

UPDATE - July 15, 2014

Christ United Methodist Church

***Harlem road at Saratoga road
Amherst, New York***

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

EVERYONE is WELCOME

**SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH
9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship
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
Or call us at: 716-839-2460

Dr. B.J.’s blog is www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com
Like us on Facebook!

Hi Everyone:

We are up to our elbows in Vacation Bible School (“Workshop of Wonders”) this week. There are nearly 30 youngsters (grade 5 and under) enjoying learning how to imagine and build with God! Special appreciation to Sally Pollard and the entire team for their effort and gift of time and talent this week. The Bible School is building a work of art that will be displayed at its completion in the Celebration Garden! We have many neighborhood children, some friends of our children, some grandchildren and, of course, many of our own. They appear to be having a great time! Many of the children have brought friends along with them. That seems a normal course of things with children – if something is good or they are off somewhere they want to bring others along for the journey. Sadly, as we get older, we seem to lose our sense of “the more the merrier” or we lose our natural instinct to invite others along to something that is benefiting ourselves. Church consultant Tom Rainer posted this blog (follow the link) on why church members

don't invite others to church. I thought you might find it interesting:
<http://thomrainer.com/2014/07/15/church-members-dont-invite-others-church/>.

Here is what is happening at Christ Church:

1. We were just over 100 in worship on Sunday as we considered the deadly attitude called Pride. We learned that pride in this sense is not feeling good about ourselves or having a healthy self esteem but rather pride in the deadly sense is driven by competition, comparison and self-centeredness. The cure for pride is to follow Jesus' example and learn humility and service. Special appreciation to Sandy Cumming who provided the special music.

2. This Sunday we will visit with Thurston Howell III, the character on Gilligan's Island who represents Avarice or Greed (who else would take a suitcase of money on a three hour cruise?). Greed is all about accumulation for its own sake. We are appalled at "hoarders" who gather and accumulate "stuff" over the years. But to some degree we are all hoarders. We cling to our stuff and, all too often, allow our stuff to control us. The cure for avarice is pretty simple: learn to live life generously and with open hands and hearts. The Biblical text is 1 Timothy 6:3-10.

3. In our Prayers: Kevin Johnston, Ross Markello, Sue Cataudella (her father's memorial service is Friday), Lois Lewis, Barbara Clinton, Molly Reed, Mac Sabol, Dave Mitchell, Brian Martin (home from the hospital and waiting a bone marrow transplant), Donna Hammond, Tom Davis, Caroline Hess, Fred Painton, Guy Castellino, Mitch Mooney, Bim Rowlands, Glenn Hurst, Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Alice Schmidt, and Diane Lovejoy. Remember all our men and women serving in the armed forces (especially Ian Johnson and Alex Dunbar). Remember to pray for those looking for work, for families in crisis, for and end to turmoil and unrest around the world.

Remember to pray for pastors and congregations who began new relationships last week. It was just three years ago that we were deeply into cottage meetings at Christ Church getting acquainted, hearing stories, beginning to explore ministry together. Pray for those who are in those initial conversations this week.

4. **New Treasurer needed at Christ Church:** first the good news. Eric Dokken, our church treasurer, has accepted a promotion that will take him to Charlotte, North

Carolina. Eric has done excellent work for us but his relocation leaves us in need of a new treasurer. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in serving Christ Church in this capacity please contact Pastor BJ as soon as possible. Eric and his wife Christine are hoping to relocate around Labor Day. (Computer experience and familiarity with Quick Books are essential). **We are grateful** to Eric for his service and wish he and Christine well on their new adventure.

5. **Lost & Found:** A ring has been found on the church property. If you have lost a ring, please contact Janelle in the church office with an accurate description to claim it.

6. **Stop Stress & See: An introduction to Living Well:** Monday, July 21 from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Tom DeLoughry of 2nd Half of Life Ministries of the Upper New Conference will teach strategies to reduce stress and “stress blindness.” You’ll review and consider topics that include prayer, finding more love, coaching conversations, healing, hope and hospitals, end of life new beginnings, etc. You’ll also learn about opportunities to help yourself, loved ones and your community through a Living Well ministry. Join us and bring your friends of all ages and life stages! To preregister contact the church office at cumc350@gmail.com or 839-2460.

7. **Summer Film Fest:** On July 20th the film is “As we Forgive”. 2014 marks the 20 years since the genocide in Rwanda. This film explores the stories of survivors and perpetrators as they struggle to live again as neighbors and experience the power of forgiveness, reconciliation, and God’s grace.

8. **FOOD PANTRY:** this week we are collecting PANCAKE MIX.

9. **ON THE MISSION FRONT:**

1. **Summer Programs at Seneca Street Church:** volunteers are needed to help at Seneca Street Church July 28-31; August 4-7 and August 11-14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you can help please contact Cheryl Bird at 491-2200 or cbird@daemen.edu.

2. **Uganda 2015 youth experience** (June 28 through July 10, 2015). Deadline for declaring interest in this gathering is August 1, 2014. Pastor BJ has application forms available. This journey will have at least 5 persons under 20

(possibly more) and some parents travelling to Uganda to work with our projects there. For more information contact Pastor BJ

3. **UGANDA 2014:** Pastor BJ Norrix and Joe Fort are under 3 months away from their journey to Uganda and Kenya (depart October 5 return October 23). Please keep them and our Ugandan partners in your prayers as they prepare. They will be teaching and preaching in multiple sites, presiding at a Nexus Graduation, opening a new teaching location and reconnecting with our friends there. They will be travelling to Mombasa, Kenya (on the Indian Ocean) to work with a group of Anglicans there. A **Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction** in support of this journey will be held in late September. Do you have items for the auction? Please leave them in the Pastor's office.

10. **ATTENTION ASBURY POINT RESIDENTS and FRIENDS:** Tuesday, July 15 at 2:00 in the Activity Room at Asbury Point, Dr. B.J. Norrix will be meeting with anyone interested in forming a new faith exploration/development/enhancement group. Details will be worked out with the group. This could be a Bible discussion group or a prayer exploration group or a . . .

11. **Church Council Retreat: July 26.** The Church Council is spending a day away (at the Miller's Camp) on Saturday July 26. All Members of the Church Council are expected to attend. Please hold this gathering in your prayers as we seek to build community and to move the Christ Church Mission forward. Maps and further information are available through the Church Office.

12. **Summer hours** are in effect at the church office. During the summer the church office will be open from 9 am to 3 pm Monday through Friday. After 3 pm please use the answering machine to leave messages.

13. Happy Birthday this week:

July 16 – Hannah Smith

July 17 – Lynne Beller

July 21 – Kay Barber

14. Happy Anniversary this week:

July 15 – Bob and Betty Kreib (64 years); Chris and Laura Smith (8 years)

July 16 – Rubin and Lisa Malpica (26 years); John and Marie Miller (20 years)

July 17 – Richard and Mary Ball (21 years)

July 20 – Tom and Peggy Nye (40 years); Darren and Sandy Paddock (18 years)

15. Through the Bible: this week's readings

July 15 – Psalms 13-15 and Acts 11

July 16 – Psalms 16-17 and Acts 12

July 17 – Psalms 18-19 and Acts 13

July 18 – Psalms 20-22

July 19 – Psalms 23-25 and Acts 14

July 20 – Psalms 26-28

July 21 – Psalms 29-30 and Acts 15

July 22 – Psalms 31-32 and Acts 16

July 23 – Psalms 33-34

July 24 – Psalms 35-36 and Acts 17

16. This Week at Christ Church

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – All Week

July 17 – Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. in the Library

July 19 – United Methodist Men (women welcome) Miss Buffalo Cruise – car pool at 10:00

July 21 – Stop Stress and See – Living Well 1 to 3:30 at Christ Church

17. Coming soon to Christ Church

July 25 – Singles Ministry discussion meeting at Noon

July 26 – Church Council Retreat

July 31 – Action Discussion Group at 7:00

18. LEADERSHIP SUMMIT is August 14/15. Sally, Janelle and I are attending this event in Rochester. There is room for more – Contact Janelle for more information.

19. MEN'S CLUB – upcoming events:

July 31 at 7:00 a.m. is the next pre work gathering at the Sheridan Family Restaurant

August 9 – Going to Erie County Fair. Car pool leaves at 10:00 a.m. Tickets are \$7 Contact Tom Nye for more information. Lunch at the Fair!

Parting thought:

The soul's only nourishment is God. God made us to live life in relationship with him. St. Augustine once wrote "my heart (soul) will find no rest until it rests in thee O Lord." Making space in our lives to worship, and pray and deepen our relationship with God is the best part of soul-keeping. I've been doing a lot of reading lately on the care and feeding of my soul. I read a book by Erwin Raphael McManus titled The Artisan Soul and another by John Ortberg titled Soul Keeping. I recently picked up an old monastic breviary – a guide to praying the monastic hours as a regular and daily devotional -- and plan to undertake a 30 day experiment utilizing the breviary as a guide. I am convinced that these and other practices will help me to live the life I was made to live. Praying the hours and other practices will help me to eliminate hurry from my life and will make me a better man and a better husband and a better pastor. What practices are you engaged in that will feed your soul?

Have a blessed week,

BJ Norrix, Soul survivor, lead servant, missionary