

February 21, 2010

8:30 a.m. Early Morning Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Common Grounds, followed by Church School
9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
10:45 a.m. Sprouts, Chi Rho and CYF lunch and trip to Brandywine
12:00 noon

OPENER: Pete Majewski **CLOSER:** Don Hange, Sr.
GREETERS: Tony, Jeni, Connor, and Erin Sweeten
ACOLYTES: Deanna Forbush and Taylor Novak

WORSHIP LEADER: Lisa Ward

SPEAKER: The Reverend Dr. Janet A. Long

TELLERS: Larry McIntyre and Dan Walker

ELDER (8:30): **PIANIST (8:30):**

Barbara Terrell Lauri Warfield

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

Janet Stevens-Brown Debby Willets

Ken Mundorf Mike Crocker

DIACONATE: Team III

8:30 - Jason Higgins and Tina Maddock
10:45 - Pam Henry, Michelle Kazmierczak, Michelle Kersey, Sean Kersey, Carol Mosher, Karen Schneider, Laverne Stroup, and Wayne Walker

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH TO VISIT BRANDYWINE THIS SUNDAY

In the spirit of the Olympics, youth in grades 3-12 will visit Brandywine this Sunday, February 21. Admission is \$20 (skiing is extra). The group will depart WACC at 12:30 p.m. and return by 5 p.m. The sign-up sheet is posted on the window of the Elders' conference room.

CYF HIRAM CONFERENCE MID-WINTER

Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to the March 5-7 Hiram Conference Mid-Winter Retreat at Westlake Christian Church. The theme is, "Conflict: Managing Stress In Your Life." Registration is \$50 for youth; \$30 for adult chaperones. Registration forms are posted on our youth bulletin board.

YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT

Advance Ministry (for post-high school adults ages 18-29) will hold a Spring Retreat March 12-14 at Camp Christian. The theme is, "Get Personal With Yourself: Exploring the Individual." Registration information is posted on our main bulletin board.

THE SPREE



Washington Avenue Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Janet A. Long, Pastor

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Janet's Jottings

Dear Friends,

As we approach this Sunday's special offering for Week of Compassion, consider the following reflections by the Reverend Amy Gopp, Executive Director of Week of Compassion:

When I was in the Congo this past November, I preached in a church-on-stilts in a fishing village. Folks set up a camp of sorts along the Congo River where they could fish and make some semblance of a living. Fishing means surviving for most of the members of this community.

After I preached my sermon, translated into the local language of Lingala, I sat back down in my seat and proceeded to watch the members of the church dance forward their offerings. I was overcome by their joy in doing so. I'm serious when I say that they *danced* their offerings forward. They were thrilled—delighted—overjoyed that they had something to give! This was the highlight of the worship experience! Praise be to God for the opportunity to give what we have!

And just when I thought it was over, the marvelous African beat continued and they kept dancing. They were invited to give another offering—*another offering?* I thought. This time they brought forward their gifts for me, the preacher. *What? Me? An offering for me??* I could hardly believe it. Their tradition to offer gifts of gratitude was overwhelming to me. Never has this happened to me in all my travels and visits to preach the Gospel!

So I graciously—despite my incredulousness—accepted the three fish, the long branch of plantains, the oranges, and the money. I felt strange about accepting it, I'll admit. But I know that to honor the giver you honor the gift. This is what Week of Compassion is all about.

Honoring the giver and the gift—this is also the best way to honor the receiver.

Friends...I honor you for the gifts you bring. I honor you for the offerings you bring to Week of Compassion. I honor you for offering what you have. Most of all, I honor you for giving the best gift of all: yourselves.

You are your best offering.

Love,

Washington Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



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

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WoC “Regular” Special Offering

You are to be commended! WACC has already given over \$4,000 to Week of Compassion in 2010, mostly in response to the crisis in Haiti.

This Sunday’s annual offering for Week of Compassion will enable a Disciples response to needs around the world throughout the year. Please use 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 should be payable to WACC, with “Week of Compassion” written on the memo line. (If you would like to direct your gift for Haiti’s needs, please write, “WoC—Haiti” on the memo line.) Thank you for your past generous response, and for your continuing compassion!



District 2 Disciples Men’s Spring Rally March 7

Men of the church are invited to worship, dine and fellowship with other Disciples Men’s groups on Sunday, March 7 at Franklin Circle Christian Church. Registration is \$7 per person and includes a program by The Reverend Jim Schimmel, music by Tiny Byrd and The Circle Project Band and a delicious dinner. Registration begins at 2:30 p.m.; dinner begins at 5 p.m. **R.S.V.P. by March 1 to pastorallen@franklincirclechurch.org or 216-781-8232.**

February 21 Lectionary Corner

Deuteronomy 28:1-11
Romans 10:8b-13
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Luke 4:1-13*

* *Sermon focus*

Have you remembered WACC in your will?

LENTEN OBSERVANCES

Our observance of Lenten disciplines helps us better understand Jesus’ journey towards the cross and makes more meaningful the gift of Easter.

Please plan to take advantage of the following Lenten opportunities:

Lenten Devotional Booklet Available

Remember to pick up your copy of *Fellowship of Prayer*. This devotional booklet is being provided free of charge to aid you in your Lenten journey. Copies are available from the rack near the stairs leading to the sanctuary. (Copies of the March-April issue of the bi-monthly devotional, *The Upper Room*, are also available from this same rack.)

Lenten Supper & Study Series

Please plan to join us each Monday evening during Lent (February 22 and March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29) at 5:55 for our annual Supper & Study Series. This year’s study is, “Finding Faith at the Movies,” Part 2. A light supper will precede each Monday evening study session. Please invite friends, family and neighbors.

Lenten Vespers Services

We will continue our annual tradition of holding Vespers Services each Wednesday throughout Lent. The first service will take place on February 24, at 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. Please invite others to attend with you.

Thu., 2/18: - Sarah Circle gathering in the youth rooms, 10:45 a.m.

- Girl Scout Troop 524 gathering in Fellowship Hall, 6:15 p.m.

Sat., 2/20: - Memorial service for Evelyn Hollis in the sanctuary, 2 p.m. (preceded by 1 p.m. committal service at Ridge Hill Memorial Park).

- Salvation Army Hot Meal served by Team 3 (Val Collins, captain).

Sun., 2/21: - First Sunday in Lent (see back page for the day’s schedule).

Mon., 2/22: - Lenten Supper & Study Series in Fellowship Hall, 5:55 p.m.

Tue., 2/23: - Tuesday Night LaPorte Group (AA) gathering in Fellowship Hall, 8 p.m.

Wed., 2/24: - Lenten Vespers Service in the sanctuary, 6:15 p.m.

- Girl Scout Troop 390 gathering in the youth rooms, 6:15 p.m.

- Chancel Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7 p.m.

Board Bits

Due to bad weather, the WACC Board did not meet for its regularly-scheduled February meeting. But don’t be fooled—even when snow covers the roads and rooftops, it does not hide the love, joy and service we share at WACC! Many of us communicate throughout the week, in any weather. Despite the forecast, committees continue to plan and carry out activities. There is always much going on!



Watch *The Spire* and Sunday orders of worship for details of the many opportunities offered during Lent.

We hope to see you soon!

Lauri Warfield
Board Chair

2010 Adventure Camp = Photo Fun “Picturing the Fruit of the Spirit”



This summer’s Adventure Camp for Ohio Disciples will offer a less physically-demanding, more artistic trip than in years past, with a Photo Safari of Ohio. The August 8-14 adventure will be based at Camp Christian and have participants focus on the fruit of the Spirit while enjoying daily excursions to sites such as the Columbus Zoo, Hocking Hills area, etc. In addition, award-winning photographer Jack Acri will be on hand with photography tips and digital image-manipulation techniques. Adventure Camp is open to photographers of all skill levels, grades 9-adult (younger children may attend with their parent/s). WACC Office Administrator Diana Tyler is one of this year’s AC counselors; contact her for details.

NEWS OF OUR FAMILY

Welcome!

Gerry & Karen Andress united with our congregation by transfer of membership this past Sunday. Married here at WACC, we welcome them back home to our church family. Blessings, Gerry & Karen!

Congratulations!

It was wonderful to have Al & Alice Paul in town, worshipping with us on their 29th wedding anniversary this past Sunday (2/14)! Continued best wishes and blessings!

Lenten Retreats for Men and Women

Disciples women are invited to attend, “Lenten Companionship,” a day of reflection, prayer, conversation, and crafts at Camp Christian on Saturday, March 20.

Disciples men will meet on the same day, also at Camp Christian, for a spiritual retreat focusing on methods of prayer.

You’ll find complete information—and registration forms for both events—posted on our main bulletin board. You may also call the church office to obtain further details.

Prayer Focus

Please pray for our shared efforts through Week of Compassion—and for the gifts that will be offered, for the givers who will share them, and for those who will receive these blessings.

Hospitalized

No one (of whom we are aware) at press-time. At Home: Brad Anderson
Clifford Smith

CALENDAR

