

# THE SPREE



Washington Avenue Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)

Janet A. Long, Pastor

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## Janet's Jottings

Dear Friends,

A memorable vacation and a meaningful Lenten journey have several things in common...

*The opportunity to clear the chaos and the clutter:* Setting aside piles of work—and stuff—offers room for God to enter one's life more fully. A few moments of deep breathing each day during Lent will allow the breath of God's Spirit to roam and to renew. A new perspective of clarity may ensue.

*The opportunity to claim time for rest and renewal:* Watching the ocean's endless waves is a reminder of the power of God to create and to cleanse. The Lenten reminder, "From dust you have come and to dust you shall return," sets the tone for this season of reflection and refreshment. Only God is God.

*The opportunity to turn down the noise:* Cutting out much of the media's incessant blare and glare calms one's inner being. A commendable Lenten discipline is to turn off all TVs, radios, iPods, computers, cell phones, pagers, etc. for a minimum of two waking hours each day. Hope may increase.

*The opportunity to try something new:* Zip-lining, the relatively new sport of sightseeing from a cable while in a harness, requires stepping off a platform in trust. Lent provides such invitations to try daily meditation, fasting, prayer, and tithing as means to grow in trust and faith.

Refreshed by a memorable vacation, I look forward to sharing a meaningful Lenten journey with you. I'll be looking for you on Sundays...and on Mondays (for our Supper & Study series at 5:55 p.m. in Fellowship Hall)...and on Wednesdays (for weekly Vespers Services at 6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary). Blessings.

Love,

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### March 1, 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
- 1:45 p.m. Men depart for Spring Rally
- OPENER:** Bruce Siffert **CLOSER:** Chris Thomas
- GREETERS:** To be announced.
- ACOLYTES:** Samantha Moore & Nautica Walker
- WORSHIP LEADERS:** Susan Mathes/Nautica Walker
- PREACHER:** The Reverend Dr. Janet A. Long
- TELLERS:** John McKenna and Lauri Warfield
- ELDER (8:30):** Nancy Huller
- PIANIST (8:30):** Chris Trunk
- ELDERS (10:45):** Don Hange, Jr. Jody Kostohryz
- DIACONATE:** Team 1
- 8:30 -** Mike Crocker and Robin Crocker
- 10:45 -** Fauna Griffiths, Dennis Jackson, Cindy Knapp, Gary Knapp, Steve McCall, Sue McKain, Chris Thomas, Dan Walker, Nancy Walker, and Keith Western

### YOUTH and YOUNG ADULT NEWS

**Sprouts, Chi Rho and CYF** will gather for lunch and an activity this Sunday, March 1, following the 10:45 a.m. Worship Service.

**Chi Rho and CYF**, don't forget about this Sunday's roller skating fundraiser for Dividends In Growth, an Ohio youth outreach program for those in need. Skating will take place at Springfield Lake Roller Rink, 1220 S. Main St., Lakemore, Ohio, 4-6 p.m. Admission is \$5; skate rental is \$2.

**A writing and photography contest for youth ages 14-19**, on spirituality and faith, is being sponsored by "Disciples World" magazine and the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. Categories include: *1,000-word Feature Article*, *700-word Speak Out Column*, *100-word Poetry*, and *Photograph*. Winners will receive cash prizes. For details, visit:

[www.disciplesworld.com/dynamic.html?wspID=502](http://www.disciplesworld.com/dynamic.html?wspID=502).

**Your Alternative Spring Break** can help Iowa flooding victims. Videos about this need can be found at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4uQ09wQ0Kl](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4uQ09wQ0Kl) and at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pWDRjyvuoU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pWDRjyvuoU).

Visit The Office of Disciples Volunteer online at [www.discipleshomeissions.org/volunteer/ODV.htm](http://www.discipleshomeissions.org/volunteer/ODV.htm) for complete information.

**NOTE: Not online? We'll be glad to give you the "411" on all Disciples events! Just call 440-323-4213.**

**It's Not Too Late—**

**Begin Your Lenten Journey**

Copies of the Lenten devotional booklet, *Fellowship of Prayer*, remain available in the rack near the stairs leading to the sanctuary. An additional booklet of daily devotions, *The Upper Room*, is also available. Both resources are provided free of charge by the Christian Education Committee.

We'll look forward to seeing you in Worship this Sunday (at 8:30 or 10:45 a.m.), at Monday night's Lenten Supper & Study (5:55 p.m.; "Finding Faith at the Movies") and again at Wednesday's Vespers Service (6:15 p.m.). Please remember to invite a friend or family member to share in this Lenten journey.



**A Gathering for Men**

Ohio Disciples Men of District 2 will gather for fellowship and inspiration at the Spring Rally this Sunday, March 1 at Bethany Christian Church, 3940 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Cleveland. Registration is \$6 and includes supper. A car caravan will leave the WACC parking lot at 1:45 p.m. Registration begins at 2:30 with the program starting at 3 p.m. Forgot to R.S.V.P.? We'd love to have you join us anyway! Call 323-4213 or contact Mark Mathes today.

**Early-Bird Rate Extended for GA**

Register for General Assembly before March 31 and save \$25. The event will take place July 29-August 2 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**MARCH 1 LECTONARY CORNER**

Genesis 9:8-17  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Psalm 25:1-10  
Mark 1:9-15\*

\*Sermon focus

*Have you remembered the church in your will?*



**Events for Women**

**World Day of Prayer to Be Observed**

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of women from many faith traditions who annually come together for a common day of prayer on the first Friday in March.

A local observance will be sponsored on Friday, March 6 by Elyria Area Church Women United at Second Baptist Church, 427 Chapman Lane, at 10 a.m. Worship resources for the event are provided by a different country each year. This year, the women of Papua, New Guinea have highlighted the theme, "In Christ there are many members, yet one body."

**Joanna Circle**

will meet on Thursday, March 5, at 7 p.m., at the home of Polly Simmons, 10455 E. River Road. Debbie Walker will continue her presentation on children's participation in Worship.

**Conference for All Church Leaders**

"Equipping the Saints (*A Hidden Promise*)" will be held Saturday, March 7 at Saint Andrew Christian Church, Dublin, Ohio. This event, co-sponsored by the Disciples of Christ and the United Church of Christ, will feature keynote speaker Rev. Bob Malsberry, Ohio Conference Minister of the UCC. Workshop choices will include: **There's a Song in Every Silence** (Rev. Linda Steelman); **Practical Evangelism** (Rev. Kate Huey); **What It Holds, A Mystery: Worship Alternatives** (Professor Robin Knowles Wallace); **Beyond Ourselves: Missions & the Local Congregation** (Meryln Winters); **Christian Coaching** (Rev. Michael Doerr); **Anti-Racism** (Rev. Nikki Mazza-Fredley); **Prayer** (Rev. Kerry Reed); **Technologies of Communication** (Rev. David Turner); **Revitalizing the Church** (Rev. Dr. Bill McConnell); and, **Safe Churches** (CSEOA Department of Church & Education).

Registration is \$15 and includes two workshops and lunch. Register by February 28 through the Central Southeast Ohio Association office, 6161 Busch Blvd., Ste. 77, Columbus, OH 43229 or call 440-323-4213 for more information. Saint Andrew's is located at 1985 Swansford Dr., Dublin, OH 43016. The event will be held 9:15 a.m.-3:45 p.m.



**Save the date:  
April 19**

"WACC, I see a Visioning Event in your future..."

**CALENDAR**

- Thu., 2/26: - Girl Scout Troop 524 gathering in Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.
- Christian Education Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 6:30 p.m.
- Sun., 3/1: - First Sunday of Lent (see back page for the day's schedule).
- Mon., 3/2: - Lenten Supper & Study in Fellowship Hall, 5:55 p.m.
- Worship Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 7:30 p.m.
- Tue., 3/3: - Daisy Troop 232 gathering in the youth rooms, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday Night LaPorte Group (AA) meeting in Fellowship Hall, 8 p.m.
- Wed., 3/4: - Elyria Catholic High School 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat at WACC, 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Lenten Vespers Service in the sanctuary, 6:15 p.m.
- Chancel Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7 p.m.
- Thu., 3/5: - Joanna Circle gathering at the home of Polly Simmons, 7 p.m.
- Fri., 3/6: - EACWU's observance of World Day of Prayer at Second Baptist Church, 10 a.m.
- Lenten Retreat for Women at Camp Christian begins (ends 3/7).
- Sat., 3/7: - "Equipping the Saints" conference at St. Andrew Christian Church, Dublin, 9:15 a.m.

**NEWS OF OUR FAMILY**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Liz and Chris Tobin and Benjamin welcomed Sarah Marie on Thursday, February 19. She weighed in at 5 lbs., 1 oz. and measures 18 inches long. Grandparents Rich and Janet Stevens-Brown are thrilled! Best wishes and blessings to all!

Katie Majewski Contreras passed her nursing boards recently. Way to go!

**"TAI" (THANK YOU!)**

Our Australian-bound friend, Elliot Wainwright, sends a greeting of thanks to all who contributed towards, participated in, worked at, donated to, or attended his spaghetti dinner on Presidents' Day. He says, "It was quite the success! God bless you all!"

**SPRINGING AWAY FROM WINTER**

Our WACC family is invited to an "almost Spring" open house on Saturday, March 7, 4-7:30 p.m. at Winterberry Lodge, 37690 Eagle Nest Dr., Grafton. Tour the gardens in the daylight or enjoy the lighted landscape after sunset, but please attend—the friendly fellowship will be a great way to shake off your winter woes.

- Chris Thomas & Chris Trunk

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Please pray for those affected by the devastating wildfires in Australia. We are there through Week of Compassion.

**SYMPATHY**

Our thoughts and prayers surround the family of Janet Seaver, former member of WACC, who died last Tuesday.

**HOSPITALIZED**

No one (of whom we are aware) at press-time. At Home: Myra Ball (Wesleyan Village)