

Weekly Update: June 14, 2016

A Word From Pastor Darryl

This past Sunday we reflected on St. Paul's words to the church at Philippi in chapter 4:4-6 where Paul offers words of encouragement to the church. The theme of the message was "*Rejoice – Return to Joy!*" "*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice...Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God...*" If "*rejoicing*" is another way of saying that we, the church must "*return to joy,*" that means that we must become a more missional church. It means we must *reshape the landscape of our imagination* of what we think church should be. It means we must meaningfully, purposefully, and relevantly *rethink the way we do church*. This last week Sally Pollard sent me Thom Rainer's article on "The Seven Shifts in Church Outreach." Listen to the "shifts":

- From in-home visitation to lunch or coffee shop visits:** We still need personal contact with non-members for evangelistic reasons.
- From newspaper ads to Facebook ads:** The first place people come into contact with our church is likely no longer the worship service but the church website. So,
- From worship services to the church website as the front door:**
- From complex gospel presentations to simple gospel presentations:** As much as things change, one thing remains the same—the gospel still works.
- From multi-service to multi-venue and multi-site:** Most of the time multi-site and multi-venue is done to intentionally reach new people, not accommodate existing members.
- From attractational to going:** Growing churches have shifted from a "you come" posture to a "we go" posture.
- From national and international giving to contextual giving:** When it comes to evangelism, do something (it's not enough to simply give money).

St Paul offers 3 excellent ways to encourage the church to return to the kind of joy that shifts the landscape of the way we are being the church – Praise, Perseverance, and Prayer! True delight in God will always express itself in *praise*. We must come into the worship of God with the attitude of passionate and joyful worship, whether we are in a good mood or in a bad mood! This joyful attitude reflects the very nature of our ministry and mission even before we get to the front door of the church. The second expression is *perseverance*— stay the course, stay strong – the joy of the Lord is your strength. How can we feel joy in worship, or in life in general, when things are not going our way? Paul says, "Don't be anxious about anything." A lot of things we are anxious about are things that are nothing – it is as if we look for things to worry about. How do we face our reality without fear? How do we get to that point? How do we free ourselves from anxiety – personal anxiety and congregational anxiety? St. Paul says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but *pray...*" – and that's the third expression of rejoicing in the Lord – *prayer* – "*by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God...*" What do we do when we are anxious? We pray. Christians pray. We believe in prayer – in the power and peace prayer gives to us. Are we able to finally rejoice because God hears our prayers and we get what we want God to do? Not always; perhaps, not often. When we pray, we should not think we are sitting on the lap of Santa Claus making a list of things we want. Prayer is not a way of directing God to do our will as if God was some sort of "cosmic bellhop who is neither very bright nor very efficient." When we pray, we seek to commune with God, to seek God's will, and to

find new ways of being the church. *Praise, Perseverance and Prayer* – “for we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.” As always, I am praying for you and with you daily. May God’s love and blessings be always with you, and my love to all of you. Invite someone to join us for worship – this will be my last Sunday in worship at Christ Church!

Daily Bible Reading – 2016 Shaping Our Life Experience

Excerpts from both the Old and New Testament are included each day. This is a great way to support your ongoing growth in faith and the Christ Church community as well.

June 14: Ezra 6-8; John 21

June 15: Ezra 9-10; Acts 1

June 16: Nehemiah 1-3; Acts 2:1-13

June 17: Nehemiah 4-6; Acts 2:14-47

June 18: Nehemiah 7-8; Acts 3

June 19: Nehemiah 9-11; Acts 4:1-22

June 20: Nehemiah 12-13; Acts 4:23-37

In Our Prayers

Carol Corsaro- surgery this week; **Ed Maker**; **John Yungbluth**; **Ariana Castellino** and her family; **Donna Hammond** and her family; the family of the **Rev. Richard (Dick) Harrington**--A memorial service will be held **this Saturday, June 18 at 2 pm at the Fairport UMC.**

Guy Ferrelli, Fred Painton, Patty Keller, John Lopez, Gaetano Castellino Sr.

Charles Terranova, Elvira Gonzalez, Glenn Hurst

New pastor appointment process

Pastor Darryl & Pauline and their family - in this time of transition to their new church and new home in Lockport.

Alex Dunbar, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson* (deployed) – all serve in the US Navy

Pray for people of **Orlando, FL**

Pray for **students, teachers and administrators** as the school year comes to a close

This Week at Christ Church

Monday, June 13 - "Caller" newsletter deadline – Jul/Aug
7 pm – Christian Ed team mtg

Tuesday, June 14 - **Happy Flag Day!**
VBS preparations – art room - AM & PM



Wednesday, June 15 - 6:30 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal
7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, June 16 - 10 am – Life Lessons Bible Study with Pastor Darryl

Saturday, June 18- 10 am – Crafting for a Cause
12:30 pm – River Cruise (11:30 am – carpool from church)
4 pm – Katelyn Emerling & William Worthy wedding

Sunday, June 19 - **Celebration of Pastor Darryl Barrow and his ministry**
2016 Graduate Recognition Day
Happy Father's Day!
9 am & 11 am – Worship
Reception for Pastor Darryl and Family

Opportunities to Make A Difference

Food Pantry - suggested items:

June 12 – Tuna, pasta, cream of mushroom soup

June 19 – Canned fruits & vegetables (low sodium)

*All food items, **paper products** and **toiletry items** are welcome anytime. Grocery carts are available in the church for your donations. Thank you!*

Summer Sundays - Host the Cafe

Sign up on the bulletin board in the café to host some Sunday morning!
Invite your family, friends, ministry team or group to join you!
Share in this Café ministry of hospitality and welcome.

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A Date With Darryl Sunday, June 19

Join in a celebration of the ministry of Pastor Darryl Barrow on Sunday, June 19. It will be a special day for honoring Darryl's ministry and presence with and among us and for sending Darryl, Pauline and their family off to their new church and new home in Lockport.

Worship at 9 and 11 am
Party at noon!

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Graduate Recognition Sunday Sunday, June 19

If you have a high school or college graduate in your family, please send the information in to the church office by **Wednesday, June 15**

Benefit For Patty Keller

Come and help support Patty Keller's fight through breast cancer - Friday, June 24 from 7-11 p.m. at the Eagle's Club (4569 Broadway, Depew). A \$20 donation gets you a night full of fun and food and music! All proceeds will help with Patty's medical expenses, as she is unable to work at this time.

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