

**Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York
"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"**

UPDATE July 10, 2013

**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH
9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship
FaithXPress/Soul Strength and AOL will resume in September
11:00 – Traditional Style Worship**

REMEMBER: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS THIS WEEK – July 15 through 19 (see details below!)

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:

Karen and I had a great time travelling with my mom and dad to Newfoundland, Canada and back again. I travelled over 3800 miles in 19 days. We visited places called Stephenville (and Stephenville Crossing), Deer Lake, Twillingate and Grand Falls. We stopped over in St. George's bay and Harbor La Cou and the Codroy Valley. We visited mom's cousin in Port aux Port and her brother in Halifax and, all in all, had a great time. We saw a mother moose and her cub and salmon climbing a salmon ladder. We saw several light houses and a couple of pods of minke whales along with a few porpoises and lots of birds. We enjoyed cod fish and lobster and moose and took two 6 hour ferry rides (and a few shorter ones as well). Thank you for your prayers as we vacated for three weeks. Thank you to Sally Pollard and Rachel Vaughn (and all of the Christ church staff and leadership team) for taking good care of things in my absence. Thank you to Laurel and Ben O'Connor and to Dr. Mark Abbott for preaching at Christ Church while I was away. It was great to travel and see some different things. It was also great to get home and reconnect with the Church family.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 101 (not bad for the 4th of July weekend!). I began a series on the 10 Commandments. The context of the commandments is that God has just delivered the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. These are guidelines for how to live as free people. Thank you Elizabeth and Peter Curtis for the special music. In my absence the 9:00 worship team added a bass player – welcome Keith Suffoletto.
2. This Sunday, July 14, we will be looking at the Second Commandment – “No graven images”. The commandment against idolatry is understood best when we remember that we were created in the image and likeness of God. The problem comes when we “remake” God in our own image – or the image of something or anything else. . . Remember: worship is at 9:00 and 11:00 all year (and Summer) long.
3. This Sunday is the Harlem Kensington Cleveland Community Association GARDEN WALK. Maps can be obtained at Trillium's on Kensington. Christ Church's memorial garden is part of the tour.
4. **MAJOR EVENT OF THE WEEK #1 – Vacation Bible School**

Beginning Monday, July 15 through Friday, July 19 FROM 9:00 to NOON – **Everywhere Fun Fair** – Pre-K through 6th grade. Cost is \$15 per child (max \$30 per family). To register call the church office 839-2460 or visit www.2013.cokesburyvbs.com/christchurchamherst. Saturday, July 20 we are hosting a “Community Fun Fair” from 10 to Noon. We will visit 5 countries around the world!

5. MAJOR EVENT OF THE WEEK #2 – Refugee family arrives early next week – see below for details

The family will arrive in the U.S. on Tuesday, July 16th, but will not arrive in Buffalo until 11:50 pm on Wednesday, July 17th.

We still need 2 school packs and a welcome pack from the list that was in the bulletin. If you can help with these contact Peggy Bermudez (BEFORE BRINGING THEM). Peggy can be reached at bradbermudez@hotmail.com or 289-7071

We also need some larger items: gently used and in good condition is fine

Dressers; Love Seat or Small Sofa, Living Room Seating (anything comfortable will work – upholstered chairs, bean bag chairs, butterfly chairs, director chairs, large floor pillows), Lamps, Vacuum Cleaner, Bicycles and Helmets, Fans

Here is what we know about the family so far:

Keh Blut, the father. The family is Karen and coming in from Thailand. There are **two parents 4 daughters** aged 12, 14, 16, and 18 **2 sons** aged 9, and 1 yr old.

Karen people are an ethnic minority in Myanmar (Burma). Many have fled to refugee camps in Thailand to escape violence including killings, torture, land mines, rape, forced labor, and enslavement. Historically the Karen people were the first to embrace Christianity in what was then known as Burma. Many of them are Baptist because the first missionaries to arrive there in the 1880’s were Baptists. The Kareni translation of the Bible was done by a Bible Translator who was sponsored by a Baptist Church in Utica, New York.

6. MAJOR NEWS EVENT OF THE WEEK – This from our Office Manager, Rachel Vaughan

Dearest Christ Church Friends,

Sunday, July 7, the best guy in the world, Stephen Adam, asked me to marry him! I am excited to share this news with all of you. As of right now, we are planning for a November 2013 wedding in my hometown of Alexandria, Louisiana.

I am sad to say this is the beginning of a long and extremely hard goodbye. After the wedding I will be moving to London, Ontario, Canada where Stephen was born, raised, and currently resides. (Only about a 2.5 hour drive, if anyone is interested in visiting!)

I have greatly enjoyed all of my days here with the kind, generous, and wonderful folks of Christ Church. I am looking forward to many visits in the future.

Your friend,

Rachel Vaughan

(I am sure you all join me in congratulating Rachel and Stephen and will keep them in your prayers as they move toward the wedding and into marriage and relocation etc. The Staff Parish Relations Team soon will begin a process to find Rachel’s successor – keep the SPRC in your prayers as well).

7. We learned that Benjamin James Maliken (Gregg’s father) died on July 3. A private graveside burial will be held for the family. A memorial service will be held at Bomberger Hall at Ursinus College, Collegeville, PA at a date to be determined. I am sure you join me in holding Gregg and his family in your prayers as they grieve.

8. In our Prayers: family and friends of Benjamin James Maliken; Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Doris Schanzlin, Carl and Jean Ericson, Art Gundlach, Mitch Mooney, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy, Greg Yungbluth, Dennis Scaringi-fractured ankle, Alex Dunbar – deploying to Afghanistan; and the family and friends of Gena Magoon. Remember to pray for the flood victims and their families, for families in crisis, for those looking for work and for all who may be in harm's way.

9. **Flood Response:** I am looking to see if there is anyone who would be willing to join me in giving a few days to help the people in the Mohawk Valley with the clean up following the serious flooding there over the past few weeks. I have a list of 5 of us who have said they would be willing to go . . . if you would like to join us let me know. Once I have some numbers I will get some dates and we will move forward.

10. Church Office Summer Hours began on June 17. The Office will be open from 9-3 until mid August.

11. Thursday Morning Bible Study **WILL** meet this week to explore continuing our discussions over the summer. Come and join us Thursday morning at 10:00 in the Wesley Room.

12. This Week at Christ Church:

Tonight: Wednesday, July 10 at 6:30 All Worship Team Meeting. We are having a "Dish to Share" supper and conversation about worship at Christ Church. If you would like to join us please let me know.

13. NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY – is in process. Sign up this Sunday following both morning worship. See Julie Wisley to schedule an appointment or go to the church's web site www.christchurchamherst.org.

14. Happy Birthday this week:

July 10 – Tom Cataudella and Peggy Nye

July 11 – Tom Davis, Garrett Lesswing, Trevor Smith, Frank Willhauck

July 13 – Courtney Cataudella

July 14 – Tom Nye

July 16 – Hannah Smith

July 17 – Lynne Beller

15. Happy Anniversary this week

July 9 – Art and Carol Gundlach (58 years)

July 12 – James and Lisa Juergens (10 years)

July 14 – Ed and Cindy Fisher (51 years)

July 15 – Robert and Betty Kreib (63 years); Chris and Laura Smith (7 years)

July 16 – Rubin and Lisa Malpica (**25 years**); John and Marie Miller (19 years);

July 17 – Richard and Mary Ball – (20 years)

16. MISSION UPDATES

1. **JULY 28** – following worship, **Courtney Cataudella** and **Jessica Lawson** will be telling about their recent mission trips to Nicaragua and India. We will have a light lunch and a chance to hear about their work and experiences.

2. I just heard from Rev. Davis Matovu that the Drilling team was to arrive in Gombe on Thursday of this week and would soon commence drilling!!!

3. The Uganda Mission team Pastor BJ, Pastor Clair Mosher, Kathryn Weaver, and Joe Forte are seeking your prayers as we prepare. We will have a big fund raising event in late September (20th or 27th) here at Christ church.

4. **Dress Our People** – Throughout the summer we will be making clothing to send to Uganda with this year's Uganda Mission Team. We currently need fabric for the larger size girl's dresses. On the Outreach bulletin board in Craft's Hall are tags with different needs listed that should be taken if you are planning to fill that need. Fabric should be turned in by June 15; then we will begin cutting out dresses. T-shirts should be turned in by August 15. There are packets of dresses in the Dress Our People mailbox outside the church office. Instructions included.

5. Amy Johnston has returned from the Dominican Republic where she has been on a mission trip.

6. Members of our Youth Group and their leaders are preparing for the Confrontation Point, TN Mission trip. They will leave on Sunday morning, July 14. You can support them financially by enjoying the M&Ms they have available for the taking in the worship area. Then fill the plastic container with quarters and return to the church office. Direct contributions are also welcome. We have families with more than one youth participating on the mission trip which makes it more expensive. We hope to lower their cost through donations.

17. Through the Bible in 2013 – this week's readings

July 10 – Micah 5-7 and Hebrews 7

July 11 – Isaiah 8-10 and Hebrews 8

July 12 – Isaiah 11-14 and Hebrews 9

July 13 – Isaiah 15-18 and Hebrews 10

July 14 – Isaiah 19-21 and Hebrews 11

July 15 – Isaiah 22-24 and Hebrews 12

July 16 – Isaiah 25-28 and Hebrews 13

July 17 – Isaiah 29-31 and James 1

18. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT takes place August 8 and 9 in Syracuse, New York. This Annual Leadership gathering is put on by the Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago, ILL. It is challenging, it is inspirational and it is highly educational. Go to <http://www.willowcreek.com/events/leadership/speakers.asp> for a list of speakers at the event. Last year BJ, Rachel and Sally attended from Christ Church and will be participants again this year. We'd like some of you to join us. Registration is \$209 (plus housing – though some can stay at BJ's house or share a hotel room). Please contact Rachel at 839-2460 if you are interested.

19. THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER (Northtowns) is underway. Here is a report from the Christ Church representatives: Dede Johnson, Kathy Weaver, Peggy Bermudez – if you wish to help with any of the items below see Dede, Kathy or Peggy!

1) Our "change a life" program continues. Donation jars are located at the back of the sanctuary, in the cafe and in the office. You can help change the life for victims of domestic violence by donating your spare change.

2) The FJC Northtowns group is looking for names of people/companies that can donate new items to help with the building project. Also people who can help with carpentry, putting in a new concrete walkway, building the handicap ramp to the back door, making or donating window treatments. If we have anyone in our congregation that can help with or provide possible contacts it would be very helpful.

3) Volunteer skills forms are available in the Church office. We need to have interested people fill it out asap and return it so the group knows what kind of volunteer work we can do verses paid contractors and vendors.

20. Trustee's Wish List –

If you can help with one of these see Tom Weaver:

1. Parking Lot Repaving
2. Sanctuary Wing Hot Water Tank

3. Refurbish Sanctuary wing restrooms

And for the parsonage:

1. Gas stove/range – has been installed!!! (THANK YOU!)
2. Back Yard Deck

Contact Tom Weaver if you would like to make any of these wishes come true.

21. Celebration Walkway – In honor of the life of Don Jurewicz and the contribution he made to the life of Christ Church, a brick will be added to the walkway in the Celebration Garden. If you would like to contribute to this memorial gift, please make check payable to Christ church with “Don J. Brick” in the memo line. To learn more about the Celebration Garden walkway see information outside the Church Office.

Parting Thought:

I've been thinking a lot about the 10 Commandments as “guidelines for living as free people.” Now, they are not guidelines like the “Pirate Code” from Pirates of the Caribbean where you can just ignore them if you wish. They are guidelines in the sense of designer specifications or guidelines in the sense of giving life focus and healthy parameters. Freedom does not mean free to do whatever I want whenever I want to. Spiritually, the Bible teaches us that we are “slaves” to whatever we submit our lives to. So, I may be free to lie, steal and commit adultery but that life would not be freedom at all but just another form of slavery. How often in our lives do we find ourselves “living freely” when in fact we are just doing what others are doing, or what we've always done and are not really free at all. I will admit that I do not like “rules” and it is my nature (sinful though it may be) to push the rules as close to the breaking point as I can get them. But understanding the commandments as guidelines or evidence of a life in faith presents a whole different view point. It is not a “do/don't ever do” list of requirements but a way of looking at the progress I have made on my spiritual journey – am I worshipping and honoring God? Do I care for those who cared for me? Am I living in right relationship with God and with my fellow human beings? As Christ's servant I know that loving God and loving people is the heart of the Bible. Jesus once said about loving God and loving people . . . “on these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets (Matthew 22:40).”

Church is here all summer long – come and join us and bring some friends!

Blessings,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, traveler

This e-mail is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church, Snyder, New York. If you do not wish to receive this e-mail please let us know.