

**Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York
“Living Christ’s ways and exploding with love and service”
UPDATE
August 1, 2012**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH
9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship
10:00 – FaithXpress and Soul Strength and AOL will return September 9**

11:00 – Traditional Style Worship: Choir resumes in September

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:

Next Thursday and Friday (August 9 and 10), Sally Pollard, Rachel Vaughan and I will be attending the Global Leadership Summit. This event is sponsored by the Willow Creek Community Church (North Barrington, Illinois) and is beamed via satellite around North America and the world. The Willow Creek folks, Bill Hybels, Pastor, believe that the local church is the hope of the world – we have the responsibility to teach and preach the Good News of Jesus Christ and to work toward the transformation of the world. They also believe that everything rises and falls on leadership. As goes the leaders in a community, a congregation, so goes the capacity of that community/congregation to fulfill its primary purpose. They began this “Global Leadership Summit” to help church leaders but also to engage leaders in all disciplines to become more effective leaders in all that they do. I have attended this event about a dozen times since it first began and I believe I am a more faithful and more effective leader because of it. We can still get some of you registered if you want to go on very short notice. But at this point, Sally, Rachel and I are going to go and experience this event and, hopefully and prayerfully, increase our leadership capacity in the process. Please pray for us

and our Journey – August 9 and 10. We will be travelling all the way to Syracuse, New York to participate in the event.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 123 – we have seen an increase of 18% in our worship attendance this June/July over last June/July. We are also seeing a very steady stream of visitors (many of whom are connecting with us and becoming part of our Church family!). Christ Church is on the rise. Special appreciation to **Juliana Sabol** who provided special music this past week – it was glorious!

Also, my apologies to Sandy Cummings, I inadvertently identified the person who provided special music on July 22 at Sandy Paddock when in fact it was Sandy Cummings. Thanks Sandy for your gift of song!

2. This Sunday, August 5, is a Communion Sunday. I will be Preaching from Matthew 20:20-28 and will be talking about Christian leadership. Providing special music this week is “**The Good News Quartet**” **Mike Holmes**, tenor; **Mac Sabol**, lead, **Dave Lawson**, Baritone and **Joel LaScala**, bass. They will be singing the Prelude, Anthem and Offertory.

3. In our prayers this week: Gary Weeks (BJ’s friend); Nicky Sebastiano, Barbara McCray, Bill Watson, Katie Cady, Carmen Ticconi, Don Critoph, Alicia Ticconi and Ed Maker (who is undergoing treatments). We are grateful to see Don Critoph in church this past week as well as Beverley Hurst who recently had surgery. Remember to pray for our Habitat for Humanity Women Build team members and for the Uganda Mission team that leaves in 9 weeks.

4. This Saturday, August 4 at 10:00 a.m. there will be a memorial service for Jean Allen Short Hudson. Jean and her husband Ian (Bud) (who died in 2007) became members at Christ church in 1957. Jean died this past January and the memorial service was schedule for this Saturday to accommodate the travel of family and friends.

5. Here are 7 ways to help the Uganda Mission Team:

A. Pray – pray for the team, for our Uganda partners, for safe travel, for the favor of the Holy Spirit, for good health (and an end to the recent Ebola

outbreak), for solid team chemistry and for whatever else the Holy Spirit leads you to pray for.

B. Anderson's coupon books are for sale in the Café and through the Church office. The coupon book is \$5 and contains over \$60 worth of food and ice cream items in them. The team gets 4 out of every 5 dollars raised for this project. Why not sign out a pack of 10 coupon books and sell them at work for us?

C. Tickets are now on sale for the **September 14 spaghetti and meatball dinner**. Tickets are \$7.50 and get you all you can eat spaghetti, meatball, salad and bread. Tickets are available in the café or the church office.

D. We are looking for donations for the September 14 Silent Auction (part of the dinner). Can you offer a service? Can your business or company donate an item or two? See one of the team members for more.

E. Direct Contributions: mark your check Uganda Mission 2012. Team will divide the contributions for on the ground expenses (each team member purchased their own plane ticket); balance will go to support Nexus Seminary and our projects in Uganda.

F. We are selling handmade, Ugandan necklaces to support one of our mission partners, Rev. Moses Wasige, and his women's ministry in Jinja, Uganda. Necklaces are \$5 each and are available in the café or through the church office – we have already sold 30 of the 50 we had to sell . . .

G. We will be collecting "First Aid" supplies and will have a list of medicines and other medical equipment we will need for the medical team's work this trip. Watch for more!!

As always, thank you for supporting us as we seek to follow God's leading and direction in the mission field.

6. PREPARING FOR THE FALL: We are reminding every church group to submit your anticipated schedule as soon as possible (today would be good) to the church office. Church groups have space priority but these spaces need to be arranged for in advance to prevent and minimize conflict (thank you!)

7. HOLY LAND CLASSIC 2013 – January 28, 2013 a group of us will be visiting the Holy Land. The trip will include visits to Galilee, Nazareth, Jericho, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, the Jordan River and more. Deadline for registration is approaching. Questions? See BJ. There is plenty of room for more.

8. Through the New Testament in a year: One chapter a day on week days: This week's readings: August 1, Matthew 20; August 2, Matthew 21; August 3, Matthew 22; August 6, Matthew 23; August 7, Matthew 24, August 8, Matthew 25, August 9, Matthew 26. Follow Pastor BJ's daily commentary at www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com.

9. Happy Birthday this week:

August 1 – Allison Scaringi

August 2 – Andrew Painton

August 5 – Eric Johnston

August 6 – Helen Peacock, James Juergens

August 7 – Steven Kraatz

10. Happy Anniversary this week:

August 4 – Fred and Linda Painton (50)

August 6 – Jim and Lynne Beller (37)

11. I got this from our District Superintendent, Rev. Wayne Butler:

Our District Administrative Assistant, Debbie Parise is leaving to take another position. This will create an opening for a District Administrative Assistant. The job is to support the District Superintendent in his/her work. The District Office is local. This is a half time position with paid holidays and sick days. After one year the person in this position will be eligible to participate in the pension program. The position is open to either clergy or laity. Details and application are available at this link on the Annual Conference website: <http://www.unyumc.org/jobs>. The deadline for applications is August 5th, with the hope that this position would be filled by September 1st.

12. This from our friends Bill and Marg Bauza:

The Cheektowaga Food Pantry needs volunteers on WEDNESDAYS in shifts from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to help pack non-perishable foods. Many needy families benefit from this WNY Food Bank local pantry. Director Janet Ensmenger can be reached at 392-2318. The Pantry is located at 47 Ellwood Place 14225.

13. Christ Church member, Diane Lovejoy, is looking for rides to and from the Elmwood Wellness Center a few times a month. Contact Diane at 898-8073 if you can help.

14. AMHERST NURSERY SCHOOL (which is housed at Christ Church) sent us the following: Share the Joy of your child's first school experience at Amherst Nursery school located in the lower east wing of CUMC. We have dynamic programs for 2, 3, and 4 year olds as well as a Mommy and Me class for 18+ months. Parental involvement is key at ANS where parents "co-op" or assist in the classroom on a regular basis. Call Amy at 839-0298 to find out more about this wonderful education experience for your child and family. Registrations are now open for September 2012.

15. UMW is holding its 2013 planning and budget meeting on Tuesday August 28 (postponed from the 14th) in the Wesley room. All Christ Church women are welcome to come and share ideas and make plans.

16. GOING DEEPER – an experience of the Spiritual Disciplines. There are several of you signed up. I would like to hold an organization gathering in the Wesley Room on Sunday August 19 at 10:15 (between the morning worship celebrations). My hope is to set our beginning schedule, order books, etc. If you indicated you wanted to be a part of this but CANNOT make this gathering please see me ASAP.

17. I learned from my friend Davis today that the Lugandan version of my biblical primer and theological dictionary is off the press and ready for distribution! The English version will be ready by mid next week!

18. Coming Soon:

August 9-10 – Global Leadership Summit

August 13 – Caller Deadline

August 20 – return to normal office hours (9-5) from Summer schedule

September 8 – UMW General Meeting at 10:00

September 9 – FaithXpress, Soul Strength, Youth Sunday School, and AOL resume

Coming in MID September – Talk with Expert series on Parenting (watch for more information!)

October 1 – Uganda Mission Team departs

October 5-7—Mature Years Ministry Autumn Days at Chautauqua Institution with Rev. Jim Pollard leading.

19. Highlights from the Church Council meeting (July 26).

We will not meet in August – next meeting is September 27.

Meeting heard reports from various ministry teams.

The Finance team reports a deficit and requests that everyone strive to keep their commitments current!

The audit team reports that, by Church policy, all requests for reimbursements must be accompanied by receipts. They also reported that they are in the process of having all church group bank account statements sent to the church address.

Christian Education reported on Vacation Bible school and progress on developing a “Safe Sanctuary” policy and plans for the Fall.

It was reported that the Trustees are having the Sanctuary boilers replaced in late August (beginning the 15th) so that the work will be done before the colder season returns.

A Uganda lesson in scale and relative affluence. Last year my team (there were 5 of us) visited Jinja and the source of the Nile river. There is a resort on Lake Victoria near the beginning of the river that is popular with tourists (which we were not) and provides a service of a boat tour to the source of the Nile and some flora and fauna photography. There were five of us on the team plus Davis Matovu, our Ugandan partner, and our driver John (total of 7). When I asked the manager at the resort how much it would cost to take us on a boat trip to the source of the Nile I was told 50,000 Uganda shillings. I did the quick math in my head and arrived at a figure of around \$18. \$18 for a four hour boat ride, tour and photography session. How many of you would fork over \$20 for such an excursion? My guess is most of us would. I immediately began collecting 50,000 shilling notes from my team when I heard a polite cough behind me. I turned and the manager (nice honest woman) smiled at me and said “50,000 for the whole boat”. I was still a little slow on the uptake but returned the 50,000 notes to my friends, smiled and said “my treat!” and paid the fare. As North Americans, we often are unaware of our extraordinary affluence until we are caught by an honest business manager in a faraway place. She could easily have taken my 350,000 shillings – 50k for each of us -- (\$140) and not said a word and I would never have known the difference. But she gladly took my 50,000 note with a gracious smile and a thank you (mwabale in Lugandan). I have reflected on my assumptions (and ask more questions than I used to) and her honesty since this

happened and only hope and pray that faced with similar opportunities to do the right thing I would perform as well as she did.

Have a great week, everyone!

BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, coach

(this e-mail is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church. If you do not wish to receive this e-mail please reply: remove!).