

**Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York
"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"
UPDATE
August 14, 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:

"I have come to understand that mission is not something you do but is something you are. Mission is a way of looking at the world. If I believe that I am sent by Jesus to make a difference in this world for His sake . . . I will face every day, every encounter, and every need as a mission encounter. I will value every relationship. I will do this not worrying about my time, my resources or my energy. I will simply engage to do whatever needs to be done." I wrote that about 2 years ago when attempting to describe what drives me in life and why I do what I do. In listening to Jessica and Courtney this past Sunday I was struck with the depth and flexibility of faith they demonstrated in their journey to Nicaragua. They engaged to do whatever they saw that needed to be done. How we look at the world matters. Do we see the world as evil and troubled and dangerous? We will likely do all we can to avoid it and protect ourselves. If we see the world as a gift from God that is broken and the people in it as beloved children of God then, even knowing the inherent risks, we will engage to do what needs to be done. Christ Church we are on a mission for God!

Here is what is going on at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was (best guess) 128. Thank you to Jessica Lawson and Courtney Cataudella for sharing their stories of Nicaragua. We celebrated the Baptism of Annette Robin Smith, daughter of Chris and Laura Smith (and little sister of Olivia). Thank you also to Pat Sandle for your gift of music.

2. This Sunday I will be speaking from Ephesians 4:1-16 on the subject of "Spiritual Maturity". Bill Bauza will be our guest musician this Sunday (as Elizabeth is at Chautauqua for the weekend).

HOLY LAND CLASSIC 2013 – January 28, 2013 a group (we are currently 8) 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. Base cost is \$2695 which includes round trip (JFK to Tel Aviv) air fare, ground transportation, guide and driver, hotel accommodations and two meals a day, plus entrance fees to all the historical and archeological sites. Contact Pastor BJ for more information.

3. This Sunday at 10:15 there will be a meeting of the "**GOING DEEPER**" Spiritual Discipline experience group. We will discuss our approach, set a schedule and begin our journey together. All are welcome. All are invited. Come and join us on this journey deeper.

4. This Week at Christ Church:

Thursday, August 16 – Trustees meet at 7:30

5. In our Prayers: Nicky Sebastiano, Barbara McCray, Bill Watson (good to see him at church this week), Katy Cady, Carmen Ticconi, Ross Markello (back to church this week), Don Critoph, Diane Lovejoy, Ed Maker, Sandy Cumming, Alicia Ticconi and Barb Mitchell (surgery this Thursday – 8/16). Remember to pray for those looking for work, for families in crisis, for our church's leadership team. Pray for our mission teams: The Habitat Women's Build project and the Uganda Mission Team.

6. THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT in a year: This week's readings: August 14 – Ephesians 2; August 15 – Ephesians 3; August 16 – Ephesians 4; August 17 – Ephesians 5; August 20 – Ephesians 6; August 21 – Philemon; August 22 – 1 Peter 1; August 23 – 1 Peter 2. Remember to follow Pastor BJ's comments through his blog: www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com.

7. Happy Birthday this week:

August 14 – Ron Corsaro

August 18 – Beverley Hurst

August 20 – Art Gundlach; Gene Kremzier

August 21 – Kathy Webb

8. Happy Anniversary this week:

August 15 – Robert and Patricia Loesch (48); Ross and Grace Markello (59 years); Bim and Marion Rowlands (48)

August 16 – Larry and Ann Burdette (54 years)

August 17 – Ron and Carol Corsaro (53 Years)

August 18 – Donald and Ruth Munson (39 years)

9. YES YOU CAN HELP THE UGANDA MISSION TEAM – and here's how

A. PRAY – PRAY FOR THE Five of us making the journey.

B. BIG FUND RAISER EVENT ON: September 14, 2012 from 6 – 8

1. Spaghetti and Meatballs comprise the menu for the evening (meatless sauce will also be available). \$7.50 will buy Spaghetti, salad, bread and beverage.

Desserts will also be available. Tickets may be purchased through the church office (see Rachel) or on Sunday morning in the café.

2. A Silent Auction will be going on at the same time. Baskets, gift items, gift certificates, and more will be available for your silent bids. You do not need to be present to have the winning bid. We will call you. **Barb Critoph and Patti Bechtel are coordinating the Silent Auction: here is a note from Barb:**

Patti and I are working on putting baskets together for Sept. 14. If you have donations please contact: Patti Bechtel (896-6313) & or Barb Critoph (832-

4408) directly. Some suggestions for baskets are: Pet, pasta, holiday, kids, car, fall, ladies, movie, baking, men's, golf, etc. Donations can be left at the church or we will pick up. Thank you for your help. Barb Critoph

All proceeds will support our Uganda Mission Team: John Miller, Kathryn Weaver and Pastor BJ Norrix. They depart on October 1 for 17 days. Each team member has purchased their own plane ticket (\$1050) and we are raising funds to cover our on the ground expenses (so we are not a burden of any kind to our hosts) and to leave funds for the mission project.

C. The Mission team is also selling **Anderson's Coupon Books** for \$5. \$5 gets you a coupon book worth over \$60 in food and ice cream at any local Anderson's. Coupons are available through the Church office, any Mission team member or in the Café on Sunday's. The team keeps \$4 of the \$5 purchase price.

D. Direct donations to support the team should be made to "Christ UMC" and clearly marked "Uganda 2012" or put in the special "Uganda" envelopes at the church.

Over \$300 has come in through direct donations as of Sunday 8/12. (THANK YOU!!)

E. Uganda Mission Team is Collecting Medical Supplies: If you have any of the following items and would be willing to donate them please contact John, Kathy or BJ

BEFORE bringing them to church: Elastic bandages, Fever Thermometers, Glucometer, Microscope, Blood Pressure Cuff, Stethoscope Bathroom scale (metric if possible), Exam gloves, Tooth brush, Vitamins, Tylenol, Imodium, Benadryl, Anti itch cream, 2x3 inch zip baggies, Amoxicillin, Bactrim.

F. Pray for the Uganda Team. There has been a change in the team. Rev. Bill Mudge will not be traveling with us. Bill is a District Superintendent and, with a new Bishop for our Conference, has been asked to make this trip at another time. So pray for BJ, Clair Mosher, Esther Keeney, Kathryn Weaver and John Miller as we prepare to go (**7 Weeks away**). ***We depart on October 1.***

Did I remember to ask you all to pray?

Thank you to all who purchased the necklaces. We sold out in two weeks. Proceeds from the necklaces go to support a women's ministry in a city called Jinja that is run by my friend Moses Wasige.

10. Franklin Graham Rock The Lakes September 22 and 23 – this note from Bill Bauza

The Billy Graham Evangelical Association is reaching out in cities like Rochester in June, Green Bay in August and Ottawa in September. Buffalo's Coca Cola Field hosts our own "Rock The Lakes" beginning at 4 pm on both Saturday and Sunday September 22 and 23. Admission is free, with the retirement system out of this world! You can help by inviting your friends, co-workers, and neighbors to attend with you; forming a carpool is fun! Metro Rail is another opportunity to fellowship. Many local Churches have participated in sponsoring the event; many volunteers have been trained through the Christian Life and Witness course to help as counselors on the field, continuing as friendly liaisons between the conference and our local Churches. You can help! Pray for all the workers, the new believers, and the follow-up that will continue. Your financial support will ensure that all materials are available for distribution. Volunteers before and during the event will help with guest relations, directions, collecting and sorting information. To volunteer, call 716-932-7721. Rosemary Kochan and Bill Bauza have been preparing for this event. We invite you to journey with us, and be gracious to visitors who may be referred to our Church for follow-up and training. Christ Church may be used in the Neighborhood Discovery Group Training for adults and youth. The love of Christ that is so evident here at Christ Church can be shared with all we meet!

11. 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!)

12. COMING IN SEPTEMBER: Weekday Bible Study to Resume: September 6

The Thursday morning Bible study will resume on September 6 at (10:00 a.m.) in the Wesley room at the Church. Pastor BJ Norrix will be leading this class as Diane (and Chris) Klenk moved to the Ogdensburg, New York area this summer. This is an open group with open discussion and all are welcome.

13. COMING IN SEPTEMBER: New Comer Orientation: September 6 6:00 to 8:00

Are you new to Christ Church? Would you like to know some others who are new to the church family and community? Would you like to know more about Christ Church and how to become more involved? Call the Church office for reservations. We will serve a light supper at 6:00 and will conclude at 8:00.

We plan to receive new members on September 9.

14. Mission Opportunity:

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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. The Trustees are going to proceed with the replacement of the Sanctuary boilers beginning August 15. Pledges for the boiler replacement have been coming in steady and, rather than wait for the colder weather, it was decided to replace them now. Thank you for keeping your boiler pledges current.

19. Coming soon:

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

September 6 – Thursday Bible Study resumes at 10:00 and New Comer Orientation is at 6:00

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!)

September 14 – Uganda Team Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction – 6 to 8 p.m.

October 1 – Uganda Mission Team departs (returns the 17th)

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

Sally, Rachel and I had a great experience at the Global Leadership Summit. We heard great spiritual leadership teaching from Bill Hybels (founding pastor of the Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago); Gregg Groeschel (founding pastor of Lifechurch.TV); and John Ortberg (teacher and author of many books on living the spiritual life). We heard exceptional leadership teaching from Jim Collins (author of Good to Great and other leadership/management books); Patrick Lencioni (besting selling author and consultant); and Condoleezza Rice (former US Secretary of State). We heard inspiring interviews and messages from several leaders working in unusual and difficult situations including: Sheryl WuDunn, Mark Kielburger (who is leading an amazing youth movement in Canada); Mario Vega (El Salvador Pastor); and Pranitha Timothy who is working against the slave trade in India (her story was heart rending and transformative). We were challenged we were inspired and we learned a lot about how to be better leaders. The message of the gospel of Jesus Christ has been entrusted to the local Church (our local church, EVERY local church). This was Jesus plan from the beginning. Jesus formed a community of followers who would carry on the mission and deliver the message. Although the institutional church often gets lost and loses its way this is still the plan. The local church is the hope of the world. The effectiveness of any local church rises and falls on its leadership. When Christ Church invests in the leadership of its staff and leadership team the whole church benefits. Sally, Rachel and I pray that we will be able to carry forward what we learned and help Christ Church to be all that God has called and positioned us to be. Thank you for your support and encouragement on the journey.

See you when the community gathers,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, student of leadership