

Christ United Methodist Church

Snyder, New York

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

UPDATE March 13, 2013

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH

9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship

10:00 – FaithXpress and Soul Strength and AOL

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

716-839-2460

Dr. B.J.’s blog is www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com

Hi Everyone:

This Sunday is “Consecration Sunday.” This is the one Sunday of the year that we ask the Christ Church Community to make an estimate of their giving for the next year. I will be teaching this Sunday on a vital biblical principle. The short form is this: living is giving and giving is living. Vital life and vital faith call us to be generous people. When we live life with closed and clenched hands we are prevented from giving (because we are clinging) we are also prevented from receiving (because our hands are closed). As Winston Churchill once said “what we earn makes a living but it is what we give that makes a life!” There is a rhythm and flow of a joy filled Christian life. It is a rhythm and flow that recognizes that I am not a depository nor a reservoir of God’s grace and abundance. I am a channel of God’s grace and abundance. I am blessed to be a blessing. God’s spiritual, material, relational and other kinds of blessings flow into my life and then flow through my life to be a blessing for others. Generosity takes many forms. Sometimes it is just a small increment. Here’s an example from a friend of mine: if our giving at Christ Church increased just \$5 per capita per week – that is each of us just gave \$5 more per week the impact would be over \$36,000 per year and would wipe out our budget gap and increase the availability of funds for mission and other ministry. (for the math folks – average attendance 140 x \$5 = \$700 per week x 52 weeks = \$36,400). What will you do to be more generous this year?

Here is what is happening at Christ church:

1. Attendance last week was about 130 – welcome time change weekend! We all survived and I did not see anyone come in a hour late for either worship gathering. Special appreciation to Julianna Sabol for her excellent offering of music at 11:00. Thank you.

2. Jean DiDomenico's arrangements are as follows: Calling hours are Thursday (2-4 and 7-9) at the Dietrich funeral home. The Funeral will be at Christ church on Friday morning (March 15) at 11:00. Post funeral reception will be held elsewhere. Continue to keep Jean's family in your prayers.

3. This Sunday is Consecration Sunday. I am preaching a message from Mark 10:17-31. The message is titled "Living is Giving is Living"

FaithXPress is "Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus" this month. Children and Youth ministry is every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

AOL is using this same resource in their 10:00 Sunday gatherings as well.

Last Sunday's **One Great Hour of Sharing** totaled over \$500 (thank you!).

4. JOIN us tonight for the Lenten Soup and Study at 5:00. We are walking in the footsteps with Jesus and hearing from some of our recent Israel travelers.

5. In 7 and a half months I will be returning to Uganda (November 3/4) to continue the mission there. It is getting close to the time when I will need to know who is making this journey with me for the purpose of purchasing the less expensive plane tickets. Is God calling you to journey with me in Uganda? Let me know as soon as possible.

6. The Going Deeper group is meeting on Sunday's at 6:30 at the church. We decided to read and discuss C.S. Lewis' book The Great Divorce. What if people in hell had a chance to take a bus ride to heaven and were allowed to stay . . . would they? One ancient theologian once wrote that the gates of hell are locked from the inside. This is an open group and we will be working our way through this book for the next several weeks. Want to go deeper?

7. This week are Christ Church

Wednesday March 13

5:00 – Lenten Supper and Study

7:30 – Choir rehearsal

Thursday, March 14

10:00 a.m. – Pastor's Weekly Bible Study

7:00 p.m. – Outreach Team meeting

Friday, March 15

10:00 a.m. – Books Loved in the Wesley Room

Saturday, March 16

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Amherst Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 17

9:00 and 11:00 Worship

10:00 – Education Hour

12:30 – Confirmation Class and Mentors Wesley Room

Beginner's Jazz Band

6:30 – Going Deeper Group
Monday, March 18
6:50 p.m. – Women’s Workshops

8. In our Prayers: family and friends of Gerry Alexander; family and friends of Jean DiDomenico; Nicky Sebastiano, Jim Luss, Barbara Carier, Bim Rowlands, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Jan Beckwith, Mitch Mooney, Diane Lovejoy, Shirley Downey, Tom Brunner; those looking for work; families in crisis; those in harm’s way.

9. Dress our People Update

Dress Our People is currently working on completing 2 projects- cancer caps for Roswell and the American Cancer Society plus pillowcases for the local Ronald McDonald house. Dress Our People has a mailbox outside Sally's office- on the bottom right. If you have completed projects, please place them in the mailbox. There are also some packages of cut out projects in the mailbox- please feel free to take them home to complete!

All completed projects should be returned by April 28th. UPDATE: I picked up finished projects this morning and counted- so far- 32cancer caps and 36 pillow cases- we are well on our way to our goal of 50 each:)

If you have any questions, please call Molly Butler ([716-204-8993](tel:716-204-8993)) or send an e-mail (kwmgbutler@gmail.com).

10. Happy Birthday this week:

March 15 – Joanne Gilbert
March 17 – Claire Lines; Marshall Rhinehart
March 19 – Karen Arrison; Marjory Gibson; Florence Stengel
March 21 – Nicky Sebastiano (101) and Barry Wood

11. Through the Bible in a year: This week’s reading. See blog www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com for periodic commentary.

March 13 – Deuteronomy 22-24 and Galatians 4
March 14 – Deuteronomy 25-27 and Galatians 5
March 15 – Deuteronomy 28-29 and Galatians 6
March 16 – Deuteronomy 30-31, Psalm 40 and 1 Corinthians 1
March 17 – Deuteronomy 32-34 and 1 Corinthians 2
March 18 – Joshua 1-2, Psalm 37 and 1 Corinthians 3
March 19 – Joshua 3-6 and 1 Corinthians 4
March 20 – Joshua 7-8, Psalm 69 and 1 Corinthians 5
March 21 – Joshua 9-11 and 1 Corinthians 6

12. YOUTH GROUP FUND RAISER on MARCH 22 – Krolic’s Fish Fry EAT in or TAKE out.

13. **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

March 24 – PALM SUNDAY – procession with palms and passion narrative
March 27 – HOLY THURSDAY worship at 7:00; communion, candles, remembering
March 28 – GOOD FRIDAY – worship at noon and 7:00 (stations of the cross)
March 31 – EASTER (Resurrection Day!) Worship celebrations at 9:00 and 11:00

14. Coming April 14 – Special guest preacher will be Rev. Marvin A. McMickle, Ph.D., President of Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School in Rochester. Dr. McMickle is one of our nation's foremost preachers and teachers of homiletics and will be preaching at Christ Church's 11:00 a.m. worship celebration.

15. MISSION NEWS AND NOTES

1. Christ Church's **Courtney Cataudella** is planning another trip to Nicaragua for fellow Christian college students through Project Chacocente. They leave on May 17th and will be there until May 28th. Courtney has made this journey before and is seeking help from her home congregation (that would be us). We are planning a "fund raiser" event for late April (watch for details) to support Courtney. If you wish to directly support her send your checks to Christ Church Marked "Courtney/Nicaragua".

2. Christ Church's **Jessica Lawson**, a student at American University, will be traveling this summer to India to work with the "untouchables". She is also in need of our support. Watch for more information.

3. Hands4NY -- March 17 – Peanut butter and jelly; March 24 – Hearty soups and crackers; March 31 – powdered milk and juices.

4. Kathryn Weaver is raising support to have a proper bore hole well dug in a village in the Gombe district of Uganda. . . lack clean drinking water is one the greatest obstacles to health and wellness in the developing world. The village in question collects rain water in a hole in the ground at the bottom of a hill for its drinking water. Water borne illnesses are nearly universal in the people of this village. Clean drinking water for this village would radically improve the health and well being of the village. Contact Kathy for more information: kdweaver23@verizon.net or 839- 5918. **We are gaining partners from the wider community for this as well!**

5. THANK YOU to all who are supporting our Ugandan Orphans through the Blessed Junior School in Kirimandagi. The funds for this project will be sent to Pastors Grace and Owar Naphtal very soon.

16. COMING April 13 – Spaghetti Dinner and basket auction to help support Lim and Raffaella Marcantonio and family. They are adopting three Ugandan orphans (twins and their older sister all under two). Watch for more information regarding the this "Africa Angels Event!" Tickets are \$20 (free for kids under 3) call 873-8700 for more information.

17. Did you know **Make a Difference Day** is only 10 weeks away? Sunday May 19 we will go, gather and do our best to make a difference.

18. Trustees wish list: Here are some things the Christ Church Board of Trustees is wishing for in 2013. If you can help with one of these see Tom Weaver:

3. Gas Powered Edge Trimmer
5. Parking Lot Repaving
6. Sanctuary Wing Hot Water Tank
7. Refurbish Sanctuary wing restrooms

And for the parsonage:

1. Gas stove/range
2. Back Yard Deck
4. Lawn mower (so Pastor can mow the lawn)

Again, contact Tom Weaver if you would like to make any of these wishes come true.

19. Special appreciation to all of you who filled out the “Get in the Game” forms. Many of you are stepping up and stepping out into mission and ministry!

Parting Thought

I was not a natural giver. I grew up as part of a very selfish and self centered generation (the ME Generation). Giving and caring for others always came AFTER we had taken care of our own needs and wants. Even in ministry I was not a very generous giver. I would place a \$10 or \$20 in the offering plate from time to time and would believe that this was sufficient – after all wasn't I giving my entire life to the service of the church and the ministry. I grew up Roman Catholic, no one ever taught me about tithing or about being generous. To be honest, I never heard a good sermon on the importance of being a faithful steward of the resources God had placed in my life. Early in the ministry of my third church I began to study leadership (something else that was not taught in any of the schools I attended). There were three critical lessons for leaders: you cannot teach what you do not know, you cannot give away what you do not have and you cannot lead where you have never been. This last one was the clincher for me. I realized that my life as an example actually mattered. I could not expect the people around me (or in my ministry) to be doing things I myself was not willing to do. I realized that I could not teach about generous giving because my own giving was pathetic. I realized I could not even begin to teach about tithing if I was not a tither. It would be like preaching about faithful marriage when I was an adulterer or about truth telling if I was a compulsive liar. I worked up to tithing over a three year period and began to meet and then surpass the tithe in my giving thereafter. I believe as your pastor my life should be an example and should help set the standard. So, if you want to know what I will give to God through Christ church simply take my salary (a matter of public record) and move the decimal left one place (that would be 10%) – then, because I suggest it above, go ahead and add that extra \$5 a week increment as well. What will you do with what God has given you?

I'll see you when the Church gathers,

BJ Norrix, missionary, lead servant, striving to be an example (1 Corinthians 11:1)