

**UPDATE**  
**July 29, 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](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)  
Or call us at: 716-839-2460

Dr. B.J.’s blog is [www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com)  
Like us on Facebook!

Hi Everyone:

I woke up this morning with Burl Ives’ voice in my head singing, “Have a holly jolly Christmas”. I think my subconscious is telling me it was a bit chilly last night. In spite of the autumnal temperatures, what I am hearing from most of our folks is that they are having a great summer season. It is the one thing people who live in the south do not understand and that is the meaning of summer in western New York. When it is time to kick back and play, we kick back and play. I hope you are finding space to relax, renew and refresh. When you are in town remember to join with your friends for worship and fellowship at Christ Church. Christ Church does not take a summer vacation. We’ve had visits from some interesting folks. So far this summer we have seen the Professor, Thurston Howell III, and “the Movie Star” Ginger, and are anticipating stop -bys from Mary Ann, Skipper, Gilligan and Mrs. Howell before we are finished.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was in the mid 90's. Special appreciation to Kevin Durkin who provided some special music for our worship at 11:00.

2. This Sunday we have a visit from Gilligan himself. Gilligan represents Anger. Not because he is angry but because everyone else is generally angry at him. Most episodes include Skipper smacking Gilligan with his hat at least once. At what point does our anger cross the line into a deadly attitude?

This Sunday is a Communion Sunday.

3. Christ Church's Church council took a day away this past Saturday (at John Miller's family camp). We spent our day building relationships, dreaming, praying, eating, and generally working to build deeper community in the church's leadership core. Thank you for your prayers. There is an old retail business adage that readily applies to churches. You cannot advertise unless you have the product on the shelf. Churches should follow this advice. It is no good inviting people to "join our community center of faith" if, in fact, no such community center of faith exists. Churches are renewed from the inside out and as our community deepens, as our internal relationships grow and deepen the world around us desires to be a part of it. This deepening represents a fundamental change of culture in most churches. Christ Church IS getting stronger and the community we seek to become is emerging. I am quite excited about our future. Thank you to all who participated.

4. In our Prayers: pray for Nora Townsend whose mother Constance Gianiodis died last week (funeral was Friday); Barbara Clinton, Mac Sabol, Dave Mitchell, Brian Martin (his bone marrow transplant is scheduled for September 17); 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 those who are serving in the armed forces (especially Alex Dunbar and Ian Johnson). Pray for the citizens of the Ukraine and Gaza and Israel. Pray for the West African nations that are battling the Ebola virus.

5. **TREASURER NEEDED** – We’ve been praying for someone to come forward to fill the vital position of church treasurer. Familiarity with Quick Books would be helpful. Most of the “clerking” work is done by the Office Manager (entering bills, printing checks, and mailing payments, calling in payroll). The treasurer needs to sign checks, oversee the accounts, and report to appropriate groups. If you are feeling a calling to this work please contact Pastor BJ (839-3260) as soon as possible.

6. **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.

7. **UGANDA SILENT BASKET AUCTION** – Fundraiser theme baskets: Donations of theme baskets or individual items are needed for the Spaghetti Dinner scheduled for September 26. Theme suggestions include: Movie night, Kid’s crafts, snack attack, pet, book club, holiday, etc. Gift cards are also welcome. Leave theme baskets or other items in Pastor BJ’s Office.

8. **ATTENTION** Asbury Pointe residents. Pastor BJ will be back on Tuesday August 5 to continue our exploration or forming a new “Spiritual Discussion” group. We will be meeting at 2:00. Bring your friends.

9. **Summer Film Fest:** This Sunday at 10:00 a.m. we will be viewing the film “The Line”. A film about US residents who live at or below the poverty line. They have goals, they have children, they work hard. They are people like us. All are welcome.

10. **ON THE MISSION FRONT:**

1. **Summer Programs at Seneca Street Church:** volunteers are need 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](mailto:cbird@daemen.edu).

2. **Uganda 2015 youth experience** (June 28 through July 10, 2015). Deadline for declaring interest in this journey 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 2 months away (on Monday) from their mission 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.

4. **FOOD PANTRY this week** is powdered drinks (Milk/Juice)

#### 11. WOMEN – UMW EVENTS

A. **Sugar and Spice Evening** – Accessorize with Attitude – Monday, **August 11, 7-9 p.m.** in the Parlor. Theresa Cookfair of Premier Designers will have jewelry for sale, and the UMW will receive 10% of sales to support our missions! We will also have an Accessory Exchange – why shop when you can swap? Bring hats, scarves, belts, purses, etc. in good condition and shop for free! Hosted by the Circle of Joy!

B. **Women's Retreat** – September 19-21 at Camp Asbury. We will be studying The Cup of Our Life with Dee Finch. The cost is \$165 and the deadline to sign up is August 15. Call Beth Sweet (210-8966) or Peggy Bermudez (626-4897) with any questions.

#### 12. MEN – UMM Events

August 9 – Erie County Fair (car pool at 10:00 a.m.)

13. **DRESS OUR PEOPLE** – is meeting Thursday, July 31 at 1:00 p.m. in the Youth Hall (downstairs). We will be cutting fabric into patterns to be sewn into clothing for children in Uganda. Bring your own cutting shears.

14.. **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.

15. Happy Birthday this week:

July 29 – Brandon Miller

July 30 – Cindy Fisher; Bill Kearney; Alex Ladowski; Linda Ladowski; Ruth Luss

August 1 – Alison Scaringi

August 2 – Andrew Painton

August 3 – Eric Johnston;

August 5 – Erin Johnston

August 6 – James Juergens; Helen Peacock

16. Happy Anniversary this week:

August 6 – Jim and Lynne Beller (37)

17. Through the Bible this week:

July 29 – Psalms 49-50 and Acts 20

July 30 – Psalms 51-53

July 31 – Psalms 54-56

August 1 – Psalms 57-59 and Acts 21

August 2 – Psalms 60-62 and Acts 22

August 3 – Psalms 63-65

August 4 – Psalms 66-67 and Acts 23

August 5 – Psalms 68-69 and Acts 24

August 6 – Psalms 70-71 and Acts 25

18. This Week at Christ Church

Thursday, July 31

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

1:00 – Dress our People

7:00 – Discussion/Action Group

19. Coming Soon (sooner than you think!)

August 14-15 – Leadership Summit in Rochester

September 5 – Mission Youth Fall Kick Off

September 7 – Disciple Bible Study resumes

September 7 – Faith Xpress and Soul Strength resume

September 19-21 – Women's Retreat at Camp Asbury

September 26 – Uganda Spaghetti Dinner 5:30

**Parting thought:**

I've been reading a great book by John Dickson (Australian pastor, writer, TV producer) titled The Best Kept Secret of Christian Mission. John Dickson, after lamenting the programmatic approach to evangelism, is suggesting that the key to sharing our faith in Jesus Christ with others is simply remembering St. Paul's admonition to the Corinthians "whatever you do in word or deed do as unto the Lord." I believe if Christians would stop feeling guilty about evangelism and simply lived the life we are called to live – a life that includes being willing to share our Christian journey and story with others as the opportunity presents itself – we would find ourselves flooded with opportunities to introduce people to the Lord and Savior of our lives. Christ Church has as a mission statement the words "Living Christ's ways." What would that look like? How would that statement connect with our integrity and faithfulness in all things? I don't believe we can "explode with love and service" without living a personal relationship with Jesus and living his ways to the very best of our ability. So, here is the really difficult question: when was the last time you invited someone to join you for worship; to help out on a mission project; to come to bible study; or attend your fellowship group? Whatever you do in word or deed do as unto the Lord!

Have a blessed week,

BJ Norrix, missionary, evangelist, lead servant