



# THE SPREE

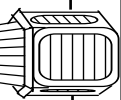


**Washington Avenue Christian Church**  
(Disciples of Christ)

Janet A. Long, Pastor

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January 5, 2010

Vol. 10, No. 01

## Janet's Jottings

Dear Friends,

I was reminded by a friend of the legend of the god, Janus. This god, for whom our month of January is named, is two-headed: one looks backward to the past; the other looks forward to the future. That seems to me to be an appropriate way to begin a new year.

A review of the year 2009 seems to be filled with contradictions. The excitement surrounding the inauguration of our country's first biracial president has given way to partisan politics. Announcements of a Nobel Peace Prize and a troop build-up in Afghanistan were made almost simultaneously. The economic recession affecting bottom line figures has caused us to reexamine our financial values while the romantic digression of so many public figures has caused us to reflect on our family values. Even right here at home, a recall election pitted neighbors against one another: "Yes for Elyria" vs. "No to Grace."

Here at Washington Avenue Christian Church, looking backward at 2009 would cause us to review a year in which we sought to respond to our neighbors near and far. Our "From Our Doorsteps..." Fund reached out to help people in our community and beyond. Our outreach offerings supported causes both local and global. We provided hot meals at the Elyria Salvation Army and helped to feed refugees in Darfur. The generosity of this church family resulted in our finishing the year in the black, to the good by every measure. The grace of this church family resulted in our framing a vision of worship, fellowship, stewardship, and discipleship.

As a new year begins, we look forward with hope. We seek to grow in spirit and in numbers, in faithfulness and in love. If we seek the will of God, the way of Christ and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, God will live in us and through us as a blessing to the world.



Love,

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### January 10, 2010—Epiphany Sunday

8:30 a.m. Early Morning Worship Service  
9:15 a.m. Common Grounds, followed by  
9:30 a.m. Combined Session Church School  
10:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service  
12:00 noon Congregational Meeting to vote on 2010 operating budget, followed by Epiphany luncheon and storing of the greens

**OPENER:** Dan Clark **CLOSER:** Keith Western

**ACOLYTES:** Rachel Kersey and Connor Sweeten

**WORSHIP LEADER:** Dan Clark

**PREACHER:** The Reverend Dr. Janet A. Long

**TELLERS:** Larry McIntyre and Dan Walker

**ELDER (8:30):** Pianist (8:30):

Chris Baumgartner Rosalie Gainer

**ELDERS (10:45):** **HOME COMMUNION:**

Becky Thompson Mark Mathes

Bill Clark Brenda Keenan

**DIACONATE:** Team II

**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 NEWS**

#### **YOUTH GROUPS TO VISIT BRANDYWINE**

Sprouts (grades 3-5), Chi Rho (grades 6-8) and CYF (grades 9-12) will visit Brandywine to enjoy a variety of winter sports on Sunday, January 24. The group will leave the church by 12:30 p.m. and return to the WACC parking lot by 5 p.m. Admission ranges \$20-\$35 depending upon your activity choice and the size of the group—so bring friends!!

#### **DISTRICT 2 CHI RHO "WINTER JAM"**

**CONCERT AND OVERNIGHT JANUARY 29-30**  
Chi Rhoers of District 2 are invited to the Winter Jam at Cleveland's Wolstein Center, followed by an overnight at Franklin Circle Christian Church. The \$15 registration fee will cover the ticket price as well as pizza and snacks back at FCCC. Adult drivers and chaperones will be needed. Contact the WACC office with your questions or to volunteer.

**\*\*\* CYF MID-WINTER NEEDS HOST HOMES \*\*\***

The biennial Hiram Conference Mid-Winter Retreat for high school Disciples will take place March 5-7 at Westlake Christian Church. Overnight floor space and transportation to and from WCC that weekend will be needed. Call 323-4213 to help.

## Epiphany Celebration and Congregational Meeting



Be with us this Sunday, January 10 for our Epiphany celebration which will include presentations to our Acolytes and 4<sup>th</sup> graders during the 10:45 a.m. Worship Service. That Service will be followed by a congregational meeting to vote on the proposed 2010 budget.<sup>+</sup> Afterwards, we'll enjoy an all-church soup luncheon and then take down and store the church's holiday decorations. Your witness, your voice, your company—and your help—are all desired on this very special day in the life of WACC.

<sup>+</sup> Contact the church office if you'd like to see a copy of the budget before Sunday's meeting.

### Have you remembered WACC in your will?

#### Board Bits

The last Board meeting of 2009 included reports of many wonderful activities during the Advent season, and I hope you were able to participate in many of them. The committee life at WACC is healthy and active. If you have not joined a committee, please consider making it a part of your WACC life beginning in 2010. Our first Board meeting of the new year will be Tuesday, January 12, and everyone is welcome to attend! "Thank you" to all who serve.  
Lauri Warfield,  
Board Chair

**Please remember to pick up your 2010 offering envelopes from the table in the hall of the new building. (If you don't see a set with your name, contact the church office.)**

### January 10 Lectionary Corner

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29  
\*Sermon focus

### All-Church Christmas Card Holiday Greetings

May God bless you and yours always!  
- Adelle Baker

Merry Christmas! - Vivian Balser  
Merry Christmas! - Roger & Marilyn Bauer  
God's blessings! - Jim & Lil Collier  
Merry Christmas! Love, Val Collins  
Merry Christmas! Love, John & Helen Farrar  
God's blessings to you! - Pat Gohle  
Merry Christmas and blessings to all!  
- The Hange Family

Merry Christmas! - Kaelynn Higgins  
Merry Christmas! - The Hoover Family  
Blessed Christmas to you all! - Jane Hutson  
Merry Christmas! Love, Cindy & Glenn Johnson  
Many blessings! - Brenda Keenan  
Merry Christmas! - Rick & Jean Kennedy  
Hope, peace, love, and joy to our church family!  
- Al & Glenna Knapp  
Merry Christmas!  
- Gary & Cindy Knapp and Family

Merry Christmas! - D.A. & Arlene Knepper  
Love and blessings! - Janet Long & Dan Clark  
A joyous and blessed Christmas to all!  
- The Maddock Family

Merry Christmas! - The Majewski Family  
Merry Christmas! - Mark & Susan Mathes  
Merry Christmas! - Kathy Matheson  
Merry Christmas to all! - Larry & Betty McIntyre  
Love to my church family. - Sue McKain

**Additional Holiday Greetings Received via Mail (now posted on our main bulletin board):**  
Ken & Margi Evans  
Wayne & Carol McMullen  
Aaron & Deanna McNeal  
Chuck & Linda Necker  
Pearl Sterner

Merry Christmas! - Don & Carol Mosher  
Merry Christmas! - Ken & Kay Mundorf  
Merry Christmas! - Lynn Obechi & Family  
Have a wonderful Christmas! - Becky Papenbrock  
Merry Christmas, Friends! - Al & Alice Paul  
Merry Christmas! - Jack & Audrey Price  
Merry Christmas to all and a blessed new year!  
- Pat Schwarz

Merry Christmas to all! - Shirley Shubert  
Merry Christmas! - Sharon Siffert  
Merry Christmas and a blessed 2010, everyone!  
Love, Bud & Polly Simmons  
Merry Christmas! - Sheila Smith  
Peace on earth and Christmas blessings to all.  
- Janet Stevens-Brown

Joy and peace! - Barbara Terrell  
Christmas blessings to all! - Dan & Nancy Walker  
Merry Christmas to all! - Pauline Wallace  
All of the blessings of Christmas to you!  
Love, Lauri Warfield

A very merry Christmas!  
Love, Lydia and Marisa Ward

Merry Christmas to all! - Frank & Haryette Wargo  
Merry Christmas! Love, Gerald & Barbara Western  
Merry Christmas! - Keith Western  
Merry Christmas! - Dawna Knepper White  
Merry Christmas! - Joan Wilhelm

Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2010. I will miss you... See you in April! - Sandy Woosley

**Busch Funeral and Crematory Services**  
*Christian Church Foundation (General Staff)*  
*Christian Church Foundation (Great Lakes Zone)*  
*Christian Church in Ohio*  
*Ross Builders Co., Inc.*

## CALENDAR



Thu., 1/7: - Girl Scout Troop 524 gathering in Fellowship Hall, 6:15 p.m.  
- Joanna Circle gathering at the home of Betty McIntyre, 42906 Woodhill Dr., 7 p.m.

Fri., 1/8: - Elyria Area Church Women United's Missionary Tea and Annual Meeting at St. Paul United Church of Christ, 9715 E. River Road.

Sun., 1/10: - Epiphany Sunday (see back page for the day's schedule).

Mon., 1/11: - Worship Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 6:30 p.m.  
- Northwood Service Unit Girl Scout Leaders' meeting in Fellowship Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Tue., 1/12: - Program staff meeting in Pastor Janet's office, 4:15 p.m.  
- Elders' supper meeting in the Elders' conference room, 5:30 p.m.

Wed., 1/13: - Tuesday Night LaPorte Group (AA) gathering in Fellowship Hall, 8 p.m.  
- Girl Scout Troop 390 meeting in the youth rooms, 6:15 p.m.  
- Chancel Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7 p.m.

Sat., 1/16: - Salvation Army Hot Meal served by Team IV (Mark & Susan Mathes, captains).

## NEWS OF OUR FAMILY

### REMINDER

The annual congregational meeting will immediately follow Sunday's 10:45 Service to seek approval for the 2010 operating budget. The proposed budget holds steady at 2009's level of \$340,559. A big "Thank You" to the committees for maintaining prior year levels and to the congregation for increasing giving in these tough economic times (church family members will note a decrease in our permanent funds investment income upon presentation of the full budget). We hope you'll be able to stay for this brief, but important, meeting.

### THANK YOU

A card from Barbara Boehler, sent to thank WACC for the beautiful poinsettia, is now on display on our main bulletin board.

### PRAYER FOCUS

Please pray to learn from the past while living in the present with an eye on the future.

### SYMPATHY

Our love and prayers surround...

...Laurie & Bill Adkins in the death of Laurie's mother, Judy Ponting. Services will be held tomorrow (Wednesday) at North Eaton Christian Church where Judy served as lay minister.

...Cindy & Glenn Johnson in the death of their nephew, Michael Hamilton. Services were held on Monday in Elyria.

...Jodi & Tim Bobbitt (our former missionaries to Argentina) in the sudden death of Jodi's father, Ron Wolfe. Services will be held on Saturday in Chagrin Falls.

May God's peace strengthen and sustain all who mourn.

### HOSPITALIZED

At Life Care: Evelyn Hollis  
At Home: Myra Ball (Wesleyan Village)  
Sally Benson  
John Henry, Jr.  
Jean Williams