

**Christ United Methodist Church  
Snyder, New York  
"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"  
UPDATE  
August 7, 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:

This Saturday marks my parents, Bob and Lorna Norrix 's, 60 wedding anniversary. They were married on August 11, 1952 at the base chapel, Harmon Air Force base Stephenville, Newfoundland, Canada. Mom grew up in Stephenville and dad was stationed at the Air Base at Harmon while on active duty. We often talk about the legacy that parents leave to their children. All too often this legacy conversation has to do with money and assets. Unfortunately these are not the best gifts we can leave our children. The greatest gift my parents gave to me was their strong and vital marriage. As children we watched firsthand how they dealt with difficulties, and other problems. Sometimes it went smoothly, sometimes less so. But every time they squared their shoulders and turned to each other and figured it out and proceeded forward together. As children we never doubted that our parents loved each other: even when they disagreed or had a normal human to human spat there was never any reason to doubt their commitment and love for one another. I carried that picture and commitment into my own marriage and it was (and IS!) a continual inspiration to me. Mom and Dad, we are proud of you and thank you for showing us how a marriage is built to last.

Here is what is going on at Church:

1. Attendance at the Christ Church Sauna was 103. Deepest appreciation to the Good News Quartet (featuring our own Dave Lawson and Mac Sabol along with Joel LaScala and Mike

Holmes) they were nothing short of fantastic! Thank you also to Greg Ramsey our guest tech person!

2. This Sunday the theme is “The Least of These” and is focusing on Matthew 25:31-42, the parable of the Sheep and the Goats. We will hear from **Jessica Lawson and Courtney Cataudella** about their mission trip to Nicaragua this past June.

We will also celebrate the baptism of Annette Robin Smith (daughter of Chris and Laura) at the 11:00 worship celebration.

3. This week at Christ Church:

Wednesday, August 8 – September Caller Deadline

Thursday, August 9 and Friday August 10 – Sally, Rachel and BJ are away at the Leadership Summit

Saturday, August 11, United Methodist Men visit the Naval and Military Park in Buffalo: 10:00

4. In our Prayers: Diane Lovejoy had surgery on Monday, Barb Mitchell is having surgery later in August, Sandy Cumming hurt her knee and waiting MRI results, Nicky Sebastiano, Barbara McCray, Bill Watson, Katy Cady, Carmen Ticconi, Ross Markello, Don Critoph, Ed Maker, Alicia Ticconi, Gary Weeks (BJ’s friend). Pray for those looking for work, for families in crisis, for the **Habitat Women Build team** and the Uganda Mission team (more below)

5. UGANDA TEAM FUNDRAISERS: 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.

**A. 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.

B. 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.

C. 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.

**6. 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.

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 (8 weeks away).

7. Happy Birthday this week:

August 7 – Steven Kraatz

August 10 – Ruben Malpica

August 11 – Jamie Hannon Rapini

August 12 – Susan Terranova

August 14 – Ron Corsaro

8. Happy Anniversary this week:

August 9 – Warren and Donna Hammond (43)

August 11 – Bob and Lorna Norrix (BJ's folks) (60)

9. 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!)

10. SEPTEMBER CALLER DEADLINE IS AUGUST 8 (early due to team member's schedules!)

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. Through the New Testament in a year: One chapter a day on week days: This week's readings: August 7 – Matthew 25; August 8 – Matthew 26; August 9 – Matthew 27; August 10 – Matthew 28; August 13 – Ephesians 1; August 14 – Ephesians 2; August 15 – Ephesians 3; August 16 – Ephesians 17. You can follow Pastor BJ's commentary on his blog at [www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com).

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

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

19. GOING DEEPER – an experience of the Spiritual Disciplines. There are several of you signed up. **There will be an** organizational 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 for further instructions.

20. The Trustees are going to proceed with the replacement of the Sanctuary boilers beginning next week (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.

21. 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 17<sup>th</sup>)  
October 5-7—Mature Years Ministry Autumn Days at Chautauqua Institution with Rev. Jim Pollard leading.

Essential principles of leadership include a commitment to personal growth. If it is true that one cannot lead where one has never been, one cannot give away what one does not have, and, one cannot teach what one does not know then it is critical for all leaders (and especially church leaders) to be on the constant lookout for opportunities to learn, to grow and to gain so that we can be more effective in our leadership. This week Sally Pollard, Rachel Vaughan and Pastor BJ Norrix are going to participate in an event called the Leadership Summit. This event is the second week of August every year and is put on by the Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago. Sally, Rachel and I will be traveling to Syracuse to participate and will be viewing the summit via live satellite feed from Willow's campus in North Barrington, Illinois. We will be joining with 10s of thousands of others around the USA and thousands more around the world participating in this event. When I go to these sessions I always go with these expectations: that I will be inspired by stories of others in leadership; that I will learn one or two or three things that I can immediately apply to my leadership and ministry; and, finally,

that I will be challenged, deeply challenged, to become a better and more effective leader in all that I do. Pray for us as we learn together.

Have a great week!

BJ Norrix, lead servant, coach, missionary

(this e-mail is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church of Snyder, New York. If you do not wish to receive this e-mail please respond: remove).

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