

**Christ United Methodist Church**  
**Snyder, New York**  
*"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"*  
**UPDATE**  
**February 27, 2012**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH**  
**9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship with the new worship team.**  
**10:00 – FaithXpress, Soul Strength, youth Sunday school and AOL**  
**11:00 – Traditional Style Worship with Choir.**  
**Bring a Friend this week and share the Love and Grace of God!**

[www.Christchurchamherst.org](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)

716-839-2460

Dr. B.J.'s blog is [www.drbitthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drbitthoughts.blogspot.com)

Hi Everyone:

Every balmy day is one day closer to the warmth and vitality of spring. I noticed a snowdrop in bloom by the back door of the parsonage . . . can the crocuses be far behind? This past winter was so mild I'm beginning to think I should have moved to Buffalo years ago for the nice weather (grin).

Here is what is going on at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 142 – a lot of us away for the end of school break. We had a great morning thinking about temptation and the ways we overcome. There were nearly 40 of us at the Ash Wednesday observance last week.

We welcomed three new members into our church family on Sunday:

Dave and Patti Bechtel – have been worshipping with us since late last Summer and a good friends of the Don and Barb Critoph.

Molly Butler has been worshipping with us since late last Summer. She moved to Buffalo last July with her husband Wayne.

We are happy to have you as a part of our Christ Church family!

2. This Sunday is March 4 (only day of the year that is also a command – say it out loud and you'll get it). It is a Communion Sunday.

We are beginning our Stewardship series: "Extravagant Generosity" my sermon is from 1Timoty 6:17-19 and is titled: EKG: ministry flows from the heart! We will hear from our co-lay leader, Dick Mugel as part of worship.

3. The Lenten Study of Rueben Job's book [Three Simple Questions](#) this Wednesday, February 29 at 5:30. We have a light supper at 5:30 followed by the study. You can still join us and there are a few more books available.

4. We passed out devotional books "Extravagant Generosity" to every family in church this past Sunday. We have more to give away. If you did not get one stop by the church office and pick one up. We are hoping that our congregation will be reading these in anticipation of Worship through the month of March.

5. Through the New Testament in 2012: Daily commentary can be found on Pastor BJ's blog: [www.drjbthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drjbthoughts.blogspot.com). This week's readings: February 28 – 1 Timothy 2; February 29 – 1 Timothy 3; March 1 – 1 Timothy 4; March 2 – 1 Timothy 5; March 5 – 1 Timothy 6; March 6 – James 1; March 7 – James 2.

6. This Week at Christ Church:

February 28 – Deborah Circle at Noon in the Wesley Room

February 29 – 11:00 Pastor's Bible Study

5:30 Lenten Supper and Study and Reflection

March 1 – Elizabeth Circle 7:30

March 2 – WORLD DAY OF PRAYER service at Christ Church at 1:00

March 3 – UMW General Meeting at 10:00 a.m. Caroline Hess will be the speaker and she will be speaking about "The School of Christian Mission". Rachel Circle is hosting and providing a continental breakfast for a \$5 donation. All Women are invited.

7. "Mugsy Sent Me!" – The Amherst Players, Inc. proudly present Mugsy Sent Me! By Dan Neidermyer. This is a 1920's interactive dinner theater experience that will be performed on **Saturday, March 3 at 4:00 p.m. at Christ Church**. Each performance includes a door prize, spaghetti dinner and dessert and a floor show. Tickets are \$22 presale and \$25 at the door. For more information visit the Amherst Players at [www.amherstplayers.org](http://www.amherstplayers.org) or call 791-7529. Proceeds from this event will go to the Christ Church Missions' fund.

**If you are planning on coming please get your tickets in advance or LET US KNOW you are coming so we can have sufficient food for the dinner.**

8. IN OUR PRAYERS: Nicky Sebastiano; Mary Emens, Barbara McCray; Carmen Ticconi, Erik Schmitz; Ed Maker (had surgery on the 16<sup>th</sup> and is doing well – beginning chemotherapy soon);

9. Happy Birthday this week:

February 27 – Janice Beckwith, Michele Sciolino

February 28 – Ashton Hannon

March 1 – Marcia Snyder

March 2 – Gregory Yungbluth

March 5 – Clem Arrison; Jean Kellner

March 6 – Elizabeth Holt Curtis

10. Christian Education Team PIZZA Sale fundraiser: Sunday March 11, 2012

Homemade pizza: Baked ahead or Raw. Take Home or Eat In

ORDER in advance by filling out the form in the Church bulletin or calling the Church office.

Same day order will depend of availability.

11. Nicky Sebastiano will turn 100 on March 21. We will have a reception for Nicky on Sunday, March 18 following the 11:00 worship service in the parlor.

12. **HOLY LAND (ISRAEL) 2013** – I am planning a journey to the Holy Land (10 day tour) in January/February 2013. I now have brochures with the essential information. See me for more. Watch for an information/travel meeting in the near future. Questions? See me. 10 day trip includes air travel (from New York's JFK); hotel, two meals a day, ground transportation, etc. I am estimating cost to be about \$3000 (2700 for trip plus incidentals).

13. 1. **THANK YOU for helping sponsor 14 orphans** at Pastor Grace's school in Kirimandagi. If there are more opportunities we will let you know. \$100-110 sends a child to school for the year.

2. DVD's of the Hope for Africa Children's choir are available in the café on Sunday mornings. You may have one of the DVDs for a free will offering (you decide how much to give). Proceeds will be used for scholarships for our African friends.

3. Hands for New York – this week's collection: **March 4 is Macaroni and Cheese!**

**We have provided nearly 5000 meals since July 1!!!!**

The goal is to feed 1million people in 1 year (July to June). If each congregation in Upper New York Conference fed 1050 people we would reach our goal. Christ church will well exceed that goal knowing that some congregations will not be able to feed 1050!

4. UGANDA PROJECTS UPDATE:

A. Dr BJ will be travelling to Uganda to continue his work with the Nexus Seminary this fall (October 1-October 17). Kathy Weaver of our congregation will be joining him on this journey with another nurse and at least one other pastor.

Uganda 2012 team: Rev. B.J. Norrix, Rev. William Mudge, Kathy Weaver, Esther Keeney (of Pulaski) and possibly Rev. Clair Mosher.

B. I have three DVD's from last year's Uganda journey. I would be glad to lend them to you.

a. is me teaching a series of lectures on Palestine of Jesus time

b. is Kikyusa graduation

c. is of the well project at Kirimandagi

5. **Habitat for Humanity:** Christ Church was one of the original Habitat Sponsors in Erie County. We continue our participation in several ways:

a. We contribute \$1000 annually to Habitat

b. We have several women who participate in the WOMEN BUILD

Friday March 23 at 6:00 in the Main Ballroom of Statler City there will be a

**Women Build Roof Raiser.**

Event is \$30 (tickets purchased before March 16) and \$35 at the door. It includes: beverages, appetizers, desserts, wine tasting, silent auction, live auction and a raffle for a Smokey Mountain Vacation. Business casual for the event. See Marg Bauza or Peggy Bermudez or the Sunday bulletin or web site for more information.

14. **An UNUSUAL opportunity:** as many of you may know I have written a book for my Ugandan friends. It is a biblical and theological primer that will be translated into Lugandan and will be published in English and Lugandan. My friend, Rev Davis Matovu has written an excellent commentary on the book of Revelation. It is my hope to be able to publish and distribute these books to our Nexus Seminary students for free. However, to publish and print 2000 copies of both volumes is going to cost between \$5000 and \$6000. I am looking for partners. . . . see me if you'd like to help. **Thank you to those who have contributed several hundred dollars so far.**

15. Coming Later in Lent:

Palm Sunday is April 1 – we will have a procession with palms and a reading of the Passion narrative.

Holy Thursday is April 5 – we will gather at 7:00 for an observance of the Last Supper (no Seder this year).

Good Friday is April 6 – we will have the Stations of the Cross at Noon and again at 7:00 p.m.  
Easter festival celebrations at 9:00 and 11:00 on April 8.

16. Christ Church is now on Facebook – find us and click “Like”!

17. Our total worship attendance through February was 1323 (an average of 147 per Sunday). This is 20% better than a year ago and 5% ahead of two years ago and the best first two months of the year since 2007. We are growing. Invite your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers to come and join us at Christ Church!

18. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER is sponsored by Church Women United and is held on the first Friday of March each year. The United Methodist Women, nationally and locally, are a part of Church Women United. This year’s theme is “Let Justice Prevail” and focuses on the Christian women of Malaysia. Malaysia is a religiously pluralistic country. World Day of Prayer’s motto is “Informed prayer leads to powerful action” and affirms that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence. **World Day of Prayer is hosted by Christ Church UMW this Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00.** All are invited to attend.

19. Church Council met last Thursday here are some highlights:

- a. Trustees are ready to award the contract on replacing the church’s boilers. Work should commence the end of March
- b. New Sign is in place and landscaping will be performed in the Spring
- c. Bills are paid and ‘Shared Giving’ for January was paid on time (and in full).
- d. finance team reported on the Stewardship campaign – see elsewhere in this update
- e. Budget requests from team leaders were sent out in anticipation of Stewardship and Finance compiling our working budget
- f. Christian Education reported 2 youth in confirmation this year.
- g. we approved ordering a new color capable copier (provided free from Xerox)
- h. Missions team reported on projects including Hands for New York, Habitat and others (we are busy).

We are beginning the season of Lent and, what is a shift for Christ Church, a season of Stewardship. Christ Church has chosen the theme: “Extravagant Giving” as our theme. We will be looking at four examples of Extravagant Giving: 1) Ministry flows from the heart; 2) relationships are a matter of the heart; 3) Vision and Hope are Inspirations of the heart and, 4) Extravagant Generosity is an expression of your heart. We are using devotional books, an AOL study; personal testimonies and worship celebrations designed to emphasize these themes through the month of March. We will celebrate “Consecration Sunday” on March 25 as each of us will be invited to make a financial commitment to Jesus Christ through Christ Church on that date. I encourage each of us to prayerfully consider the relationships, grace and love that is extended to us from God and through the Church community and to do the best we can to support the ministry of Jesus Christ through Christ Church, Snyder. I am very excited about this series and its potential impact on our lives. I am equally excited about what God is doing in our midst at Christ Church and see a better future for our ministry with each passing day.

Have a great week!

See you when the Church gathers,

BJ Norrix, coach, missionary, lead servant