

April 14, 2015

UPDATE

Christ United Methodist Church

**Harlem Road at Saratoga Road
Amherst, New York**

“Living Christ’s ways and exploding with love and service”

EVERYONE is WELCOME

SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH

9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship

**10:00 FaithXpress, Soul Strength and Adult
Opportunities for Learning**

11:00 – Traditional Style Worship

***Bring a Friend this week and share the Love and Grace of
God!***

Visit us on the World Wide Web at: www.Christchurchamherst.org
Or call us at: 716-839-2460

Dr. B.J.’s blog is www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com

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Hi Everyone:

On Sunday, April 12, it was announced that Bishop Mark Webb intends to appoint Rev. Darryl Barrow as the new Senior Pastor of Christ United Methodist Church effective July 1. Rev. Barrow is currently serving as the Crossroads District Superintendent and has previously served as director of Spiritual Leadership in the former North Central New York Annual Conference. Rev. Barrow is a member

of the United Methodist Connectional Table on the national church level. Darryl Barrow is a native of Trinidad and Tobago and has previously served in Florida and Georgia before coming north to New York State. Rev. Barrow expressed his excitement about returning to parish ministry and is very much looking forward to serving the Snyder/Buffalo community.

Transition Time Line:

Rev. B.J. Norrix - last Sunday is June 14

Rev. Darryl Barrow - first Sunday is July 5

Darryl is planning to visit Christ Church on Wednesday April 22. He will meet with the church staff in the afternoon and with key leaders in the early evening. Watch for more information.

Here is what is happening at Christ Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was nearly 130. Special appreciation is extended to Roger Johnson (SPRC chair) for making the official announcement mentioned above.

We also distributed Bibles to 2 Faith Express students and to 7 Apprentices to Jesus (aka Confirmation Class)!

I had a great time meeting with the apprentices and their mentors following worship on Sunday as we took a "Mad Dash Through a Good Book" together.

2. This Sunday, April 19 I will be preaching part 2 of the "Who is Jesus?" Series. This week we look at John 10:1-11 where Jesus says "I am the Gate" and "I am the Good Shepherd"

3. **WE NEED MORE HOST FAMILIES for** The BACH Children's Chorus and Bach Chamber Youth Choir of Ontario, Canada that is coming to Christ Church. There is a concert Saturday evening, April 25. The concert features singers ages 6 through university age who are divided into three choirs. These award-winning choirs compete internationally; have released 6 CD's and recorded a song for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics! Mark your calendars – you won't want to miss this. For more information, **or to host children/adults from the group in your home,** contact Sally Pollard (839-2460).

4. Help is needed (very much!!) on **Monday, April 20 morning and afternoon** to move items from the Asbury Shalom Zone. Some will go Diane Lovejoy's home off Sheridan Dr. near Wegman's, other items will be sorted and left at the Shalom Zone or brought to church. **People are needed for sorting, packing and loading the truck.** If you can do any of those things or know others who may help, please invite them and contact me. We will have a large truck, and dollies and hand trucks for moving the heavier items. Thank you! Contact: Sally 839-2460 or sjjoy@aol.com.

5. In our Prayers: **Barb Carrier** is now home and making progress; Dave **Lawson** following eye surgery is now getting out of the house (good to see him in worship this past Sunday); Sue Estee is now HOME following her surgery; Ruth Swenson (broken shoulder after a fall); Pray for **Todd and Mary Jo Evans** – Todd is now at Beechwood and will be consulting at Roswell in early April; **Mary Jo is at Blocher Homes**; **Mitch Mooney**, following a recent hospital stay is now at Wesley Rehab; **Glenn Hurst** following a recent hospital stay is due home this week; **Tom Davis** has been at Suburban Hospital; **Laney Fuller** has returned to Asbury Pointe; **Jan Rhinehart** undergoing tests; **Sharon Ferrelli continues** cancer treatments; **Dr. Robert Nachbar** has moved to Blocher Homes; **Chuck Gilbert**, following a recent hospital stay; **Dorothy Brown**; **Dona Dalton**; **Brian Martin** for continued healing; **Edmond Wrycza** (Julianna Sabol's father in nursing home in Fort Erie); **Lois Lewis**, **Barbara Clinton**, **Fred and Linda Painton**, **Guy Castellino** (and Guy's mother and father who are both dealing with major health matters); **Bim Rowlands**, **Nicky Sebastiano**, **Ruth Kitson**, **Ruth Luss**, **Shirley Downey**, **Ed Maker**, **Alice Schmidt**, **Diane Lovejoy**. Remember our service men and women (domestic and foreign) especially: **Alex Dunbar**, **Ian Johnson** and **Lindsey Darling** (all serving in the US Navy). Pray for **Christ UMC** in this time of transition. Pray for Pastor BJ and Rev. Darryl Barrow (and all UM pastors and congregations) in this season of transition. Pray for renewal and a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit!

6. MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY IS just 5 weeks from Sunday (**May 17**). Sign-up Sheets are now posted in the back of the Sanctuary. There is opportunity for helping with collections, cooking, gardening, cleaning, visiting and many others. It is time to join a team and get ready to go to work. Take time to check out the video from last year's event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8yiUQxxgNc>. **We will**

gather at 9:00a.m. on the 17th of May for a brief worship, commissioning and sending out!

7. UGANDA TEAM NOTES: John and Brandon Miller, Viki and Hannah Smith, Janelle Martin, Erisawe Briere, Kathryn Weaver and B.J. Norrix will depart for Uganda on Sunday June 28 and will return on Tuesday, July 14.

The Uganda Team would like to thank everyone who supported our Fish Fry on Friday – we cleared over \$800 for the event!

FOCUS: We will be working with two clinics (at Lusanja and Nabukondo) we will be leading two Nexus graduations (at Rakai and Nakasangola) we will be working on a church building at a school and holding at least one youth rally. We will be dedicating a new well (at Gombe) and a new church at Seeta. There will be time taken to visit the source of the Nile River in Jinja and a Game Preserve near Rakai.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP: A. – PRAY FOR US as we prepare, as we travel, as we work and as we return!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP: B. Help out at and/or bring friends to the two remaining fund raisers: 1) spaghetti dinner on May 2nd; 2) there is another Ron Corsaro Trio concert in June.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP: C. Collect supplies for us to take along: 1. **School supplies (pencils, colored pencils, erasers (NO CRAYONS OR PAPER));** 2. Basic medical supplies (gloves, bandages, etc.); 3. toothbrushes; 4. Toys (stickers, small items); 5. Bibles, Bible resources (ask BJ if in doubt); 6. Silent Auction Basket items for May 2.

We can also use “reader” glasses (1.5 or 2.0 magnification)- frame styles do not matter.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP: D. I am about \$500 short on funds needed to help Rev. Davis Matovu publish his most recent book, A Hermeneutical Bridgeway. This book will be of great assistance to our Ugandan Pastors in their interpretative work with the Bible. We have \$2600 in hand for the publication but are in need of about \$500 more. If you can help with any part of this see me (BJ) for more information!

ITEMS FOR AUCTION OR SALE FOR UGANDA TEAM: 1) we have a fur coat donated, women’s medium (retail value about \$250), best offer; **2)** We have a **handmade quilt** retail value is in the \$250 to \$300 range – nothing less than \$250, make us an offer. **Both items** can be viewed in the Church Office.

8. AARP Driver Safety Class: Christ Church will host an AARP Driver Safety Class on Friday, April 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Class is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members (paid by cash or check on the day of the training). Lunch will be available for \$5. Register by contacting Janelle at 839-2460 or cumc350@gmail.com.

9. Happy Birthday this week:

April 14: Michele Cordero; Wendy Johnston

April 15: Linda Rekate

April 18: Joyce Delong; Ed Maker

April 19: Charles Terranova

April 21: Courtney Hannon; Drew Smith;

April 22: Chris Klenk

10. Through the Bible. This week's readings.

April 14 – 1 Samuel 15-16; 1 Chronicles 5; Matthew 1

April 15 – 1 Samuel 17; Psalm 9 and Matthew 2

April 16 – 1 Samuel 18; 1 Chronicles 6; Psalm 11 and Matthew 3

April 17 – 1 Samuel 19; 1 Chronicles 7; Psalm 59 and Matthew 4

April 18 – 1 Samuel 20-21; Psalm 34 and Matthew 5

April 19 – 1 Samuel 22; Psalm 17 and 35 and Matthew 6

April 20 – 1 Samuel 23; Psalm 31 and 54 and Matthew 7

April 21 – 1 Samuel 24; 1 Chronicles 8; Psalm 57-58 and Matthew 8

April 22 – 1 Samuel 25-26; Psalm 63; Matthew 9

HERE'S A WAY TO ENHANCE YOUR BIBLE READING: Try keeping a Journal.

Sometimes, when you are reading, something in the reading will speak to you or stand out to you. Take a moment and write down the SCRIPTURE. Then make an OBSERVATION (what spoke to me??). Thirdly, ask "How would I APPLY this to my life. Finally, make what you learned into a PRAYER. This method of bible reading is called the S.O.A.P. method and allows us to ask "how will I be different because of what I just read?"

On the First of June, I will make available copies of our Bible Reading Plan for the rest of the year. You may contact Janelle in the church office or copies will be on the ledge in the back of the Sanctuary

11. THIS WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH

Tuesday, April 14 – 7:00p.m. Stewardship and Finance Team

7:30p.m. Church Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 16 – Bible Study at 10:00a.m.

Friday, April 17 – Books we have Loved at 10:00a.m.

AARP Driver Class 9a.m. - 4p.m.

Saturday, April 18 – Crafting for a Cause at 10:00a.m.

Wednesday, April 22 – Leadership gathering at 6:00pm to meet new Pastor

12. Christ Church's Mission footprint (AKA our "Salt Map"): Peggy Bermudez (and friends) has put together a couple of maps. One is Erie County and the other is the rest of the world. On the map is a representation of the agencies and ministries that the Christ Church community is engaged with around town and around the world. The display is in the parlor. Take a look and see that Christ Church people are in ministry in a multitude of places and ways!

13. BACH Children's Chorus and Bach Chamber Youth Choir of Ontario, Canada. There is a concert Saturday evening, April 25. The concert features singers ages 6 through university age are divided into three choirs. These award-winning choirs compete nationally; have released 6 CD's and recorded a song for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics! Mark your calendars – you won't want to miss this. For more information, **or to host children/adults from the group in your home**, contact Sally Pollard (839-2460).

14. Diane Klenk is working with our local Veterans Hospital regarding supplies for the in patient, day programs and homeless. Below are needed items. If you can help see Diane or bring these items to the church and leave them in the container provided in Crafts Hall. Needed items: Socks, underwear, T-shirts (White, L to XXXL, V-neck), towels, Toiletries (deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, disposable razors, mouthwash, nail clippers, body wash, combs, shaving cream, pocket mirrors, chap stick – be sure mouth wash and other items are "Alcohol free"; Gift cards (McDonald's, Wendy's, Burger King, Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Tops); Patriotic throws or lap blankets, books and audio books, DVDs.

15. COMING SOON

April 25 – The Bach Children's Chorus and Bach Chamber Youth Choir of Ontario, Canada – in Concert (see more on #23 below)

May 2 – Uganda Team Spaghetti Dinner

May 17 – MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY!! 9:00a.m. Gathering, out to work and lunch 1-ish.

May 31 – First Responder’s Celebration and Appreciation Day

June 12 – Ron Corsaro Trio at 7:00

June 14 – Pastor BJ’s last Sunday

June 28 – Uganda Mission Team leaves for Uganda and returns July 14.

July 5 – Rev. Barrow’s first Sunday

16. . **ONE FINAL THING:** with my departure in mid-June, the 9:00a.m. worship team is without a music leader. The team can provide worship leadership but will need a lead **guitar** or **piano** or **drummer** to hold the music together and to keep the team in focus. I know that many of you play or can play . . . we are praying for you to step up and join us. See BJ for more information.

Parting Thought

Transition is a funny word. We tend to use the word “transition” for those special times of significant change. We transition from being single to being married. We transition from being married to being single again. We transition from school to school to the work world. We transition from renting to owning and from job to job. The reality is that all of life is in transition. Change is the only constant in the universe. Everything (except God) changes. I am changing every day. My mind is growing as I continue to learn. My soul is growing as I go deeper in my journey with Jesus Christ and as I expand my heart in works of mercy and justice. All of life is change. I suspect most of us have more difficulty with endings. When something comes to an end we grieve. The end of a life, the end of an era, the end of a particular phase of our lives is always met with a grieving process. When I left College I was excited to be moving on to Seminary and getting on with the next part of my journey – but I had to grieve leaving my friends from college and leaving my home of four years. When I moved to Christ Church 4 years ago I was excited about this next part of my journey and was looking forward to meeting all of you but I was also grieving leaving a place that was home for so many years. The same is true now. I am excited about this project I have been put in charge of in Syracuse but I am grieving as I begin to say goodbye to all of you. Transitional phases of our lives are at the same time hopeful and sad. The healthiest way to work through the transition is to make sure we say the goodbyes and to walk

slowly through the transition. I always try to go where I am invited. If you would like to spend time with me in these last few months I will make some time and space to do so. Please let me know. I am praying for all of you and am excited for Christ Church and your future on the other side of this transition.

Blessings,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, coach, missionary