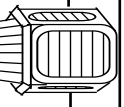


THE SPREE



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

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February 10, 2009

Vol. 09, No. 06

Janet's Jottings

Dear Friends,

Have you sent your valentines yet? This week marks the great festival of love, St. Valentine's Day. Cards, flowers and candy will be plentiful on February 14. We seem to need prompting to express our love to those who mean the most to us, so I am glad we have Valentine's Day—a day dedicated to sharing our hearts.

To be honest, I am more concerned about what we do on February 15. That is the day set aside for receiving the Week of Compassion offering. While the focus of the offering is a single day and the title of the offering is *Week of Compassion*, the gift you share is needed throughout the year. Every time there is a natural disaster, Week of Compassion seeks to respond. There are also disasters that result from our human behavior—and Week of Compassion answers the call for help.

So, when you consider what you will contribute to Week of Compassion, please think of something more generous than a day's offering or a week's contribution. Think of what you can share to help alleviate human need and suffering throughout the year. A dollar a day? Five dollars a week? Ten dollars a month? Twenty dollars a quarter? Your generosity makes such a difference at home and around the world. In a sense, it is the Disciples' equivalent of the Red Cross. And it matters.

You may find yourself at a restaurant table on February 14. It is my hope that you will find your place at the Lord's table—the table of true love—on February 15. It is there that the compassion of Christ is made available to us so that we can share love with the world. A great place to start is Week of Compassion!

Love,
 Janet Long

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Permit No. 332

February 15, 2009

- 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 Sprouts, Chi Rho and CYF gatherings
- OPENER:** Bud Simmons **CLOSER:** Don Hange, Sr.
- GREETERS:** Jack & Audrey Price
- ACOLYTES:** Bradley Thimke & Tyler Schneider
- SPEAKER:** Allie Lundblad
- TELLERS:** Larry McIntyre and Dan Walker
- ELDER (8:30):** Betty McIntyre
- ELDERS (10:45):** Lauri Warfield
- HOME COMMUNION:** Lauri Warfield
- Thomas Dull
- BECKY THOMPSON**
- 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 NEWS

Youth Groups to Meet This Sunday
Sprouts, Chi Rho and CYF will meet with Allie and Tony this Sunday, February 15, at noon. Youth in grades 3-12, invite a friend and join us!

Early-Bird Deadline This Sunday!
CYF Convention registration goes up \$10 after this Sunday, so register NOW. If you're a high school student, just sixty dollars will buy you a weekend you'll never forget! You'll meet new friends from across Ohio, spend time with old Camp/Conference friends, learn some earth-friendly tips, elect District officers (maybe YOU could be one!), eat great food, learn some fun songs, take part in incredible worship experiences, and generally have a blast! Registration forms for this March 13-15 event are on the bulletin board outside Tony's office. (Sign up with a friend—you'll both be glad you did!)

DIG Deep—and Roller Skate!
Join other Hiram Conference Chi Rho and CYF members for a roller skating fundraiser on Sunday, March 1 for **Dividends In Growth**, an Ohio youth outreach program for those in need. Skating is at Springfield Lake Roller Rink, 1220 S. Main St., Lakemore, Ohio, 4-6 p.m. (\$5 admission, \$2 rental.)

Where Is Your Treasure?

In this time of economic hardship, there are no better questions to ask ourselves than, "Where is your treasure? Where is your heart?" What a wonderful opportunity to examine our choices as consumers and as followers of Christ. Treasure of the heart is wealth that satisfies in the long run—people and places we cherish, experiences and qualities we value.

In God's eyes, we are treasure. Cherished, longed for, tended by, in relationship with, the Mighty One. Each and every person on earth is a treasure to God.

But many times, in many places, God's treasured children are deeply hurting. Weather disasters smash communities to bits. Wars and ethnic conflicts shatter lives, shoving people out of their homes and transforming them into frightened refugees. Persistent hunger, drought, poverty, lack of education, and ill health shrivel the life and dry the spirit, crumbling God's treasured children from the inside out.

As God's children, we are called to be "treasure tenders" for God. Through Week of Compassion, we gently, persistently and strongly care for God's treasures. By sharing our earthly treasure—our money, time and energy—decisive aid can be sent when disaster strikes.

And the sharing is mutual. When we care for people nearby and far away, we can be transformed by experiencing the presence of God. Seeing what others have lost, we are reminded what matters most in life. Seeing what others live through, we are inspired to live courageously. Working with others, we realize that God reaches out to all of us. Relying on God for the outcome, our faith increases.

Please show that you treasure God's people in need—and the work of Week of Compassion—by placing a gift in 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 payable to WACC, with "WOC" written on the memo line). Thank you!

Have you remembered the church in your will?

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Join in worship with Disciples congregations of District 2A on Ash Wednesday, February 25 at Christian Temple (Disciples of Christ), 540 Fifth St., Lorain. 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," this year's Monday evening Lenten study series, will begin on March 2 at 5:55 p.m. Join us for a light supper in Fellowship Hall followed by a discussion of important biblical themes illustrated with film clips. The series will continue each Monday through April 6.

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 will feature the sharing of the Lord's Supper. This brief mid-week respite will add a contemplative dimension to your Lenten journey.

Spaghetti Dinner Monday

Please remember the spaghetti dinner being held in Fellowship Hall this Monday, February 16, 5-7 p.m. Your donations (\$6 suggested for adults; \$4 for children ages 10 or younger) will help Elliot Wainwright travel to Australia this summer in the *People to People Student Ambassador Program*. The Hospitality Committee is co-hosting this fundraiser and could use some donated desserts; please contact Kathy Wainwright (365-8533) to help. Thanks!

Sarah Circle

will meet on Thursday, February 19, at 10:45 a.m. in the youth rooms. Linda Dull will present the program and lunch will be provided. All women of the church are invited.

Guys' Day Out

Men, make plans to attend the Disciples District 2 Men's Spring Rally on Sunday, March 1 at Bethany Christian Church. Registration is \$6 and includes supper. Our car caravan will leave the WACC parking lot at 1:45 p.m. R.S.V.P. to Mark Mathes by Wednesday, February 25.

FEBRUARY 15 LECTIONARY

2 Kings 5:1-14
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Psalm 30
Mark 1:40-45*

**Sermon focus*

CALENDAR

- Thu., 2/12: - Girl Scout Troop 524 gathering in the youth rooms, 6 p.m.
- Sun., 2/15: - See back page for the day's schedule.
- Mon., 2/16: - Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for Elliot Wainwright's Student Ambassador travels, 5-7 p.m.
- Tue., 2/17: - Tuesday Night LaPorte Group (AA) meeting in Fellowship Hall, 8 p.m.
- Wed., 2/18: - Chancel Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7 p.m.
- Thu., 2/19: - Sarah Circle gathering in the youth rooms, 10:45 a.m.
- Sat., 2/21: - Salvation Army Hot Meal served by Team 3 (Barbara Terrell, captain).



NEWS OF OUR FAMILY

Congratulations!

We celebrate with Grandma & Grandpa Chuck & Lauri Warfield and other family members the birth of Thomas Oliver Grindle, born to Ann & Vic Grindle on February 5.

Concert Capers

The Lorain County Community College Civic Concert Band, led by WACC's Mark Wainwright, will present "Music from Your Hymnal" this Sunday, February 15 at 3 p.m. in the Stocker Center Theatre. This free concert will feature music based on popular hymns such as *Amazing Grace*; *Lead On, O King Eternal*; *God of Our Fathers*; *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* and others.

Carole Weinhardt and the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus performed with the Cleveland Orchestra at New York's Carnegie Hall last Saturday. Congratulations, Carol!

No "Snap, Crackle, Pop"

The Elyria Hospitality Center is in need of cereal. Please leave donations in the shopping cart in the hall of the new building.

Prayer Focus

Please pray for a generous spirit in responding to the Week of Compassion offering. And, please pray for all who will be blessed by your gift.

Hospitalized

No one (of whom we are aware) at press-time. At Home: Diane Borthwick (in-and-out) John Farrar (in-and-out) Ann (and Thomas) Grindle