

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

**UPDATE
May 21, 2012**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH
9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship with the new worship team.
10:00 – FaithXpress, Soul Strength, youth Sunday school and AOL
11:00 – Traditional Style Worship with Choir.
Bring a Friend this week and share the Love and Grace of God!**

**www.Christchurchamherst.org
716-839-2460**

Dr. B.J.’s blog is www.drbitthoughts.blogspot.com

Hi Everyone:

We had an outstanding day “Making a Difference and Being the Church” yesterday. Our teams harvested and planted vegetables, prepared a flower garden, helped rehab a home, played with Journey’s End children, served lunch at a women’s shelter, made dresses, collected: electronics, bicycles, household goods and shredded documents. We also did some clean up of our neighborhood and served lunch and gave out cookies and did some tidying up around Christ Church as well. All in all a spectacular day! Highest appreciation to Sally Pollard, Rachel Vaughan, Peggy Bermudez and the whole “Make A Difference” Team. Thank you to all of our team leaders and the over 100 of us who showed up to make a difference yesterday. I was greatly and profoundly blessed! We want to thank the “weather committee” as well – sunshine and temperatures in the upper 80’s made for a great work day. Thank you, everyone. The next step is to learn, improve and expand for next year. We are talking about a twofold “Make a Difference” event in 2013 that would happen in the late Spring (3rd Sunday in May) and a date in the early Fall (late September/early October). Thank you for your patience as we worked it all out.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance was hard to figure yesterday – there were 100 in worship at 9:30 but several dozen others came in to work specific projects and as the day went on. It doesn’t matter, it was a great day!
2. This Sunday is PENTECOST SUNDAY. It is customary to **WEAR RED** on Pentecost Sunday. I will be preaching from Acts 2 about the first Pentecost. Pentecost for Christians is the Church’s birthday. Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, turned 120 people into a community that changed the world and launched what we know as the Christian movement.
3. As a reminder: This year we will NOT be changing the worship times: Worship will be 9:00 and 11:00 all year long (including Summer).

4. The Church Council meets this Thursday at 7:00 . . . come and see what the Lord is up to at Christ Church.

5. The last of this round of TALK TO THE EXPERT is Tomorrow (Tuesday, May 22) at 3:00. The subject is a values workshop with a Financial Twist. Call the Church office to register. It will be led by Patrick Allaire and Keith Schottman.

6. Happy Birthday this week:

Today: Rachel Vaughan, Scott Smith, Ryan Lopez, Rebecca Lopez

May 22 – Taylor Deer and **Sally Pollard**

May 24 – Janet Hider, Pastor Sinnathamby Thevanesan

May 26 – Marg Bauza

May 27 – Christopher Maliken

May 28 – Jacob Rhinehart, Alice Schmidt

7. Happy Anniversary this week:

We missed Chris and Diane Klenk's anniversary it was – 5/19/2012 (at Christ Church)

May 26 -- Pastor B.J. Norrix and Pastor Karen Bellimer (33 years)

8. In our prayers: Nicky Sebastiano, Mary Emens, Barbara McCray, Carmen Ticconi, Ed Maker, Alicia Ticconi, Courtney Cataudella and Jessica Lawson (in Nicaragua); the Habitat Women build team; our Youth Mission Team heading to Confrontation Point, Kentucky this summer, and the Uganda Mission Team.

9. The Wednesday Morning Bible Study has been suspended for the Summer.

10. Chris and Diane Klenk have announced that they are moving to Ogdensburg this summer. We will certainly miss them and wish them well as they relocate.

In light of this the two weekday daytime Bible studies (Wednesday and Thursday) are being combined and will be meeting on Thursday's beginning this Fall. Pastor BJ will be leading the combined group.

11. Game Night is this Friday at 7:30 in the Wesley Room. Why not come and play some games with the gang.

12. COMING SOON:

May 31 through June 2 – Upper New York Annual Conference Session in Syracuse (Dr. B.J. Norrix and Roger Johnson will be representing).

June 3 – is Confirmation Sunday – special 11:00 worship celebration for our two Confirmands: Brandon and Leann.

13. JUNE 3 – Ron Corsaro and the Upstate Express with vocalist Laurie Bordonaro: 7:00 at Christ Church. Donations for the Youth Group's 2012 Mission Trip.

Come and enjoy great jazz music and support our youth all at the same time!!

14. THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: Readings for the next week: May 16 May 22 – Philippians 2; May 23 – Philippians 3; May 24 – Philippians 4; May 25 – Acts 1; May 28 – Acts 2; May 29 – Acts 3; May 30 – Acts 4. Dr. BJ is writing about each days reading on his blog. Go to www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com.

15. 1. Hands for New York – this week's collection: **PASTA AND SAUCE**

IT WAS REPORTED at the Pre Conference briefing on Saturday that we have exceeded our goal of feeding 1 million people in 1 year. Let's keep it going!

2. Habitat Women Build is underway with 10 from Christ Church leading the way! Lynn Ramsey, Marg Bauza, Kathy Weaver, Dede Johnson, Lisa Lawson, Joanne Gilbert, Patty Keller, Pat Noyes, Inger Darling, and Peggy Bermudez are the Christ Church builders!

3. Courtney Cataudilla and Jessica Lawson are in Nicaragua this week to help build a school, make friends, and work and play with children!

4. UGANDA PROJECTS UPDATE:

a. Dr BJ will be travelling to Uganda to continue his work with the Nexus Seminary this fall (October 1-October 17). The 2012 Uganda team: Rev. B.J. Norrix, Rev. William Mudge (Adirondack District Superintendent), Kathy Weaver and John Miller of Christ Church, Esther Keeney (of Pulaski) and Rev. Clair Mosher (Erieville and Ononativia United Methodist Churches in Onondaga County)

b. Rev. Clair Mosher has formed a Uganda Youth initiative that will sponsor the training of youth leaders and hold youth rallies in Uganda. Pray for Clair's work as well.

If you would like to support the Christ Church Uganda Team or any of our Mission Teams directly: write a check to Christ UMC with the specific mission in the memo line.

16. There are now **6** of us officially signed up for ***the Israel 2013 journey***. The tour is 10 days: we spend 3 days in the Galilee in and around the sea; we spend four days in and around Jerusalem, Bethlehem, etc. We will visit Jericho and the Dead Sea and walk the via Dolorosa. **We depart on January 28, 2013.** If you would like to join us see the Church office or Pastor BJ for brochure and more information. All Inclusive cost is \$2598 (transportation from New York; deluxe hotel accommodations; breakfast and dinner ground transportation, guide, deluxe motor coach and all entrance fees). There are extensions available for those who would like to visit Petra in Jordan or see the Pyramids of Egypt.

This will be my 5th journey to the Holy Land. Each trip I discover something new to illuminate my understanding of the Bible (Old and New) and the background needed for understanding.

If you know anyone who would be interested in joining us there is room for more.

There is plenty of room for more . . . see Dr. B.J. for more information and/or brochure.

17. COMING IN JUNE

June 1 – Chicken Barbecue – sponsored by the youth group to raise funds for their Mission trip to Confrontation Point

June 3 – CONFIRMATION SUNDAY – we will be confirming 2 young people at our 11:00 worship gathering

June 3 – RON CARSARO and the Upstate Express – 7:00 p.m. at Christ Church. Donations for the Youth Groups 2012 Mission Trip.

June 22 – Red Cross Blood Drive at Christ church.

June 23 and 30 – Youth Car Wash to raise funds for mission trip to Confrontation Point in Kentucky

18. Remember: Vacation Bible School is coming July 16-20 and is called "Operation Overboard!"

19. Those of you who are in the immediate radius around the Church received a post card (9x5) last week regarding our **Make a Difference/Be the Church** event that was held this past Sunday. We direct

mailed nearly 2000 of them. This was a targeted mailing and many people in the neighborhood came out to recycle electronics, shred documents, bring bicycles and other house hold goods. Special appreciation to Rachel Vaughan (who designed the card, arranged for the printing and mailing and generally cared for this project). She did great! It is our hope to be able to send these kinds of mailings a few times a year to increase our visibility and to let our near neighbors know what we are up to!

20. HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES: We are compiling a list of Christ Church folks who are graduating this year. Let us know so we can let the whole Church know so we can all rejoice with you in your great accomplishments.

I don't know if everyone noticed it, but the senior staff at Christ Church certainly did. There was a special kind of energy in worship this past Sunday morning. There was an excitement about doing something different, about doing something for others about doing something for God that was obvious, palpable and wonderful. In rebuilding a church community there are signs and watermarks (metrics if you will) that show you are on the right track. The rise in attendance in worship is very clear indicator that a corner has been turned and momentum in a positive direction has begun. The rise in participation in mission and ministry – we had over 100 Christ Church folks out making a difference. The rise in projects (and taking care of some old ones – like the Church sign, the boilers, etc) are an indication that there is a new level of hope and caring in the body (we don't invest in what we do not love – Jesus said where your treasure is there your heart will be). A deeper sense of community as expressed in caring for one another, encouraging one another, supporting one another and, as it grows deeper, being accountable to one another is another huge sign. The energy, enthusiasm, willingness to do whatever needed to be done are all indications that we are most definitely moving forward. I cannot describe how great it makes me feel to see the hopping energy on Sundays and the willingness to engage in mission and ministry.

When I first started conversations with the Christ Church community (beginning just over a year ago), most of you wanted to tell me about what was, and how it used to be. These were great stories of an excellent community of Christians seeking to be faithful in Snyder. I have noticed that many of you have begun to speak less about what was and more about what could be. I like that kind of thinking. We honor the past and those who provided this excellent ministry and facility for us. But we truly only hold it in trust for those who are coming after us. I am excited to build, to grow and to see where God is leading us into the future. Have a great week. And remember **WEAR RED THIS SUNDAY FOR PENTECOST!!!**

God's abundant blessings be with all of you,

BJ Norrix, missionary, coach, lead servant

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