

December 13, 2009—Third Sunday of Advent
 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 Worship Service, preceded by
 Whitechapel Ringers music in narthex

OPENER: Dan Clark **CLOSER:** Keith Western
ACOLYTES: Connor Sweeten and Rachel Kersey
WORSHIP LEADERS: Susan Mathes and
 Samantha Moore

PREACHER: The Reverend Dr. Janet A. Long
TELLERS: Mark Mathes and Ken Oblak

ELDER (8:30):
 Debby Willets
PIANIST (8:30):
 Rosalie Gainer

ELDERS (10:45):
 Becky Thompson
 Janet Stevens-Brown
DIACONATE: Team II
 Nicole Eby

8:30 - Teri Hayes and Bob Maxwell

**10:45 - Karen Davis, Linda Dull, Thomas Dull, Sue
 McKain, Cheryl McKenna, John McKenna, Lynn Obechi,
 Bob Rieth, Sandy Rieth, and Jeni Sweeten**

YOUTH and YOUNG ADULT NEWS

CYF TO BE "ELFISH"

CYF members (grades 9-12) of District 2 will visit the Cleveland Christian Home on Saturday, December 12, noon-4 p.m. to wrap presents and perform other helpful tasks around the Home. Those attending are asked to bring a sack lunch; the group will eat together upon arrival before beginning their afternoon of service. To participate, **R.S.V.P. to 216-543-7164** or email ohiocyfdis2@yahoo.com. The Home is located at 11401 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland.

WINTER RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS*

Don't wait to register for the Advance Conference (aka "Advance Ministry", ages 18-29, post-high school) Winter Retreat at Camp Christian January 1-3. The theme is "Get Personal with Each Other: Diving into Personal Relationships."

*Register online at www.ccinoh.org or use the forms posted on our bulletin board.

THE SPREE

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



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December 8, 2009

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Janet's Jottings

Dear Friends,

If there's one word in our vocabulary that's misused and abused, that word is "Love". We claim to love someone's car or home or clothes. We claim to love someone, only to speak and act in hurtful ways. Obviously, the most recent public spectacle of this broken trust is the behavior of Tiger Woods. A claim to love doesn't make it so.

Love puts another's feelings and well-being on a par with one's own. (That golfing lingo just typed itself!) Love places another in a position of honor and care. You remember: *Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful... Love never ends.*

Love is our best description of God. And love is the description of our best selves—that self that is created in the divine image. Love should be our ultimate goal: to love God completely, to love our neighbor fully and to love ourselves gently. The best way to strengthen that effort is by letting God's love soak into us and by seeking to share that love.

Here are three practical ways to demonstrate love this Advent season:

- ♥ To love God ~ Practice the tithe during the month of December, by giving 10% of your income. Or, give a special offering of 10% of the amount you spend on Christmas shopping.
- ♥ To love others ~ Pick out one person who is lonely or grieving this holiday season and make a special point to send a note or card, pay a visit and invite the person into your home.
- ♥ To love yourself ~ Put less emphasis on perfection in your preparations for Christmas by doing one less thing than usual or by asking a family member or a friend to lend a hand.

Receive and revel in the Gift: *Love came down at Christmas...*

Love,

Washington Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



301 Washington Avenue
 Elyria, OH 44035-5124
 Janet A. Long, Pastor
 Phone: (440) 323-4213

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Christmas Offering and All-Church Christmas Card

WACC's All-Church Christmas Card (designed by Keith Western and now on display in the narthex) is just one way to contribute to the annual Christmas Special Day Offering. Gifts collected through this offering within the Disciples' Ohio Region will help fund regional pastoral leadership, support staffing and programs such as those offered at Camp Christian and beyond (such as mission trips), and strengthen opportunities for ministry and idea-sharing among congregations across Ohio.

To participate, sign the card and then leave in the box below it the amount you would spend sending cards to all your WACC friends.

Other ways to contribute to this special offering include placing your gift in the designated envelope from your personalized packet of offering envelopes, or in a specially-marked envelope from the pew rack on Sunday. Checks should be payable to WACC, with "Christmas Offering" written on the memo line. Thank you for giving generously!

The IRS says that contributions for 2009 charitable gifts tax credit must be **postmarked by December 31**. Is your 2009 General Fund and Covenant giving up-to-date?

December 13 Lectionary Corner
 Zephaniah 3:14-20
 Isaiah 12:2-6

**Sermon focus*

Have you remembered WACC in your will?

Bells of the Season

- WACC's **Whitechapel Ringers** will provide songs of the season this Sunday, in the narthex, before the 10:45 a.m. Service.
- Please remember our **Salvation Army bell ringers** this Saturday. Why not drop by the Midway Mall Giant Eagle and place a gift in the red kettle?

Thank You

Thank you for your prayers, concern and support during our mom's recent illness and surgery. She is doing beautifully and is back home in her room at LifeCare. She is so thankful for her adopted church family at WACC. She looks forward to the many visits from Brenda Keenan, Pastor Janet, and the communion teams. She may not remember their names or what was said, but she always remembers their visits.

- Pat Stevens and Sandy Rieth

- Sat., 12/12:
- Worship Committee work session (poinsettia set-up), 9 a.m.
 - Women's Advent Retreat at Camp Christian, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
 - Salvation Army bell ringing at the Midway Mall Giant Eagle, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
 - Veggie Tales premiere at First Congregational UCC, 11 a.m.
 - District 2 CYF "Elf for a Day" gathering at the Cleveland Christian Home, 12 noon.
 - Girl Scout Troop 524 cookie baking in the Fellowship Hall kitchen, 3-7 p.m.
- Sun., 12/13:
- Third Sunday of Advent (see back page for the day's schedule).
- Mon., 12/14:
- Stewardship Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 6 p.m.
 - Northwood Service Unit Girl Scout Leaders' meeting in Fellowship Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Tue., 12/15:
- 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.
- Wed., 12/16:
- Tuesday Night LaPorte Group (AA) gathering in Fellowship Hall, 8 p.m.
 - Girl Scout Troop 390 gathering in the youth rooms, 6:15 p.m.
 - Chancel Choir rehearsals in the sanctuary, 7 p.m.
 - Christian Education Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 7 p.m.
- Thu., 12/17:
- Sarah Circle gathering at the home of Pastor Janet Long, 12 noon (R.S.V.P. by 12/14).
 - Girl Scout Troop 524 gathering in Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.
- Sat., 12/19:
- Joanna Circle gathering at the home of Carolyn Long, 6:30 p.m. (R.S.V.P. by 12/14).
 - Salvation Army Hot Meal served by Team 5 (Keith Western, captain).

Women's Holiday Meals Planned

Sarah and Joanna Circle members are reminded to R.S.V.P. to the church office (323-4213) by December 14 for their respective holiday celebrations. Sarah Circle will gather at the home of Pastor Janet Long on Thursday, December 17 at noon; Joanna Circle will gather at 6:30 that evening at the home of Carolyn Long. Joanna Circle members are asked to bring a food donation for the Elyria Hospitality Center and a silly gift for the group's white elephant exchange.

Christmas Caroling Party

Join us on Sunday, December 20 for an all-church caroling party. We'll meet at the church at 5 p.m. to form groups and receive route assignments. Then, after spreading musical Christmas cheer to our homebound friends, we'll gather for supper. Please bring a finger-food snack to share at the end of our evening.

NEWS OF OUR FAMILY

Congratulations!

Danielle Davis & Bryan Quinones and Dylan welcomed Ethan John to their family on December 6. He weighed in at 7 lbs., 9 oz. and measures 19 inches long. John & Karen Davis are the proud grandparents. Best wishes and blessings to all!

Chris Trunk has completed the requirements to be a Licensed Independent Social Worker, which represents a significant professional milestone in his career. All the best!

Gib ("Gil") and Beth Marling are celebrating their 33rd wedding anniversary (12/5). Continued best wishes and blessings!

A Shower of Cards

Kate Matolich has requested a shower of cards for out-of-town WACC member Grace Stock who will turn 95 on December 26.

Cards may be sent to:

12 Del Prado St.
 Port Saint Lucie, FL 34952

Prayer Focus

Please pray for a deeper receptivity to love.

Hospitalized

At EMH: George ("Bob") McNulty
At Fairview: Cecilia Willets
At Home: Diane Borthwick (in-and-out)
 Ashley Csata
 Danielle Davis and Ethan
 Gordon Higgins (in-and-out)
 Lauri Warfield (in-and-out)

CALENDAR

