

**Christ United Methodist Church  
Snyder, New York**

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

**UPDATE July 30, 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**

***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)

**716-839-2460**

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

Hi Everyone:

I was deeply blessed to see the photos and listen to the stories from Courtney Cataudella and Jessica Lawson. These two young women served Christ through missionary journeys to Nicaragua and India earlier this summer. Listening to their passion and hearing stories of the transformation of lives through their efforts and the transformation of their own lives reminds me, again, of how important it is for a church to develop a mission culture. For centuries the Christian church has limited itself to raising up members and attenders and for centuries we have seen many members and many attenders and an occasional missionary in our church communities. However, the goal of the Gospel, as Jesus says in Matthew 28, is not to raise up part time followers of Jesus but to raise up disciples. A disciple is a devoted follower of Jesus who knows their gifts and is using them to live out the mission of the church. In a word a disciple is a missionary. One of my mentors wrote that if the church would shift its focus from raising members to raising missionaries the only question remaining for the Christian community would be geography. Where will I live my life on mission for Christ? Or, to put it another way, everywhere I am I am living my life on mission for Jesus Christ. At work, at play, at the camp, on the ball field, in our homes, in worship on Sunday, shopping and all the rest I am on mission for Jesus Christ. Every encounter is a divine encounter. Living life on mission for Jesus Christ may send us around the world (India and Nicaragua come to mind) and it may send us across the room or the street or the county. When we realize that we are called to be missionaries we will engage and serve Christ wherever we are.

Here is what is going on at Church:

1. Attendance on Sunday was 82. Thank you Kathryn Weaver for being our Liturgist and thank you Pat Sandle for your gift of music!

We heard Courtney and Jessica tell of their mission work following worship – thank you to the outreach team that put together the salad luncheon.

Our newly arrived Karen family is making progress – thank to all who have been helping.

2. This Sunday I will be preaching on the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment. The only commandment that has a promise attached. It is Honor your Father and your Mother that your days may be long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. What did the ancient Israelites understand “honor” to mean? What does it mean today? How do you honor someone who is dishonorable?

This Sunday is also a communion Sunday. Everyone is welcome at our communion table.

3. In our prayers: Jim Luss is currently at Buffalo Mercy; Carolyn Day was hospitalized last week; pray for our Bishop, Mark J. Webb and all our leaders; Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Carl and Jean Ericson, Art Gundlach, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy, and Greg Yungbluth. Pray for Gregg Maliken and family as his father's memorial service is this Saturday near Philadelphia, PA. Remember to pray for families in crisis, those looking for work and all who are in harm's way.

4. UPDATE ON UGANDA WELL – As I reported earlier the bore hole well in Nabukondo, Gomba District came up dry. Our Uganda partners, knowing the need for clean water in this village, did not allow a dry bore hole to stop the goal of getting clean water to this village. The short form on the project is that our partner, Davis Matovu, working with the drillers and water experts, found a spring near the village, they captured the spring and built a stone barrier around it installed a filtering system and channeled the water through the filtering system into a covered underground tank which will fill over night and will be available to be pumped out every day using a standard hand pump – thus providing the village with filtered and clean water. It didn't work the way we planned. But it worked out in the end. Thank you, all of you, who have been asking about this and for your generous support of these projects. The "Plan 'B'" did not cost anything additional and the labor needed was volunteered from our partners, the drillers and residents of the village. The long term benefit is that our partners in Uganda now are aware of other clean water options beyond the need to dig a bore hole, and, though the bore hole well is still the best long term solution, it is good to know there are other options. We will continue to help where we can.

5. **Amherst Cooperative Nursery School:** did you know this is their 75<sup>th</sup> year? Did you know they have been housed at Christ Church for 50 years this year?

**Registration** is now fully underway they are registering 2, 3 and 4 year old students for this Fall – they are especially in need of 4 year olds. Call 839-0298 to learn more about ANS or to register a child.

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

7. Thursday Morning Bible Study **WILL** meet this week (but not August 8) Come and join us Thursday mornings at 10:00 in the Wesley Room.

8. **NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY** – is in process for our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Sign up this Sunday following both morning worships or go to the church's web site [www.christchurchamherst.org](http://www.christchurchamherst.org) or call the Church office 839-2460.

9. Happy Birthday this week:

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

August 1 – Allison Scaringi

August 2 – Andrew Painton

August 3 – Eric Johnston

August 5 – Erin Johnson

August 6 – James Juergens, Helen Peacock

10. Happy Anniversary this week:

August 4 – Fred and Linda Painton

August 6 – Jim and Lynne Beller

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

July 30 – Isaiah 60-62 and John 1  
July 31 – Isaiah 63-64, Psalm 107 and John 2  
August 1 – Isaiah 65-66; Psalm 62 and John 3  
August 2 – 2 Kings 21; 2 Chronicles 33 and John 4  
August 3 – Nahum 1-3 and John 5  
August 4 – 2 Kings 22; 2 Chronicles 34 and John 6  
August 5 – 2 Kings 23; 2 Chronicles 35 and John 7  
August 6 – Habakkuk 1-3 and John 8  
August 7 – Zephaniah 1-3 and John 9

Remember to check my blog for each new Old Testament book for a quick introduction. Last year's posts (which can be accessed) have introductions for the New Testament books. The blog is [www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com).

12. DRESS OUR PEOPLE (update from Molly Butler): We are all set with fabric and t-shirts for now. Purchased t-shirts need to be turned in by August 15th. We DESPERATELY need people to sew- there are many packages of cut dresses and shorts in the Dress Our People mailbox. Completed items need to be turned in by the end of September.

13. This Week at Christ Church:  
Tuesday, July 30 7:00 – Trustees meeting at Church

14. UNITED METHODIST MEN – August 10

The CUMC Men (with women) will be touring the genius of Frank Lloyd Wright at the Graycliff Estate in Derby on August 10. Tickets are \$15 for the basic tour – we will have lunch at Pasquales in Derby following the tour. Carpool will meet at the Church at 10:00 a.m. and the tour begins at 11:00 a.m. For questions please contact Tom Nye at 213-3642.

15. 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.

16. 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.

## 17. Trustee's Wish List – **How do you like the new shutters on the parsonage??**

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:

Back Yard Deck

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

### ***Parting Thought:***

I have been calling the 10 Commandments “guidelines on how to live as free people.” That is the original context – God brought them out of slavery in Egypt. They had been slaves for 400 years. No one knew how to live life as free people. As free people how do we keep ourselves out of spiritual bondage? We hold to one God, we don't make or worship idols, and we keep God's name holy. How do we keep ourselves out of economic bondage – the tyranny of work? We keep the Sabbath and rest one in every seven days. How do free people live together in community? This covers the balance of the commandments. We care for those who took care of us (5); we respect and protect the life of others (6); we respect and protect the marriages of others (7); we respect and protect the property of others (8); we respect and protect justice and the legal system (9); and we protect it all with #10 by watching our greedy attitudes and propensity to violence. Someone else suggested that the 10 commandments are “designer specifications.” That is to say this is how we were created to live. We were created to live life in the sweet spot and within the healthy boundaries God has set for us. The “rules” are not intended to restrict us but to protect us. When we live outside of the guidelines and healthy boundaries set for us in the commandments we open ourselves up to difficulties and trouble and pain. The point is not – God will get you if you disobey! The point is – we will hurt ourselves and those nearest to us when we stray.

I'll see you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, rule stretcher, missionary

*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 me know.*