

Christ United Methodist Church

Snyder, New York

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

UPDATE April 3, 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

716-839-2460

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

Hi Everyone:

Concluding a meaningful Holy Week, we had a great celebration of the resurrection of Jesus this past Sunday. Thank you to all of you who worked so hard to make this happen. Deep appreciation to our Worship Team and Altar Guild – the Sanctuary from Palm Sunday through Easter looked terrific. Thank you Sally Pollard who put the window meditations together for Holy Thursday/Good Friday and helped lead worship all week long. Thank you to my cross bearers – Herb Wilber and Lee Watson on Good Friday. Thank you to the Christ Church Choir, Elizabeth Curtis director and our brass players – and to all of you who came up and sang The Hallelujah Chorus at the conclusion of the 11:00 worship celebration. Thank you to our candle lighters, our ushers, our greeters. Thank you to Mr. Dave Wolf who keeps things in order and clean and to Rachel Vaughan who put together all of the print media for our week. Thank you to Keith Suffoletto for putting the power points together for all eight days. I am deeply grateful to all of you who helped, who worshipped, who observed and who walked with us through the pivotal week of the Christian story.

Here is what is happening at Christ Church:

1. Attendance Sunday was nearly 260 – also we were 38 on Holy Thursday and a combined 44 on Good Friday. A very nice week indeed!

2. This Sunday I am beginning my series called “Days of Elijah” I will be preaching from 1 Kings 17:8-24 and involves the story of the greatest prophet of the Old Testament, Elijah, and a poor widow.

FaithXpress, Soul Strength and AOL resume this week. This Sunday **FaithXpress** – will begin “Easter People” – how the lives of Jesus friends were changed on the day of resurrection and how our lives are changed as well.

The Sunday Night “Going Deeper” group meets this Sunday for a light supper at 6:30 and continues its discussion of The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis.

3. Pledge Campaign Update: current estimate is: 109 pledges for over 232K. There are several of us who have not yet returned your pledge cards. Please do so at your earliest convenience as this information is critical for

our building of our May 2013- April 2014 budget. Christ Church's budget year runs from May 1 through April 30.

4. In our Prayers: Doris Schanzlin is now out of ICU and in a regular room at Sisters Hospital on Main Street; Art Gundlach, after a brief hospital stay has been moved to Weinberg Campus room 318 – this is expected to be a permanent placement; Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Jan Beckweth, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Chris Klenk, Rosalie Johnson (Roger Johnson's mother on hospice care in Atlanta, Georgia); Arnie Ross – remember to pray for those who are looking for work; for all families in crisis; for our nation and all who are in harm's way.

5. We learned of the passing of Betty Penhall (member at Christ Church since 1969). A memorial service is in the planning stages – watch for more information.

6. At Christ Church this week:

Wednesday April 3 – Confirmation meeting at 7:30

NO CHOIR

Thursday, April 4

Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.

UMW meeting is at 4:00

Elizabeth Circle at 7:30

Friday, April 5

Books Loved at 10:00 a.m.

7. This Month's Mission Focus is Journey's End:

Join us for "A Refugee's Journey" The Courage of Buffalo's Newest Families on **Sunday, April 21, 2013 at 12:30 pm in Crafts Hall** Journey's End Refugee Services will present a one-hour interactive tour. Learn how Buffalo's emerging refugee communities are rescued, nurtured and empowered and their impact on our city. ***A light lunch will be served.***

8. Quilting for a Cause

MAKE A DIFFERENCE Sunday is right around the corner! May 19th 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

9. MISSION UPDATES

A. Hands4NY – March 31 – People need toiletries and hygiene products – pick some up and bring them in!

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).

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.

Pancake Brunch to support Courtney is April 14 – Jessica will also be our 9:00 speaker on April 14.

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 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 7 weeks away? Sunday May 19 we will go, gather and do our best to make a difference.

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

10. Dr. Marvin McMickle will be our guest preacher at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday April 14. Dr. McMickle was born in Chicago, Illinois and earned a Doctor of Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary. He holds three honorary doctorates. Dr. McMickle was ordained in 1973 at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City. He became the President of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester New York in May of 2011. He is the author of 14 books. He is married to Peggy Lorraine Noble since 1975 and they have one son, Aaron who resides with his wife and daughter in New York City.

11. Happy Birthday this week:

April 5 – Kathryn Weaver

April 6 – Charles Gilbert; Stephen Mugel

April 10 – Larry Burdette; Don Critoph

12. There are no anniversaries listed for this week.

13. Through the Bible in 2013: This week’s readings

April 3 – Judges 17-18; Psalm 89 and 2 Corinthians 3

April 4 – Judges 19-21and 2 Corinthians 4

April 5 – Ruth 1-2; Psalms 53 and 61 and 2 Corinthians 5

April 6 – Ruth 3-4; Psalm 64-65 and 2 Corinthians 6

April 7 – 1 Samuel 1-2; Psalm 66 and 2 Corinthians 7

April 8 – 1 Samuel 2-5; Psalm 77 and 2 Corinthians 8

April 9 – 1 Samuel 6-7; Psalm 72 and 2 Corinthians 9

April 10 – 1 Samuel 8-10 and 2 Corinthians 10

Remember to periodically check out my blog at www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com

14. In the Community this month:

A. Amherst Male Glee Club (which rehearses at Christ Church) presents their annual Varieties show on **April 12** at 7:30 and April 13 at 2:00 and 7:30 at the Amherst Central High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$18 – seniors, students and groups are \$16. Call 875-298 for tickets.

B. April 13: African Angels Event – the Lim-Marcantonio family is trying raise \$35,000 to adopt a family of three Ugandan infants. We can help by attending a spaghetti dinner and basket auction on Saturday, April

13 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Christ Church. Tickets are \$20 – call 873-8700 to preorder Gluten Free or to go meals. The family will join us this Sunday, April 7, to share a portion of their story.

C. Harlem Kensington Cleveland Community Association meets on Monday April 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Harlem Road Community Center.

D. Niagara Frontier City Ministries Benefit Concert – Sunday April 21 at 2:30 at Trinity UMC on the Boulevard Featuring choirs, and the Christ UMC praise team – offering to benefit City Ministries in the Buffalo area.

15. Coming Soon:

1. Africa Orphans Event on April 13
2. Dr. Marvin McMickle guest preacher on April 14
3. Niagara Frontier City Ministries benefit concert – April 21 at 2:30
4. Women's Spring Weekend – deadline for registration is April 7 – Cost is \$150. Event is at Camp Asbury. Discover yourself, community and friendship through music, scripture, reflection, games, movies, and more!
5. BE THE CHURCH SUNDAY – May 19, 2013
6. Upper New York Annual Conference – May 30 through June 1 in Syracuse
7. Confirmation Sunday is June 9

16. 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.

17. 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.

Parting Thought

The power of the resurrection cannot be limited to a single day. The early Christians understood this and designated an entire 50 day season to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. But they did more than this. The early ones understood that every Sunday was a little Easter. They understood that every time the community came together the driving force, the power behind the faith was not going to be seen in the teachings of Jesus or the life of the church community (although all of this is important). They understood that the power of the resurrection was this driving force. This force not only changed the 1st century world it changed the entire world and continues to do so. Death is being swallowed up in the victory of the resurrection in everyday lives every single day following that first Easter. When I find the courage in Christ to get up and try again – that is resurrection power. When I find the courage to risk everything for the sake of the gospel – that is resurrection power. When we are emboldened to walk across a room, a street, a town, the city, a state – when we are

emboldened to reach out to others in the name of Jesus – that is resurrection power. My dad told me he heard in a sermon this past Easter the question: why was the stone rolled away? Jesus did not need the stone rolled away – he could walk through walls. Jesus did not need help rolling the stone away – in his resurrected state he could have blown it away. So, again, we ask, why was the stone rolled away? It was rolled away for the sake of the women coming to minister to Jesus' body and for all who would be looking thereafter. We can go to the tomb, stoop and look in and, like the first onlookers, be amazed that he is not there, he is risen as he promised. God rolled away the stone for our benefit. And those stones continue to be rolled away by the power of the resurrection of Jesus.

Have a blessed week,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, Christ follower

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 us know.