

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

**UPDATE  
July 10, 2012**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH**

**9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship with the new worship team.**

**10:00 – Faith Express and Soul Strength will return in September**

***Vacation Bible School is July 16-20***

**11:00 – Traditional Style Worship: Choir resumes in September  
*Bring a Friend this week and share the Love and Grace of God!***

**[www.Christchurchamherst.org](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)**

**716-839-2460**

**Dr. B.J.’s blog is [www.drbitthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drbitthoughts.blogspot.com)**

Hi Everyone:

It is great to be home after a few weeks of rest and relaxation. Karen and I spent most of our time in and around our house in Liverpool. We did some work around the house, I read several books, played golf with my dad, spent a day fishing on lake Ontario, and watched old NCIS episodes. We took a nice 5 day meander through north eastern Ontario (with stops in Kingston, Perth, and Algonquin Park). I found myself back in Snyder rested, energized and ready for us to begin our second year together. I found it somewhat hard to imagine that last Sunday marked my first anniversary as Pastor at Christ church. I think we’ve had a very good first year together and I am looking forward to many many more. I also want to express my appreciation to Roger Johnson, Rev. Gail Lewis and Rev. Jim Pollard for filling the pulpit in my absence and to the Christ Church staff – especially Sally Pollard and Rachel Vaughan who, to no one’s surprise, kept everything working smoothly in my absence. Thank you one and all!

Here is what is going on at Church:

1. Last Sunday we had 110 in worship (26 at 9:00 and 84 at 11:00). Thank you to Marg and Bill Bauza for providing special music.

We also had a great time being at part of Sunday’s Garden Walk

2. This Sunday I am preaching about the call of the first Disciples (as recorded in Matthew chapter 4). Peter, Andrew, James and John serve as the first of many Christ followers through the centuries and there is much we can learn about how they were called, how they responded and what the mission was.

At 9:00 this week we will be baptizing 2 children: Daniel Joseph and Matthew Ryan Rendon (Breena Hopkins is Joseph and Matthew’s mother).

At 11:00 this week we will be baptizing Samuel Gordon Webb (Justin and Julie are Samuel’s parents).

It will be an exciting day for our Christ Church family!

3. NEXT WEEK is Vacation Bible School – Monday, July 15 through Friday, July 20 from 9:00 – Noon – Operation Overboard! Come join us under the sea! Open for all pre and elementary school aged children! Register by calling the church office 839-2460 or on site on Monday.

4. Through the Bible in a year: We are currently reading Matthew: This week's readings: Today, July 10 – Matthew 5; July 11 – Matthew 6; July 12 – Matthew 7; July 13 – Matthew 8; July 15 – Matthew 9; July 16 – Matthew 10; July 17 – Matthew 11. See my comments and thoughts on my blog: [www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com).

5. We've just learned of the death of **Marjorie Marie [Bowery] Hill** in Delaware. She was among our founding members (and has lived elsewhere for many years). Marjorie was 93 years old. A grave side memorial service will be held at a later date.

6. In our prayers: Nicky Sebastiano, Barbara McCray, Bill Watson (following a bicycle accident), Beverly Hurst (following surgery), Katy Cady (following treatments), Carmen Ticconi, Ed Maker, Alicia Ticconi – remember to pray for those who grieve, for those looking for work and for all who find themselves in harm's way.

7. **HOLY LAND 2013** – at my last report there are now 9 of us signed up to make this journey. We depart January 28, 2013 for a 10 day tour of the land of the Bible. There is plenty of room for more and people can register up to 90 days prior to departure (October 28). **See me if you want more information.**

8. Happy Birthday this week:

July 10 – Peggy Nye; Tom Davis

July 11 – Garrett Lesswing; Trevor Smith; Frank Willhauck, Courtney Cataudella

July 13 – Tom Nye

July 14 – Hannah Smith

July 16 – Lynne Beller

July 17 – Kay Barber

9. Happy Anniversary this week: (234 cumulative married years this week alone!).

July 9 – Art and Carol Gundlach (57 years!)

July 12 – James and Lisa Juergens (9 years)

July 14 – Ed and Cindy Fisher – **(50 years!)**

July 15 – Robert and Betty Kreib (62 Years); Chris and Laura Smith (6 years)

July 16 – Rubin and Lisa Malpica (24 years); John and Marie Miller (18 years)

July 17 – Richard and Mary Ball (19 years)

10. Remember to pray for our youth group who are working in Apalacia with Confrontation Point ministires. They return later this week.

11. The Cheektowaga Food Pantry is in need of volunteers on Wednesdays. Bill and Marg Bauza are involved. The pantry is at 47 Ellwood Place (phone 392-2318) to volunteer or, I'm sure the Bauza's would be glad to fill you in on details as well.

12. ***I was hungry and you fed me . . .*** We continue to collect food for local food pantries:

JULY 15 – we are collecting Powdered Milk

13. The United Methodist Men are taking a sailing excursion aboard the “Blizzard” with Captain Don Critoph. **Car poolers: Park at church in parsonage drive way).** There is limited space so contact Captain Don at 832-4408.

14. Mission Prayers: Habitat Woman Build Team; Youth Mission Team in Kentucky this week; the Uganda Mission Team – leaving on October 1.

15. SEWERS Needed – for the Dress Our People project. Contact project leader: Molly Butler at 716-204-8993. Completed items can be left in the Dress Our People box outside the church office.

16. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT – August 9 and 10. Sally, Rachel and BJ will be travelling to Syracuse to participate in the Global Leadership Summit. This annual event is provided by the Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago, Illinois. Cost is \$169 (and you will need to cover one overnight and food – unless you want to camp at Pastor BJ’s house – bring cot, sleeping bag, etc.) For more information see ME or to register contact Rachel in the church office at 839-2460.

17. **OVERBOARD VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS JULY 16-20 FROM 9:00 TO NOON: PRE-K TO 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**—The VBS is free and includes a Field Trip to the Aquarium on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Operation Overboard: Dare to Go Deep with God! – register through the website ([www.Christchurchamherst.org](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)) or call the church office 839-2460.

18. . **MISSION NEWS AND NOTES**

1. Christ Church Youth Fellowship is on its way to Confrontation Point Kentucky in July. Pray for them and their work. They are gathering tools

2. 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.

c. Rev. Davis Matovu’s book has been published in Uganda and Dr. B.J.’s book goes to print later this month!

*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.*

John Miller, Kathy Weaver and I will be meeting this Wednesday to flesh out our fund raising plans. We are going to need many hands to help with a “silent auction” and dinner on September 14 – Can you help? Let one of us know.

**ALSO, another Ugandan pastor friend of ours Rev. Moses Wasige** has asked if we would sell some Ugandan bead necklaces – these necklaces are made from paper, are very colorful and are made by a women’s ministry at Moses’ church near Jinja, Uganda. I need someone who would take over

selling these (\$5 each) here at Christ Church. They make GREAT gifts. All proceeds support the women's ministry in Jinja.

I've been back to work for 5 days and I think I have caught up with all the news in my absence. I see many new and great things going on here at Christ Church. Our participation in community events: the neighborhood picnic back in June, the garden walk this past Sunday, not only help us stay connected with our neighborhood they give us great opportunities to connect and interact with our neighbors here in Snyder and the surrounding areas. It is essential that we do this. Churches that are in decline (as we were) generally have disconnected with the community around them. This reconnect is essential for the vitality of our ministry for the next 60 years. We are reconnecting in other ways as well as we look to deepen our ties with the many groups that utilize Christ Church for rehearsals and other activities. Our outreach connections in and around Buffalo are tangible and practical expressions of the love of Christ through Christ Church. Sally Pollard, and others, have made extraordinary strides in these reconnect areas and we are seeing many new guests in worship and at other Church events. We are pressing forward: for a Church community to be vital it needs to move deeper in its faith and trust in Christ and it needs to move wider in expressing that love to the world at large. I like a little quote from Rob Bell who once said: "If the gospel of Jesus Christ is not good news for everyone, it is not good news for anyone!"

Here's to our next year together!

Peace,

B.J. Norrix, lead servant, missionary, vision keeper

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Feel Free to share this with friends and neighbors!