

# THE SPRE



Washington Avenue Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)

Janet A. Long, Pastor

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March 3, 2009

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## Janet's Jottings

Dear Friends,

*When you come to worship, you don't have to check your brain at the door of the sanctuary.*

— Disciples practice

*Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind.*

— Albert Einstein

One of the guiding principles of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is the practice of blending faith and reason. Believing that God creates our minds as well as our hearts, we encourage thoughtful study and careful questioning. Tossing around pat answers or condensing biblical study and theological reflection into thimblefuls that fit on bumper stickers is not the way we approach faith.

This week, the founder of the Disciples of Christ side of our heritage, Alexander Campbell, is being honored once again on the occasion of the anniversary of the college he founded. Bethany College was chartered on March 2, 1840 by the Commonwealth of Virginia. (After Virginia was divided into two states, Bethany was located in the newly-created state of West Virginia.)

Campbell, himself involved in debating theology and politics with influential contemporaries, designed a college curriculum which held true to his commitment to a rational and thoughtful approach to all disciplines of study. Bethany was created for the study of liberal arts and, to this day, the College crafts an integrated education which demands critical thinking in a wide range of fields.

Allowing faith and science to co-exist is not a stretch for most Disciples. The 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his monumental work, "On the Origin of Species," is not a challenge to faith in God. After all, if creation is so mysterious as to require two accounts in Genesis, isn't it possible that God could have designed an evolutionary plan of creation?

The world is better for the likes of Alexander Campbell and Charles Darwin—and for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which trusts its members to think...

Love,

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### March 8, 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  
**OPENER:** Dan Clark **CLOSER:** K. Western's sub.  
**GREETERS:** Grades 3-5 Church School Class  
**ACOLYTES:** Tyler Schneider & Romeo Walker  
**WORSHIP LEADER:** Val Collins  
**PREACHER:** The Reverend Dr. Janet A. Long  
**TELLERS:** Jane Hutson and Brenda Keenan  
**ELDER (8:30):** **PIANIST (8:30):**  
Don Hange, Jr. Rosalie Gainer  
**ELDERS (10:45):** **HOME COMMUNION:**  
Tim Widman Dan Clark  
Becky Thompson K. Western's sub.  
**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

### YOUTH and YOUNG ADULT NEWS

**The Ohio CYF Convention** (for grades 9-12) will take place March 13-15 at Hiram College. The event theme is, "Green Faith: This Little Energy - Efficient Light of Mine." Activities will include small group study sessions, election of district officers, worship, viewing of a display by Disciples colleges and universities, and more! Registration is still open (\$70 per person includes late fee); forms are available from the youth bulletin board.

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**"Dance with God"** is the theme of the April 3-5 Advance Conference Spring Retreat (for post-high school adults ages 18-29). Keynote speaker Jay Gamelin ([www.jaygamelin.com](http://www.jaygamelin.com)) and [www.jacobsporch.com](http://www.jacobsporch.com) will help participants listen to the rhythm of God, and will also supply new, uplifting music. The Cleveland Christian Home will benefit from a mission collection at the event. Needed are new socks, women's underwear and men's boxer shorts, t-shirts, boys' shoes, and gift cards from McDonald's, Target, and WalMart. Visit the youth bulletin board for registration forms.

**EASTER FLOWERS: Order by March 22**  
 Easter flowers given to the glory of God and in honor or memory of a loved one may be ordered now through March 22. The flowers will adorn the sanctuary on Easter morning and may be taken home following the Worship Services. Orders may be placed in the office mail slot, phoned in, e-mailed, or sent via U.S. mail to the church office. (If using U.S. mail, please order early.) All orders must be **RECEIVED** in the church office **by SUNDAY, MARCH 22** (checks payable to WACC).

**Spring flower availability can be affected by many issues; please note that some substitutions may be necessary.**

Tulips (Yellow, Pink, Purple) \$ 6  
 Hyacinths (Pink, White, Blue) \$ 6  
 Hydrangeas (Pink, Blue) \$12  
 Martha Washington Geraniums (Rose, Light Lavender Splash, Purple & White bi-color) \$ 7  
 Lilies (White only)  
 6" Single stem (5-8 blooms) \$ 6  
 8" Double stem (10-12 blooms) \$12

FLOWER	QTY.	COLOR OR SIZE	COST
Tulips			
Hyacinths			
Hydrangeas			
Geraniums			
Lilies			
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$</b>

In Honor Of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_

Presented By \_\_\_\_\_

*Have you remembered the church in your will?*

**Board Bits: What's Going On?**

As I write this, snow is again in the forecast, putting Spring "on hold". Although it seems that way, it's not true. There are things going on underground that we can't see, like flower bulbs beginning to send up new shoots. We can't see God either, but we know God's works are going on all around us—and in us, too! God's work is going on at WACC Board meetings. The next one will be held March 10; come and see "what's going on" ...

\* \* \*

The Elders have appointed Don Hange Jr., Debby Willets and Lauri Warfield to facilitate Vision 2009, a follow-up event and continuation of our WACC effort to follow Jesus' teachings and to minister to all. Please save the date: **Sunday, April 19!**  
**Lauri Warfield,**  
 Chair of the Board

**Thank You**

To our church friends,  
 The preschool staff and children are thankful for the anonymous donor who recently contributed to the preschool. It was a kindness that has helped us in many ways. We are delighted that many of you still remember to save throw-aways for us. These little things are central to many learning experiences not otherwise possible. For future growth, we are interested in inheriting any computers that you may be discarding in efforts to upgrade your systems at home. Contact me if you can help. We give thanks for our church family and friends. You are our supporting inspiration. You make it possible for us to successfully reach out to others in the ways that we do, as a Christian presence in our world.

*Laverne Stroup, Director  
 Washington Avenue Preschool*

**MARCH 8 LECTIONARY**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Romans 4:13-25  
 Psalm 22:23-31 Mark 8:31-38\*

\**Sermon focus*

**CALENDAR**

- 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.
- Memorial service for Craig McIntyre, 12 noon.
- Sun., 3/8: - Second Sunday of Lent (see back page for the day's schedule).
- Mon., 3/9: - Lenten Supper & Study in Fellowship Hall, 5:55 p.m.
- Northwood Service Unit Girl Scout Leaders' meeting in the youth rooms, 6:30 p.m.
- Tue., 3/10: - Staff meeting in Pastor Janet's office, 4:15 p.m.
- Elders' supper meeting in the Elders' conference room, 5:30 p.m.
- General Board meeting in the youth rooms, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday Night LaPorte Group (AA) meeting in Fellowship Hall, 8 p.m.
- Wed., 3/11: - Lenten Vespers Service in the sanctuary, 6:15 p.m.
- Chancel Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7 p.m.
- Thu., 3/12: - Girl Scout Troop 524 gathering in Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.
- Property Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 6:15 p.m.
- Fri., 3/13: - Ohio CYF Convention at Hiram College begins (ends 3/15).
- Sat. 3/14: - Elders' Retreat at Mueller-Parker Funeral Home, Mason, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.



**NEWS OF OUR FAMILY**

**Best Wishes**

We congratulate Larry & Betty McIntyre on their 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary (3/3).

**Get in the Running! (or Walking)**

The Cleveland Christian Home's 2009 Walk & Run for the Kids will be held Saturday, April 11 at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Information is posted on the youth bulletin board. Sign-up sheets will be available near the elevelte this Sunday. If you have questions, please contact Keith Western at 935-4036.

**Prayer Focus**

Please pray for insight and inspiration in your Lenten journey.

**Sympathy**

Our love and prayers surround... the McIntyre family in the death of Craig on Sunday. A memorial service will be held in the sanctuary on Saturday at noon with Pastor Janet Long officiating. ...the Majewski family in the death of Pete's uncle, "Honey", on Sunday, in New York. ...the Wainwright family in the recent death of Kathy's stepfather.

May God's presence and peace be known by all who mourn.

**Hospitalized**

*At Community Health Partners:*

Delilah Diedrick  
 Diane Borthwick  
*At Home:* Benny Greer (in-and-out)