

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York

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

UPDATE: January 23, 2013

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH

9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship

10:00 – FaithXpress and Soul Strength and AOL

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.drjithoughts.blogspot.com

Hi Everyone:

I am learning in my spiritual life to keep my “faith” eyes open. I believe that God is working all around us and intends to work through us. What hinders us from being used for God’s purpose in the world is our own awareness (or lack thereof) of God’s presence in the mundane and the everyday. The key, I am finding, is looking at every encounter as a “divine appointment” and to consciously ask the question “where is God in all of this.” Over the past week I have had several of these “divine encounters.” I was sitting in a sports bar (drinking coffee) watching a basketball game and felt led to invite someone to join me. In a few short minutes we had found a common faith, a common mission interest and some possible future networking opportunities . . . all because I invited him to join me. Does it help to know I was watching Syracuse vs. Louisville basketball and he was wearing a Louisville jacket? I was at camp Asbury on Tuesday for some Hand to Plow training (the first meeting of the pastors taking the training) and felt the presence of God in a conversation that led to an extended conversation that may well lead to future missional possibilities. Are you aware of the divine appointments all around you and the possibility of such in every encounter?

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 112. Special appreciation to Peggy Bermudez who was our guest preacher. Remembering that all of our families came to this land from somewhere else – the Norrix family arrived on this continent in the 1750’s or ‘60’s and my mom is first

generation from Canada (her family there were of Scottish descent on her mother's side and French on her Father's side (probably Acadian) – helps us better connect with people from other nations who seek to come and settle here in the 21st century. Understanding leads to respect and respect leads to all kinds of possibilities.

2. This Sunday I am preaching the third of my “American Idols” series. This week I will be talking about Power. My message is from the book of Daniel. This Sunday is also Mozart's birthday (the Choir is planning something special).

Hero Quest – FaithXpress continues through January and February. We are meeting Bible, faith heroes and finding the hero in all of us. FaithXpress is at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday.

Confirmation Meeting is this Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the gathering space. We will be telling stories of our Baptism.

Also at 10:00 AOL (Adult Opportunities for Learning) – is studying Leslie Wetherhead's classic The Will of God discussion led by Roger Johnson

UGANDA ORPHAN SPONSOR MEETING is this Sunday following the 11:00 worship hour. I will be answering questions, comments, etc. If you have not sponsored an orphan at Kirimandagi and would like more information please feel free to come and meet with us. There may be opportunities to sponsor more children if people are interested.

3. In our Prayers: Tom Brunner (tests), Louise Barber (hospital on Sunday), Diane Lovejoy (rotator cuff surgery on Monday January 28); Don Munson, Nicky Sebastiano, Bim Rowlands, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Jan Beckwith, Mitch Mooney, Jean DiDomenico – remember those looking for work, families in crisis, and all in harm's way.

Remember to pray for the Israel group: B.J. Norrix, Don and Barb Critoph, Ed and Cindy Fisher, Barb Carier, Marion Rowlands, Rev. Davis Matovu, Jerry Schumaker (from Erwin First UMC), Julie and Maddy Valeski (from Christ Community UMC), and others from Syracuse and other places. Pray for safe journey, renewed understanding and deeper faith.

4. Church Council meets on Thursday, January 23, 2013 at 7:00. The purpose of the Church Council is to be the leadership team for our community of faith. Leaders work from vision to action. The Council will have a new chair beginning with this meeting as John Miller has agreed to step. The structure and flow of the council meetings will be evolving to help Christ Church be better organized for the purpose of making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. All are welcome.

5. This Week at Christ Church:

Wednesday, January 23 – 7:30 – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 24 – Caller Team meeting at 9:30

Bible Study at 10:00

Church Council at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, January 25 – Game Night begins at 7:30

Saturday, January 26 – Youth Group Retreat at Church begins at 7:00 p.m.

6. Happy Birthday this week:

January 24 – Jamie Jackson

January 25 – Elvira Gonzalez

January 26 – Barbara McCray

January 31 – Sara Thomas

7. Through the Bible in a Year: This week's reading

January 24 – Exodus 9-11 and Luke 24

January 25 – Exodus 12-13 and Acts 1

January 26 – Exodus 14-16 and Acts 2

January 27 – Exodus 17-20 and Acts 3

January 28 – Exodus 21,22; Psalm 12 and Acts 4

January 29 – Exodus 23-24; Psalm 14 and Acts 5

January 30 – Exodus 25-27 and Acts 6

January 31 – Exodus 28-29 and Acts 7

I am posting occasional comments on my blog: drbjthoughts.blogspot.com

8. Some great stuff coming in February

February 3 from 12:30 to 2:30 – **Dress our People Sewing "Bee"** we will be making cancer caps for American Cancer Society and Roswell and Tube Pillowcases for the Ronald McDonald House. We have a goal of making 50 of each by May 15. Come and learn how to sew, cut out pieces, etc. Supplies needed: Rotary Mat and cutters, fleece or stretchy knit material for caps, cotton or cotton/polyester blends for pillowcases (30" wide and 4" to 30" long). Contact Molly Butler for more information.

February 10 following 11:00 worship "**Magic with Michael**" a delightful mixture of mystery and mirth – sponsored by the Mid Years and Ministry – soup and sandwich. You can either sign up to bring food (contact Marcia Snyder at 741-6901) or cost is \$7 per person.

February 10 at 7:30 – Jazz with Ron Corsaro Trio and Friends. A musical evening. Sponsored by the youth fellowship an offering will be taken to support the Youth Group's 2013 Mission Trip.

9. Christ Church will be participating in a church revitalization training experience in 2013 called "**Hand to Plow**". The training has been developed by Upper New York Conference Director of Congregational Revitalization, Rev. Aaron Bouwens. The training will involve 9

sessions for clergy and 4 sessions for clergy and laity teams from participating congregations. I am looking for 10 to 12 Christ Church members who would be willing to participate in this event **The first gathering is Saturday, February 9 at Camp Asbury from 10 to 4 it includes lunch** (your shared ministries dollars working for you). The remaining three sessions will be at Camp Asbury on April 13, September 28 and November 23 (all Saturdays). If God is calling you to be a part of this training please see me. I have 5 on my list already. I believe this will help us to move toward our goal of 500 in worship and 100 in Christian Education by 2015 (1 and 5 by 15).

10. Trustees wish list: Here are some things the Christ Church Board of Trustees is wishing for in 2013. If you can help with one of these see Tom Weaver:

1. New Lawn Tractor – Commercial Grade with bagger **cared for**
2. New Flowering Trees for the Celebration Garden
3. Gas Powered Edge Trimmer
4. Multi-Ladder (currently borrowing Dave Wolf's ladder)
5. Parking Lot Repaving
6. Sanctuary Wing Hot Water Tank
7. Refurbish Sanctuary wing restrooms

And for the parsonage:

1. Gas stove/range
2. Back Yard Deck
3. Re-Wallpaper Guest Bedroom (now a TV room) **cared for**
4. Lawn mower (so Pastor can mow the lawn)

Again, contact Tom Weaver if you would like to make any of these wishes come true.

11. **February 13 is ASH WEDNESDAY** – Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Church season of Lent. Lent was created as a time of preparation and fasting for the observance of Holy week (March 24-31 this year) and the festival celebration of Easter (March 31 this year). Some Lenten events

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP is at 6:30 in the Sanctuary. We will offer a service of repentance and reflection. The imposition of ashes will be available for those who wish to avail themselves of this ancient symbol of mortality and repentance.

-- Beginning February 13 – Lenten Suppers and conversation at 5:00 – The Way: Walking in the footsteps of Jesus – follow Jesus life through historical information, archeological data and stories of faith, using a DVD exploring locations where His ministry took place as well as first-hand reflections from CUMC travelers to the Holy Land.

12. PASTOR BJ will be away January 28 through February 6 on the Holy Land Trip. If you need Pastoral Care please call the church office, a pastor is on call in case of emergencies. On February 3rd, Rev. Jim Pollard will be our guest preacher and will preside at Holy Communion.

Parting Thoughts

On Monday the 28th I will be making my way back to Israel for the 5th time. I first made this journey in 1987, and had subsequent trips in 1992, 1999 and 2007. Each of these journeys has helped me deepen my understanding and knowledge of the Bible and the life of Jesus. When we read the Bible it is natural for us to imagine the spatial relationship of things using our own points of reference. Because we live in the United States, when I say someone climbed over a mountain, walked through a valley and went up onto another mount –we generally see these distances as many miles and the trek as an arduous journey. Thus, on Palm Sunday when we read of Jesus climbing over the Mount of Olives through the Kidron Valley and through the gate called golden we often see it in vast distances of many miles. In reality a small boy with a weak arm could throw a rock across the Kidron valley. The close proximity of the Mount of Olives with the Temple Mount in Jerusalem is amazing to see and changes how we perceive the events of Jesus life. The distance from the Mount of Olives to the Gate called golden is no farther than Christ Church to Main Street. Every time I make this journey I learn something new or I make a new connection with the ancient world. Every time I make this journey I make a new friend or two and build my faith relationships. Ed, Cindy, Don, Barb, Barb, Marion and I (along with Jerry and Davis and the Valeski crew) ask for your prayers. I would ask that you would pray not only that we might learn and see some new things but that our hearts would be touched by an ever deepening awareness of Jesus Christ in our lives. I am sure I speak for the whole group when I say we look forward to coming home and telling of our adventures and experiences.

Be blessed,

BJ Norrix, missionary, lead servant, adventurer

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