

**Christ United Methodist Church  
Snyder, New York  
"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"  
UPDATE  
August 28, 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](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)  
716-839-2460

Dr. B.J.'s blog is [www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com)

Hi Everyone:

I often feel like the week before Labor Day is Summer's last fling. In the middle of the state the State Fair is in full swing. Here in Buffalo fall athletics are underway (what's with the Bills preseason?) and school resumes next week. This is a time to start new things. I remember all the back to school trips to the shoe store, getting the new school outfits, the new notebooks and pens and pencils and all the other paraphernalia that marked this week in my youth. I find a deep desire, it must be hard wired at this point, to begin a new level (up a grade, a school, a standing) in my life this time of year. Christ Church returns to FaithXpress and Soul Strength and Youth Sunday School on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September as well as AOL. I am very excited about the "Going Deeper" group that will begin on September 9 at 6:30. We will be experiencing together the ancient spiritual disciplines of the Christian life. We will practice prayer and meditation, celebration and solitude and so much more as a group. This group is open until it starts – the nature of the study is that it progresses from one discipline to the next and is a "group" experience. If you would like to join us please let me know and then get a copy of Richard Foster's book Celebration of Discipline. If you would like to join us but Sunday evening is "a bad time for you" let me know. If there are enough of us interested I will start a second group. The Thursday bible study resumes next Thursday at 10:00 a.m. (September 6); the Fall "New Comer Orientation" is next Thursday (September 6 at 6). There is a lot to connect with. What new level are you moving up to?

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 102. Very special thanks to Officer John Miller for being the modern Centurion in the whole armor of God conversation! John was GREAT! Thank you, also, to Peggy Shumate who was our special music on Sunday.

2. This Sunday is Communion and I will be speaking on 2 Peter 3:18-23. The message is titled "God's Patient Will." **NOTE: we will have gluten free communion bread available beginning this Sunday. Let me know when you come forward if gluten free is what you need.**

3. **Celebrate Life Brunch and Open House Sunday, SEPTEMBER 9** at 10:00 a.m. – we will launch our fall education ministries with a brunch on September 9. This is the day we will launch FaithXpress (ministry with Elementary age children) and Soul Strength (middle school children) and the High School youth as well as A.O.L. (Adult Opportunities for Learning). We are excited to be reaching out to more and more families with children! Watch for more information.

4. **BOILER UPDATE:** First the **bad news:** there was asbestos insulation in the sanctuary boiler. Apparently when the boiler was installed it was sprayed with asbestos insulation and then the outer shell was added. The asbestos was discovered when the dismantling of the old boiler began and its presence could not have been known before the old unit was opened up. Under New York State law we were required to hire a certified handler of asbestos removal. The additional cost to our project will be **\$5200**. It is not something we could have known in advance and has to be dealt with following strict New York State guidelines. We expect that the removal will take a day (or less) and we will be back on project (replacing the Sanctuary boiler) soon thereafter. An independent air monitor will be hired to insure that there is no air borne asbestos during its removal – this is done for the protection of all of us who use the building.

This will put us over budget on the project (and above our projected expenses by about \$5000). **If you can help defray this additional cost let Tom Weaver or BJ know.**

**NOW THE GOOD NEWS:** We are moving forward on the project and the new Boilers should be installed no later than mid September. When we installed the new boiler in the office wing we purchased the new boilers for the Sanctuary wing and had them stored. We are ready to roll and appreciate the faithfulness of the Christ Church family for helping our church become more efficient.

5. In our prayers: Nicky Sebastiano; Barbara McCray, Katy Cady, Carmen Ticconi, Sandy Cumming (surgery last Monday); Barb Mitchell is now home following hip surgery; Alicia Ticconi; Diane Lovejoy (following foot surgery); Ed Maker. Our College age members are back to school this week and the Grade, Middle and High School students return next week – keep them and all their teachers in your prayers. Pray for those looking for work and families in crisis. Remember to pray for our Habitat for Humanity Women's build team and for the Uganda Mission Team (BJ, Kathy, John, Clair and Esther) – they leave in 5 weeks.

6. **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 October 15. Questions?** See BJ for more information. There is plenty of room for more. Base cost is **\$2598** 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.

7. The **Uganda Mission Team** would like to thank everyone for their generous donations. Over \$2500 has been donated directly to the mission team through your generosity. We are hoping to do many things while in Uganda – a youth rally, a medical clinic, resources for our students, etc. How many of them we are able to do will depend on the resources we are able to gather and muster. Here are some ways you can help and support us:

A. PRAY – PRAY FOR THE Five of us making the journey –**BJ, John, Kathy, Clair and Esther**

B. BIG FUND RAISER EVENT ON: **September 14, 2012 from 6 – 8**  
**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. UPDATE: we have sold over 3 dozen advance ticket sales – **you don't need to buy your tickets in advance. Tickets are available at the door!!**

**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 \$2500 has come in through direct donations as of Sunday 8/26. (THANK YOU!!)

**E. Uganda Mission Team is Collecting Medical Supplies:** Microscope, *Imodium*, *Benadryl*, *Anti itch cream*, *2x3 inch zip baggies*. **Thank you everyone for tracking down all of the equipment we needed!!** As you can see our list got really short and that is because of your generosity.

F. Pray for the Uganda Team: BJ, Clair Mosher, Esther Keeney, Kathryn Weaver and John Miller as we prepare to go (**5 Weeks away**). ***We depart on October 1.***  
***Did I remember to ask you all to pray?***

8. Franklin Graham Rock The Lakes is 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!

9. **GOING DEEPER:** The going deeper group, a group that will be experiencing the classic spiritual disciplines, will begin meeting on Sunday September 9 at 6:30 in the parlor at the Church. If you are planning to join us please contact me (Pastor BJ) as soon as possible so I can fill you in on what we will be doing. The book we will be working through is titled Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster – it is available in any good bookstore or through Amazon on line.

10. Happy Birthday this week:

August 28 – Shaun Carier; Heather Loliger

August 30 – John Yungbluth

September 4 – Kayleen Hannon; Ryan James

11. Happy Anniversary this week:

There are none listed this week

12. UMW General Meeting – September 8 at 10:00 a.m. will feature the Horse and Buggy Quilters. Sally McCarthy will be displaying quilts, sharing stories around the quilt patters said to have been used in the Underground Railroad in the 1800's. She will be providing some history on the Amish and quilting as well. Continental Breakfast will be provided for \$5 at the door.

13. COMING IN SEPTEMBER: **Thursday 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.

14. 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.

15. Coming soon:

September 6 – Thursday Bible Study resumes at 10:00 a.m. and New Comer Orientation is at 6:00 p.m. (with dinner)

September 8 – UMW General Meeting at 10:00

September 9 – **CELEBRATE LIFE OPEN HOUSE BRUNCH** – launching for the Fall:

FaithXpress, Soul Strength, Youth Sunday School, and AOL

GOING DEEPER – begins meeting at 6:30 in the parlor.

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

September 15 – Talk to the Expert: **Parenting Workshops begin at 10:00**

October 1 – Uganda Mission Team departs (returns the 17<sup>th</sup>)

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

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. The United Methodist Men are touring the Greycliff Mansion on Saturday September 8.

On my list of frequently asked questions is "why do people have to go away from the Buffalo area for mission trips?" This is usually in conjunction with the Youth going to Appalachia or workers going to New Orleans or teams traveling to Uganda. There is a simple and more complicated answer to the question. The simple answer is this: we try to go where we believe God is sending us. I believe that Acts 1:8 gives us a trajectory for every local church's mission reach. Acts 1:8 says we will be Jesus' witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Jerusalem is home (mission always begins at home). Judea is nearby where people are like us. Samaria is nearby where people are different from us. The ends of the earth, well is the ends of the earth. We go where we believe God is calling us but as a church we want to be sure we are connecting in all spheres. This is why we work with community groups and seek to build our mission and ministry presence on Saratoga at Harlem. It is also why we work with the Asbury Shalom Zone and the Center City Café and the refugee resettlement projects, habitat for humanity and our friends at Seneca Street UMC and so many more. And, lest I forget, it is why we encourage our people to travel to Appalachia and Nicaragua and Uganda and . . . One other thing I would add, especially when we are talking about taking the youth away from town. There is something good that happens to groups on a road trip that can only happen on a road trip. It has to do with being together on a journey to do something for someone else that works on the heart and the soul in good and positive ways. The Church of Jesus Christ is not bound by walls and street addresses. The church of Jesus Christ is made up of all believers in all places and times. There is a world filled with brothers and sisters I have yet to meet and people I meet who do yet know we are brothers and sisters. . . it is a great life and adventure indeed.

I'll see you when the church gathers at Saratoga at Harlem,

BJ Norrix, missionary, coach, Christ follower