

**Christ United Methodist Church  
Snyder, New York**

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

**UPDATE April 18, 2013**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH**

**9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship**

**10:00 – FaithXpress and Soul Strength and AOL**

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

**716-839-2460**

**Dr. B.J.’s blog is [www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com)**

Hi Everyone:

I’ve been watching, as I am sure most of us have been, the aftermath of the bombings in Boston during the running of the Boston Marathon. Lots of speculation, lots of debate, lots of news channel’s need to fill time and space but not a whole lot of substance or real information has been coming out since Monday afternoon. I’m not sure where this will all lead and I’m not sure how to take one more deplorable and senseless act of violence other than to be reminded, once again, that there are broken, hurting and unhealthy people in the world and people who are hurting often hurt other people. I find myself praying for healing. Healing for the families of the three who died, healing for the survivors and their families and friends and, healing for the broken person or persons who did this horrible thing. My Bible tells me that violence is at the heart of the fallen human condition. My Lord Jesus tells me to not respond in kind, to turn the other cheek, to pray for my enemies and, perhaps the most difficult of all, to love those who despitefully use others. I have been impressed with the people of Boston (my home from 1978 to 1982) and their resilience. I have been impressed to learn that the Vancouver Marathon now has a near record number of entrants (another act of defiance from the running community). I heard the crowd singing the National Anthem at the Bruins/Sabers hockey game last night and was deeply moved by their collective singing. I am challenged once again to remember that bringing in the Kingdom of God on Earth has to happen on two levels. It comes when any individual chooses to become a Christ follower. It comes when Christ followers collectively work to make this a better (safer?) less violent world for everyone. It is here now . . . it is coming.

Here is what is happening at Christ Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was near 140. Special appreciation to Courtney Cataudella (our 9:00 speaker) and to Dr. Marvin McMickle (CRCD Seminary President) who was our 11:00 preacher. It was a very good morning complete with a successful pancake breakfast to help Courtney’s Nicaraguan mission.

2. This Sunday I am back to the Elijah/Elisha stories. This week features a story of the Lone prophet Elijah standing against a nation, a king and 400 priests of Baal. This “Contest on Mt. Carmel” marks a vital turning point in Old Testament history and in Elijah’s life. The Biblical text is 1 Kings 18:20-40. We will hear from our “Cancer Fighting Team” for Make a Difference Day.

At 12:30 this Sunday – Journey’s End will present “A Refugee’s Journey: The Courage of Buffalo’s newest Families”. Soup and Bread will be provided. Please stay and hear the stories of this journey.

At 2:30 this Sunday – Choir Festival (and one lone praise band) Benefit for the Niagara Frontier City Ministries. Our 9:00 worship team will be participating in this event. Bring something for the collection plate and come and hear local choirs and other music.

At 6:30 this Sunday – “Going Deeper” group meets to continue conversation about C.S. Lewis’ book The Great Divorce. All are welcome to join us.

3. In our Prayers: In our Prayers: Doris Schanzlin is now at Beechwood to get rehab – she is making good progress; Art Gundlach is now at Weinberg Campus room 318; Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Chris Klenk, Rosalie Johnson (Roger Johnson’s mother on hospice care in Atlanta, Georgia); Mark Fisher (son of Ed and Cindy) was diagnosed with a form of throat cancer – prognosis is good but please pray. Remember the victims and families of the Boston bombing; Pray for those in harm’s way. Pray for families in crisis. Pray for those looking for work.

#### 4. Updated Reports:

Africa Angels reports an enormous success with their event last weekend! We pray for the continued success in their adoption process.

Hand2Plow was Saturday at Camp Asbury. We discussed worship and what “Experiential Worship” means. Watch for more.

5. THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER (Northtowns edition) is underway. Here is a report from the Christ Church representatives: Dede Johnson, Kathy Weaver, Peggy Bermudez – if you wish to help with any of the items below see Dede, Kathy or Peggy!

1) The loose change collection that was suggested we do on Make a difference Sunday. We would like to call it "change" a life and let people know that it would benefit the FJC. We would like to give people time and reminders so they bring their donation on that day. We will also have donation jars at the drop off trucks in the parking lot.

2) The FJC Northtowns group is looking for names of people/companies that we can ask for help with the building project. We need tons of things. For instance, furniture, lamps, carpeting, paint, art work. Also people who can help with carpentry, putting in a new concrete walkway, building the handicap ramp to the back door, making or donating window treatments. If we have anyone in our congregation that can help with or provide possible contacts it would be very helpful.

3) Volunteer skills forms are available in the Church office. We need to have interested people fill it out asap and return it so the group knows what kind of volunteer work we can do verses paid contractors and vendors.

4) The FJC is having a fundraising breakfast June 7th 8:00 am to 9:00 am. They will take a free will offering. If we have enough people interested we can arrange for our own sponsorship table.

#### 6. This Week at Christ Church

Thursday, April 18 – 7:30 – Trustees Meeting

Friday, April 19 – 10:00 – Books Loved

See above for Sunday events and happenings!

#### 7. Happy Birthday this week:

April 18 – Joyce Delong; Ed Maker

April 19 – Charles Terranova

April 20 – Janet Barber

April 21 – Courtney Hannon; Drew Smith;

April 22 – Chris Klenk

April 23 – Pamela Gibson

8. A reminder Memorial Service for **Betty Penhall is this Thursday, April 25**. Calling hours from 4 to 6 and memorial at 6:00. Amigone funeral home on Kensington has charge of arrangements.

9. Did you know **Make a Difference Day is May 19 (only weeks away) – see Sunday bulletin for teams and projects**.

#### 10. Quilting for a Cause

MAKE A DIFFERENCE Sunday is right around the corner! May 19<sup>th</sup> to be exact. Marcia Snyder will be leading a team with the goal of making a quilt for the American Cancer Society (ACS). Do you have any experience quilting or sewing? Then Marcia would love for you to join her team! Recently Christ Church has developed a close relationship with the local office of the ACS, and we are supporting them in their efforts to fight cancer. Marcia will be hosting a special meeting at noon on Sunday, April 7, to go over details regarding this quilting opportunity. If you have any questions, please contact Marcia at 741-6901 or [marcia\\_snyder@roadrunner.com](mailto:marcia_snyder@roadrunner.com)

#### 11. MISSION UPDATES

A. Hands4NY – THIS WEEK – Toothbrushes and tooth paste.

B. DRESS OUR PEOPLE -- Dress Our People is currently working on completing 2 projects- cancer caps for Roswell and the American Cancer Society plus pillowcases for the local Ronald McDonald house. Dress Our People has a mailbox outside Sally's office- on the bottom right. If you have completed projects, please place them in the mailbox. There are also some packages of cut out projects in the mailbox- please feel free to take them home to complete! All completed projects should be returned by April 28th. UPDATE: so far we have completed- 32cancer caps and 36 pillow cases- we are well on our way to our goal of 50 each! If you have any questions, please call Molly Butler ([716-204-8993](tel:716-204-8993)) or send an e-mail ([kwmgbutler@gmail.com](mailto:kwmgbutler@gmail.com)).

C. CHRIST CHURCH COLLEGE MISSIONARIES

1. Courtney Cataudella is returning to project Chacocente in Nicaragua May 17-28 if you would like to support Courtney please mark your gift for her.

2. Jessica Lawson is traveling to India to work with children among the “untouchables”. If you would like to support Jessica mark your gift for her.

D. Kathryn Weaver **announced this past week that a single giver has given the funds to cover the balance we will need to dig** a proper bore hole well in NABUKONDO, GOMBA DISTRICT. The name of the overseeing bishop is BISHOP MATTHEW KYAMBADDE. Lack of clean drinking water is one the greatest obstacles to health and wellness in the developing world. The village in question collects rain water in a hole in the ground at the bottom of a hill for its drinking water. Water borne illnesses are nearly universal in the people of this village. Clean drinking water for this village would radically improve the health and well being of the village. Contact Kathy for more information: [kdweaver23@verizon.net](mailto:kdweaver23@verizon.net) or 839- 5918. There are other villages that need wells – watch for further opportunities as we move forward with Nabukondo!

E. Did you know **Make a Difference Day** is only 5 weeks away? Sunday May 19 we will go, gather and do our best to make a difference.

Signup sheets are now posted in the back of the sanctuary – sign up now!

12. Trustees wish list: Here are some things the Christ Church Board of Trustees is wishing for in 2013. If you can help with one of these see Tom Weaver:

3. Gas Powered Edge Trimmer (**now cared for THANK YOU**)

5. Parking Lot Repaving

6. Sanctuary Wing Hot Water Tank

## 7. Refurbish Sanctuary wing restrooms

And for the parsonage:

1. Gas stove/range
2. Back Yard Deck
4. Lawn mower (so Pastor can mow the lawn)

Again, contact Tom Weaver if you would like to make any of these wishes come true.

## 13. Uganda Mission Team 2013 – coming together

The Uganda Mission team is officially 4 – BJ Norrix, Kathryn Weaver, Joe Fort and Rev. Clair Mosher. There are two others who are contemplating joining us. We are planning to depart November 3/4 and will return November 20/21. Is God calling you to join us? I need to know within the next 3 weeks as travel arrangements are being made and it will cost more later!

## 14. Coming Soon:

1. Niagara Frontier City Ministries benefit concert – April 21 at 2:30
2. Women's Spring Weekend Retreat– deadline for registration was April 7 – Cost is \$150. Event is at Camp Asbury. Discover yourself, community and friendship through music, scripture, reflection, games, movies, and more!
3. BE THE CHURCH SUNDAY Let's ***Make a Difference!*** – May 19, 2013
4. Upper New York Annual Conference – May 30 through June 1 in Syracuse
5. Confirmation Sunday is June 9

15. You should ask **Beth Sweet** how her “Walk to Emmaus” Weekend went!

## ***Parting Thought***

My daffodils are in full bloom. The trees are in bud. I am working in short sleeves. The lawn needs to be mowed. Could these be the clear and unmistakable signs that the Western New York Spring has finally arrived? I was speaking with one of my Ugandan friends last year while we drove across country. In southern Uganda every day is twelve hours long. Every night is twelve hours long. The weather forecast for today in Uganda is temperature in the 80's and it might rain. This forecast varies slightly in the temperature and the likelihood of rain throughout the year but otherwise it is always the same. My friend said to me, “in Uganda when you find yourself talking about the weather you really do not have anything else to talk about!” I tried to explain our wild and sometimes rapid change of temperature, precipitation and conditions along with our ever changing amount of sunshine and available daylight to him. This explanation was to no avail as, frankly, someone actually has to experience our seasonal light and weather conditions to fully understand them. The weather differences make it easier to understand other seasonal matters. I am writing here of the seasons of a person's life, seasons of our spiritual journey, seasons of any relationship and every one of life's experiences. I believe the spiritual journey is understood much the same way. I can read about spiritual experiences and I can read about “knowing God”. These readings and conversations are but faint discussions in the category of the Ugandan weather until I experience the spiritual life for myself and personally encounter the risen Christ. This is why spiritual leaders like C.S. Lewis and others encourage people who have not experienced Christ or who have serious doubt to “live as if it were true” for a season and see what happens. In my experience, God shows us and new life emerges in those situations.

How is your life and season today?

BJ Norrix, coach, weather forecaster, missionary

This e-mail is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church Snyder, New York. If you do not wish to receive this e-mail please let me know!