

**August 5, 2014**

**Christ United Methodist Church**

**UPDATE**

**Harlem Road at Saratoga Road  
Amherst, New York**

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

**EVERYONE is WELCOME**

**SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH  
9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship  
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)  
Or call us at: 716-839-2460

Dr. B.J.’s blog is [www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com)  
Like us on Facebook!

Hi Everyone:

I’ve been reading John Dickson’s The Best Kept Secret of Christian Mission which is about promoting the Gospel with more than our lips. I heard the expression “you may be the only Bible that some people will ever read” very early in my Christian journey. I remember countless conversations over the years about the nature of Christian community and how the stereotypical presentation of a Christian in pop culture is someone who is hypocritical, judgmental and narrow-minded. I was visiting with my best friend over coffee yesterday and he reminded me that if any of us truly examined the Jesus that the New Testament portrays we would fall helplessly in love with him. He went on to note that anyone who fell helplessly in love with Jesus would find themselves loving those whom Jesus

loved: the marginalized, the unloved, the broken – quite literally those whom no one else loved. I am becoming convinced (more and more each day) that Christians need to stop fighting over politics and points of theological discourse and return to who we are actually called to be: helplessly in love with Jesus; faithfully in love with one another; and compassionately loving all in the world around us. That, my friends, would help us explode with love and service.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was in the 110 range. We learned about Anger and then celebrated Communion together. Thank you to all who made last Sunday (and every Sunday) a time to connect with God, one another and then be sent out to make a difference in our world.

2. This Sunday we arrive at Mary Ann. Mary Ann represents the deadly attitude called Envy. Jealousy is when I am afraid that someone might take something that belongs to me away from me. Envy is when I want to take something that belongs to someone else. Envy does not rejoice in another's good fortune. Envy mourns another's good fortune. We will be looking at the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment and St. Paul's conversation in Philippians 4:10-13 about learning to be content.

3. **OK, who wants to help paint the choir room?** Thursday, August 14. All supplies will be provided by the Trustees. We want to paint the walls and the cabinets and get our choir space spruced up for the upcoming autumn. Want to help? Let Kevin Durkin or me know.

4. In our Prayers: Lois Lewis, Barbara Clinton, Mac Sabol, Dave Mitchell, Brian Martin (his bone marrow transplant is scheduled for September 17); Donna Hammond, Tom Davis, Caroline Hess, Fred Painton, Guy Castellino, Mitch Mooney, Bim Rowlands, Glenn Hurst, Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Alice Schmidt, and Diane Lovejoy. Remember those who are serving in the armed forces (especially Alex Dunbar and Ian Johnson). Pray for the citizens of the Ukraine and Gaza and Israel. Pray for the West African nations that are battling the Ebola virus.

5. **Some of you have asked . . .** my October journey (with Joe Fort) to Uganda and Kenya and the Ebola Virus. The Ebola outbreak has been in Sierra Leone, Guinea,

Liberia and Nigeria which are all West African nations. It is over 2000 miles from those countries to Uganda and East Africa. Although there is concern, it is relatively minor. Joe and I will be visiting Mombasa, Kenya (which is on the Indian Ocean) to work with some Anglican churches and pastors in that area. We will be participating in graduation in Kalangaalo (in the Luweero district) and travelling to a new teaching site in Busia (south east Uganda near the Kenyan border. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue our preparations – and thank you for your concern.

6. TREASURER NEEDED – We've been praying for someone to come forward to fill the vital position of church treasurer. Familiarity with Quick Books would be helpful. Most of the "clerking" work is done by the Office Manager (entering bills, printing checks, and mailing payments, calling in pay roll). The treasurer needs to sign checks, oversee the accounts, and report to appropriate groups. If you are feeling a calling to this work please contact pastor BJ (839-3260) as soon as possible.

7. UGANDA SILENT BASKET AUCTION – Fundraiser theme Baskets: Donations of Theme baskets or individual items are needed for the Spaghetti Dinner scheduled for **September 26**. Theme suggestions include: Movie night, Kid's crafts, snack attack, pet, book club, holiday, etc. Gift cards are also welcome. Leave theme baskets or other items in Pastor BJ's Office.

8. FOOD PANTRY – collection this week is canned fruits and vegetables.

9. SUMMER FILM FEST – on August 10 we will be viewing the film "Chasing Ice" at 10:00 a.m. This is the story of one man's mission to change the tide of history by gathering undeniable evidence of our changing planet, as seen in the brutal Arctic. Join us as we learn about climate change and the importance of protecting the world around us.

10. **Sugar and Spice** – "Accessorize with Attitude" **Monday August 11 from 7 – 9 in the Parlor:** Theresa Cookfair of Premier Designs will have jewelry for sale, and the UMW will receive 10% of the sales to support our missions! There will also be an accessory exchange – why shop when you can swap? Bring your accessories (in good condition). Hosted by the Circle of Joy.

11. ON THE MISSION FRONT:

1. **Summer Programs at Seneca Street Church:** volunteers are needed to help at Seneca Street Church August 11-14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you can help please contact Cheryl Bird at 491-2200 or [cbird@daemen.edu](mailto:cbird@daemen.edu).

2. **Uganda 2015 youth experience** (June 28 through July 10, 2015). Deadline for declaring interest in this journey is **August 1, 2014**. Pastor BJ has application forms available. This journey will have at least 5 persons under 20 (possibly more) and some parents travelling to Uganda to work with our projects there. For more information contact Pastor BJ.

3. **UGANDA 2014:** Pastor BJ Norrix and Joe Fort are under 2 months away (on Monday) from their mission journey to Uganda and Kenya (depart October 5 return October 23). Please keep them and our Ugandan partners in your prayers as they prepare. They will be teaching and preaching in multiple sites, presiding at a Nexus Graduation, opening a new teaching location and reconnecting with our friends there. They will be travelling to Mombasa, Kenya (on the Indian Ocean) to work with a group of Anglicans there. A **Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction** in support of this journey will be held in late September. Do you have items for the auction? Please leave them in the Pastor's office.

12. **Women's Retreat** – September 19-21 at Camp Asbury. We will be studying The Cup of Our Life with Dee Finch. The cost is \$165 and the deadline to sign up is **August 15**. Call Beth Sweet (210-8966) or Peggy Bermudez (626-4897) with any questions.

13. MEN – UMM Events

August 9 – Erie County Fair (car pool at 10:00 a.m.)

14. **Summer hours** are in effect at the church office. During the summer the church office will be open from 9 am to 3 pm Monday through Friday. After 3 pm please use the answering machine to leave messages.

15. Happy Birthday this week:

August 5 – Erin Johnson; Phyllis Maliken  
August 6 – Helen Peacock, Steven Kraatz  
August 7 – Rubin Malpica  
August 11 – Jamie Hannon Rapini  
August 12—Susan Terranova

16. Happy Anniversary this week:

August 6 – Jim and Lynne Beller (37)

August 9 – Warren and Donna Hammond (45)

August 11 – Bob and Lorna Norrix (my parents – 62!)

17. Through the Bible 2014

August 5 – Psalms 68-69 and Acts 24

August 6 – Psalms 70-71 and Acts 25

August 7 – Psalms 72-73 and Acts 26

August 8 – Psalms 74-76

August 9 – Psalms 77-78 and Acts 27

August 10 – Psalms 79-80 and Acts 28

August 11 – Psalms 81-83 and 1 Peter 1

August 12 – Psalms 84-86 and 1 Peter 2

August 13 – Psalms 87-88 and 1 Peter 3

18. This Week at Christ Church

Tuesday, August 5 – Asbury Point Spiritual Discussion at 2:00

Thursday August 7 – Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, August 9 – UMM to the Erie County Fair

Monday, August 11 – Sugar and Spice event at 7:00

19. Coming Soon (sooner than you think)

August 14-15 – Leadership Summit in Rochester

September 5 – Mission Youth Fall Kick Off

September 7 – Disciple Bible Study resumes

September 7 – Faith Xpress and Soul Strength launch

September 19-21 – Women’s Retreat at Camp Asbury

September 26 – Uganda Spaghetti Dinner 5:30

**Parting Thought**

I was privileged to lead a “Visioning” workshop for First United Methodist Church New Hartford, New York on Sunday afternoon. It made for a long day as I hopped in my car following worship at Christ Church and drove the 192 miles to New Hartford. We spent 4 hours together looking at their mission field and discussing what they felt God was calling them to be about (then I drove back to Liverpool,

spent the night, played golf with Dad on Monday morning, and then drove back to Amherst). In working with other churches like this I get a clearer picture of how we are doing here at Christ Church. I am encouraged by what I see. There are many pieces of our ministry moving forward on multiple fronts. Some of these are pretty simple and don't seem to be all that big a deal – like running announcements on the big screen in the sanctuary before and after worship. Other ideas are much bigger and will be much more impactful to all of us. The good news, Christ Church folks, is that we ARE moving forward. I have heard the conversations begin shift over the past several months from the halcyon days of yore to a much more vivid picture of where God is leading us as a community of faith. Isaiah 43:18 “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” The windows are open and the spirit is moving . . .

Have a great week,

B.J. Norrix, lead servant, missionary, futurist