia with the *People to People Student Ambassador Program* this summer.

Bakers are needed to help provide desserts for this event; please contact Kathy Wainwright (365-8533) to help. Thank you!

**Board Bits**

- Fellowship with each other (here and around the world)
- Love of Christ (in our hearts)
- Ownership of Christian purpose (following Christ's direction)
- Commitment to service (in our daily lives)
- Knowledge to share Christ's message (with others)

Where are YOU in this FLOCK?

*Note: You are welcome to "flock" to WACC's next Board meeting on Tuesday, February 10. ☺*

**Need to Schedule an Event?**

Washington Avenue Christian Church is blessed to have a fine facility for worship, committee meetings and all-church fellowship events. In addition, the building is in demand by community groups needing meeting and event space. But did you know that WACC is also available to members for their non-commercial gatherings?

Because WACC is such a busy place, those wanting to schedule a meeting, private party, etc. are asked to submit their request to the church office (call 323-4213, email [office@waccelyria.org](mailto:office@waccelyria.org) or leave a note in the office mail slot in the Elders' conference room). Our Office Administrator will check the church calendar and consult with program area leadership about any possible conflicts. She will then notify the person initiating the building use request, to either confirm the event date/time or offer other scheduling suggestions as indicated.

Please note: While there is no charge for use of the building by those who are official members of the congregation, donations towards WACC's heating/cooling expenses are always appreciated.

**FEBRUARY 8 SCRIPTURES**

Deuteronomy 14:1-2 Matthew 6:19-21

**CALENDAR**

- Thu., 2/5: - Joanna Circle gathering at the home of Glenna & Al Knapp (122 Marshs Ln.), 7 p.m.
- Sun., 2/8: - Week of Compassion emphasis (see back page for the day's schedule).
- Mon., 2/9: - Northwood Service Unit Girl Scout Leaders' meeting in Fellowship Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Tue., 2/10: - Church Life & Growth Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 7 p.m.
- Elders' supper meeting in the Elders' conference room, 5:30 p.m.
- General Board meeting in the youth rooms, 7 p.m.
- Wed., 2/11: - Chancel Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7 p.m.
- Thu., 2/12: - Girl Scout Troop 524 gathering in the youth rooms, 6 p.m.

**NEWS OF OUR FAMILY**

**Congratulations!**

Continued best wishes and blessings to Steve & Karen McCall who are celebrating their 8<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary (2/3)!

**Thank You**

Dear Friends,

Thank you all for your cards, good wishes, telephone calls, and prayers during my recent hospitalizations. As we come closer to the arrival of our new little girl, we take great comfort in knowing that we have your love and support.

- Liz & Chris Tobin and Janet Stevens-Brown

*Note: Liz will be on modified bed rest for the remainder of her pregnancy.*

**Prayer Focus**

Please pray for our church to grow in expressions of generous hospitality beyond ourselves.

**Hospitalized**

No one (of whom we are aware) at press-time.  
At Home: Marilyn Landes  
Tom Dull (in-and-out)