

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York

"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"

UPDATE January 9, 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:

A deep part of each of us longs for transcendence. We want to be a part of something that is beautiful, magnificent and is beyond the hum drum of human existence. That desire for transcendence drives us to look in all kinds of places. Some seek to find it in athletics, some in music and art, others in drugs and alcohol and many of us in the lure and energy and adventure of romantic love. Unfortunately, these experiences can only give us a glimpse, a fleeting view, a vaporous hint of real transcendence. The transcendence we seek can only be found in a daily intimate encounter and walk with God. It is how we were wired. St. Augustine once wrote *"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."* The yearning that we feel and the greater reality that we desire can only be found in a loving relationship with our creator. We were made, the Bible teaches, to be the object of God's love. When we are living into that relationship we see all of the other temporary transcendent moments are markers and pointers to this one greater reality. All too often, as the old Country and Western song once said, we are "looking for love in all the wrong places." The place to look is in the face and heart of our loving creator.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 142. We talked about American Idol 1: Money and also observed "Superhero Sunday" in FaithXpress and Soul Strength. Thank you to all of our

communion stewards and servers. Thank you to the Worship Team/Altar Guild for the way they keep our Sanctuary focused and ready for the changing church seasons.

2. This Sunday I am speaking about “American Idols 2: Sex”. The heart of the sermon is from Genesis 29/30 and the story of Jacob and Rachel and Leah and Bilhah and Zilpah, etc. Too often in our culture we become convinced that without romance of some kind, even the wrong kind, life is somehow meaningless. If we are looking for love in the all the wrong places how do we change?

3. In our prayers: Laura Smith’s Grandmother, Althea E. Haseley died on Monday please keep Laura and her family in your prayers; Mitch Mooney beginning chemotherapy next week; Jean DiDomenico is in ICU at Kenmore Mercy Hospital; Don Munson, Nicky Sebastiano, Barbara McCray, Bim Rowlands, Ed Maker, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Jan Beckwith and Glen Hurst (now home). Remember to pray for those in harm’s way, for those looking for work and for families in crisis.

4. AOL – Adult Opportunities for Learning has begun a study of Leslie Wetherhead’s classic The Will of God. Class is Sunday’s at 10:00 on Sunday’s from January 6 to February 10. Roger Johnson is our facilitator and this group is open for all who would like to join.

5. The Bloodmobile is at Christ church on Friday January 18 from 2-6. All donors will receive a coupon for a free pound of Dunkin Doughnuts coffee and a cup of Geoff Hill’s famous chili. To sign up contact Geoff at 316-1522.

6. January 21 from 7:00 to 9:00: **Conversation on Immigration: Exploring our family stories:** facilitated by Beth Sweet and Peggy Bermudez and sponsored by the Christ Church UMW. Why did your ancestors leave their home country? When did they arrive here? What was happening in history at the time? What experiences did they have after they arrived here? Do our stories connect with today’s new arrivals? Do you see God at work in these stories? Bring documents, photographs, artifacts, keepsakes to help tell your story. Everyone is Welcome.

7. Family Justice Meeting: We are hoping to establish a Family Justice Center in the Northtowns. The next meeting for this project is Tuesday, January 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hughson Room at Calvary Episcopal Church in Williamsville. All are welcome.

8. Through the Bible in 2013: This week’s readings:

January 9 – Genesis 23, 24 and Luke 9

January 10 – Genesis 25, 26, Psalm 6 and Luke 10

January 11 – Genesis 27, 28, Psalm 4 and Luke 11

January 12 – Genesis 29, 30, and Luke 12

January 13 – Genesis 31, 32, 33 and Luke 13

January 14 – Genesis 34, 35 36 and Luke 14

January 15 – Genesis 37, 38; Psalm 7 and Luke 15

January 16 – Genesis 39, 40, 41 and Luke 16

January 17 – Genesis 42, 43; Psalm 5 and Luke 17

9. Happy Birthday this week:

January 1 – We missed Brian Carney (Happy Belated birthday)

January 9 – Jenny Groh, Pam Lopez

January 10 – Lindsey Darling

We have no Anniversaries listed for the month of January.

10. UNITED METHODIST MEN: THIS Saturday, January 12 Are taking an excursion to the Buffalo History Museum (25 Nottingham Terrace) where they will view the lower level model railroad displaying many Buffalo area landmarks. They will meet to carpool at the church at 11:00. They will go to lunch together and then to the museum. Contact Bill Bauza for more information. There is an admission fee.

11. At Christ Church this week:

January 9 – Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.

January 10 – Bible Study in the Wesley Room at 10:00 a.m.

Stewardship and Finance team at 7:00

January 12 – UMM visiting the Buffalo History Museum at 11:00 a.m.

January 13 – Youth Group to Seneca Street

CALLER DEADLINE

January 15 – Christian Education team at 7:00

12. Christ Church will be participating in a church revitalization training experience in 2013 called "Hand to the 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. All four sessions will be in 2013 and will be scheduled to accommodate normal work routines. 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).

13. Coming soon to Christ Church

January 18 – Bloodmobile from 2-6

January 21 – Conversations about Immigration

January 28 – Israel team leaves (returns February 6)

February 9 – Hand to the Plow Laity Session at Camp Asbury (10 to 3:30)

February 13 – ASH WEDNESDAY

Lenten Supper and Discussion at 5:00

Ash Wednesday service at 6:30

14. UGANDAN ORPHANS – We are sponsoring a dozen orphans from Pastor Grace’s school in Kirimandagi, Luweero district, Uganda. At this writing we have one child who is not yet sponsored. Cost is \$125. This will cover the child’s school expenses for the entire year of 2013. If you would like to sponsor this child contact Rachel Vaughan in the church office.

Ugandan Orphans Sponsor Meeting – will be held Sunday, January 27 immediately following the 11:00 worship in the Wesley Room. If you are sponsoring one of our orphans please plan to come and learn how we can connect with these children and communicate with them.

15. Mission and Outreach News:

We Commissioned the Outreach Team’s Coordination group on Sunday (Peggy Bermudez team leader) and will be featuring a different local, national or international team.

1. Dress our People will be resuming soon under the direction of Molly Butler to make designer pillow cases for the Ronald McDonald House and chemo caps out of cozy fleece.

Watch for announcements or contact Molly for more information.

2. Next Outreach meeting is January 17 at 7:00 p.m.

16. . 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 (This one may be taken care of already)

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)

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.

Parting Thought

I spent all day Tuesday (January 8) driving to Camp Casowasco (it is on Owasco Lake south of the city of Auburn, New York) participating in a “Hand to the Plow” training event and then driving home. It was a long day but I learned a lot and feel I have a better understanding of what Hand to the Plow is seeking to accomplish. In 2013 over 115 congregations and their pastors will be participating in this first round of training. The Pastors will be meeting in small

groups at 6 different church camp sites (closest to where they serve). They will meet 9 times over the course of the year. The Laity teams from the participating churches will also meet at these church camp sites (we will be going to Camp Asbury). The Laity teams will be meeting 4 times – February 9 is the first meeting for our team. The key to revitalization is leadership and helping the Pastors and leadership teams to be better leaders, to understand the issues of church revitalization and ministry in our current context is critical. I have been asked to be a facilitator for one of the pastor's groups and will be providing leadership for the laity meetings at Camp Asbury. My plan is for a 10 to 12 person leadership team, to be led by Sally Pollard, from Christ Church participating in this training this year. There will be opportunities for our leadership team to teach what they are learning to their teams and others who are interested. Revitalization is mostly about getting back to the core purpose of a Church. The Church exists to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World. All of the Church's ministries and missions are here for the purpose of making, growing and deploying disciples of Jesus Christ. If God is calling you to be a part of this team please check with me – I am looking for not only those who are identified (positional) leaders but all who lead in this great family we call Christ Church.

Have a terrific week,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, coach, missionary