

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York

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

UPDATE

January 14, 2014

EVERYONE is WELCOME

EVERY SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH

9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship

10:00 – FaithXpress/soul Strength/AOL (Adult Opportunities for Learning)

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
716-839-2460

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

Hi Everyone:

There was a time in our country when the goals of the church and the goals of the nation seemed to be aligned. Now, as an historian and a theologian, I am not entirely convinced that this was a good thing. Historically, under this arrangement, the church is usually co-opted by the state and loses its passion for Christ. This supportive arrangement has been in a slow death spiral since the end of World War II. In the old “Christendom” way of doing things the church focused on Christian Education. People were considered already Christians, growing up in Christian homes and so the critical work was to educate them in the way of the church and the life of the institution. What we have discovered over the past 50 years is that the church taught and helped to culturally assimilate our younger people but we do not seem to have done a very good job of helping them form and develop vital relationships with God through Jesus Christ. Our Christian life is formed within us.

It is formed through choices (will I follow Jesus, will I try to live my life according to his teaching?); it is formed through practices (disciplines); it is formed through exposure and conversation and deep prayer and a high degree of intentionality. I know from my own experience that who I am tomorrow is determined by the choices I make today. If I want to be a better person, a healthier person, a deeper person then I need to begin to form those things through discipline and intentionality today. What is being formed in you? What are the forces shaping your life? What disciplines are you engaged in that are forming Christ within you and reshaping you into his image and likeness?

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 115. Special appreciation to Kathryn Weaver for giving us an update on the Northtowns Family Justice Center and our participation in its formation. Kathy and Dede and Peggy (and a host of hard working others) have been the Christ Church hands and feet and voices in this process!
2. This Sunday, January 19, is part 3 of the “Fruit that is never out of Season”. I will be talking about Peace. What does it mean to have “peace beyond understanding?” What does it mean to be a “peacemaker?”
3. MEN – interested in a pre work conversation, Bible study? John Miller and I are inviting interested folks to a gathering at the Wehrle Diner at 7:00 a.m. on January 29. Come and have breakfast and explore with us ways to encourage and challenge one another on our journey with Christ. Questions? See John or BJ.
4. How will we move Christ Church forward? Beginning Monday, February 10th at 7:00 p.m., Pastor BJ is inviting everyone interested to join in a monthly dialogue/action group. He will present material for discussion and together we will begin to live into the future. All are welcome.
5. DISCIPLE Bible Study – Session 1 is this Sunday at 6:00 in the Wesley Room. If you are interested in this 34 week Bible survey course and experience in small group discipleship there is still time but I’ll need to know before Sunday.
6. AOL – Sunday Adult class continues their study of the “Wesleyan Way” with Rev. Jim Pollard. Group meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Wesley Room.

7. **UGANDA TEAM PRESENTATION** is January 26 following worship. We'll have a soup and bread luncheon and hear from Kathryn Weaver and Joe Forte and Pastor BJ about their November experiences in Uganda.

8. In our prayers: Louise Barber is at Suburban; Mitch Mooney; Fred Painton; Glenn Hurst, Nicky Sebastiano, Bim Rowlands, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Carl and Jean Ericson, Alice Schmidt and Diane Lovejoy. Pray for all our young people serving in the military (especially Alex and Ian); pray for families in crisis, pray for those looking for work. Remember Brad Loliger and his family following the death of Brad's grandfather, Sam (memorial service was Sunday afternoon) and pray for the Wenner family following the death of Charles Wenner (memorial service was Sunday afternoon at Christ Church).

9. Through the Bible: this week's readings:

January 14 – Genesis 33-35; Romans 11
January 15 – Genesis 36-38; Romans 12
January 16 – Genesis 39-40; Romans 13
January 17 – Genesis 41-42; Romans 14
January 18 – Genesis 43-45
January 19 – Genesis 46-48; Romans 15
January 20 – Genesis 49-50; Romans 16
January 21 – Isaiah 1-2
January 22 – Isaiah 3-4; Mark 1

10. **BLOOD MOBILE** – at Christ Church Friday January 17 from 2 to 6 contact Geoff Hill to reserve a spot.

11. AT Christ Church this week:

Wednesday, January 15 – Choir Practice at 7:30
Thursday, January 16 – 10:00 – BIBLE STUDY
7:00 – Outreach team
7:30 – Trustees
Friday, January 17 – 10:00 Books Loved
2:00 – 6:00 Bloodmobile

12. **Confirmation orientation meeting** this Sunday, January 19 at 10:00 in the gathering space. Contact Sally Pollard for more information.

13. **FOOD PANTRY** – this week bring Pasta and Sauce.

14. CATCH THE SPIRIT February 1 at Clarence UMC – Registration deadline is Friday, January 17 . “Building Relations with depth” brochures and information at in the Café or contact the church office for more.

15. Happy Birthday this Week:

January 16 – Joel Jackson

January 17 – Kimberly Gabel; Bob Snyder; Carol Teresi

January 18 – Sissy Mooney

January 20 – Nicole Sciolino; Jansen Wilson

January 22 – Marian Steve

16. Postponed from January 11 -- **UMM** (United Methodist Men) – Welcome to Buffalo’s winter season. Join us **January 18th (Saturday)** at 10:00 at the church parking lot to carpool to Ellicottville to the Holiday Valley Tubing Company. That’s right! You need to get out of the house and enjoy the season! You are not too old to join the fun. Explore a new activity for yourself and the kids (and grandkids). Dress appropriately for the day and bring a change of clothes if you wish. There is a warming hut on the premises. If you get there and you just want to watch the activities, that is OK. There are 20 slopes and 2 twos to take you up the hill on your personal tube. We wouldn’t want to over exert ourselves! For those who get bored quickly there is a free shuttle to take you to the new lodge where you can relax by the fire place until the rest of us join you for lunch. The price is \$17 for 2 hours. If we have 15 or more and 48 hour notice, it drops to \$13.50 each. They make their own snow. Call Tom Nye at 648-1850 or 213-3642 for questions.

17. **Jeanne Bartholomew** was Choir director at Christ Church for nearly 30 years. She died in December (a memorial service will be held in Richmond, Virginia on January 24). Anyone wishing to remember Jeanne with memorial fund gifts or to contribute to a brick in the walkway of the Celebration Garden, be sure to mark your gift “memorial fund” and “brick” as well as Jeanne’s name. Acknowledgements will be sent to Jeanne’s family.

18. Welcome Back to Work: **Janelle Martin** – Janelle has been out following shoulder surgery in December and resumed her Office Manager duties today. Special appreciation to Michelle Panasiewicz for helping out and filling in and to Julie Wrisley who staffed the desk around Christmas.

Parting Thought:

I have an affinity for paper. There is something about holding a book in my hands and being the first to turn the pages that stirs my soul. I grew up in a Print media culture. I remember the first computers that filled buildings and required punch cards. I remember the year 1981 – the watershed year for computers. Before 1981 there were 1 million computers made and sold in the world. In 1981 Commodore (remember the 64?) sold 1 million computers. This is now a digital age. I was reading this morning that last year was the first year more books were published in digital form (no paper) than were published as printed books. What would Guttenberg think of this development? Did I mention that I like paper and holding books? But my preference is rooted in my own history and experience and the world is increasingly peopled by individuals who grew up in a fully digital age. It is not a question of right or wrong, good or bad, it is the complicated matter of the world changing rapidly around us. I like paper but I have learned to communicate digitally: I send this e-mail, I have a face book page and a twitter account and I even keep a blog – none of which requires paper, books, holding a pen or pencil or any of the things that are first nature to me. But I do it so that I can communicate. In Uganda I am learning the Lugandan language. It is tough sledding but it is allowing me to understand and communicate better as a pilgrim in a strange land. I communicate digitally for the same reason. It is becoming the language of our society and of our world. I still like paper and books . . . but, for the sake of the Gospel, I will learn the tools of the time. How far are we willing to go to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ to a broken and alienated world?

I'll see you when the church gathers . . .

BJ Norrix, missionary, digital pilgrim, lead servant

This email is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church in Snyder, New York. If you do not wish to receive this email please let me know.