

**UPDATE- March 17, 2015**

**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**

**10:00 FaithXpress and Adult Opportunities for Learning**

**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](tel:716-839-2460)

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

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Hi Everyone:

**Happy St. Patrick's Day!** Spring is on the way and as we continue our journey through Lent, Holy Week is coming into view. There's a feeling of anticipation in the air, a feeling of being drawn to follow on a path that is opening to us. The cross that lies ahead is not an ending, but a beginning....

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Worship attendance on Sunday was 115 and we welcomed back some of our "snowbirds". Our focus was on "Grace Notes" and the healing we experience as we face our fears. Following Jesus is no easy task. God loved

the world in such a way as to enter into human life and to understand that life completely.

2. Thank you to **Ron Corsaro** and his trio for the enjoyable evening of jazz which resulted in approximately \$800 for the Uganda mission! Ron is offering one of his CDs for anyone donating \$25 (or more) to the Uganda Mission Team.

The team leaves for Uganda in June and will continue raising funds. The next event is a **Krolick's Fish Fry** on Friday, April 10. Tickets are \$12 and will be available in advance.

3. In our Prayers: family and friends of Dick Manville, Sam Ross and Margery Facklam; Sue Estee will be having major surgery at Roswell on March 19, keep Sue in your prayers, **Sue has asked that friends refrain from visiting her in the hospital.** Updates will be published as we get them. She will be at Roswell for about a week after surgery before returning home for recovery – **cards, notes and an abundance of prayers are welcome;** **Meaghan Ramsey** is recovering from knee surgery; Pray for **Todd and Mary Jo Evans** – Todd is now at Wesley Rehab (room 714) and is exploring treatment options for liver cancer; **Mary Jo** is at Blocher Home and would enjoy visits as she adjusts to living on her own; **Laney Fuller** broke a shoulder and is now at Blocher Home for rehab and hopes to return to Asbury Pointe soon; **Lynda Painton** was hospitalized recently and is now at home; **Jan Rhinehart** undergoing tests; **Sharon Ferrelli** began her follow up treatment on Thursday; **Dr. Robert Nachbar** has moved to Blocher Home Room 224 Blocher Homes 135 Evans St, Williamsville, NY. 14221-9244, Phone #: [716-568-9628](tel:716-568-9628); **Chuck Gilbert**, able to get out now after a recent hospital stay; **Mac & Julianna Sabol** are in need of continued prayers as Mac is still dealing with health issues; **Janet Nieman**, Cheektowaga Food Pantry - recovering after emergency surgery.; Dorothy Brown; Dona Dalton; Brian Martin for continued healing; Glenn Hurst, Edmond Wrycza (Julianna Sabol's father in nursing home in Fort Erie); Lois Lewis, Barbara Clinton, Tom Davis, Fred Painton, Guy Castellino (and Guy's mother and father who are both dealing with major health matters); Mitch Mooney, Bim Rowlands, Nicky Sebastiano, Ruth Kitson, Ruth Luss, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy; and all those who are dealing with colds, flu and bronchitis. Remember our service men and women (domestic and foreign) especially: Alex Dunbar, Ian Johnson and Lindsey Darling (all serving in the US Navy). Pray for the members of our congregation who are

returning from the south following some winter reprieve and those heading out.

4. On the *Wish List: the **Church's snow blower*** (which has lasted over 15 years of heavy duty use) is on its last legs. The Trustees would like to purchase a new, commercial grade snow blower that would cost about \$2500. Is this something you'd like to purchase for your church? See BJ or Tom Weaver if you'd like to help.

5. This week at Christ church:

Monday, March 16 – 6:00 pm - Disciple 1 Bible Study class

Tuesday, March 17 - 12 noon - Rachel Circle, Program by Rev. Jim Pollard  
7:00pm Outreach Team

Wednesday, March 18 – Lenten Supper and Study 5:30

Choir Rehearsal at 7:30p.m.

Thursday, March 19 – Bible Study at 10:00a.m.

DRESS OUR PEOPLE – Noon to 4:00p.m.

Living Well Training – 6:30 to 8:30p.m.

SPRC meets at 7:00p.m.

Saturday, March 21 – Nicky Sebastiano's birthday - 103 years young!

Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast & Health Fair, 8 am - 1 pm

Crafting For A Cause - 10 am - Wesley Room

Sunday, March 22 - Apprentice (Confirmation Class) orientation  
gathering - 10 am

March 15 through 20 – Pastor BJ is at a training event.

6. **DRESS OUR PEOPLE** – will be meeting to cut patterns on Thursday, March 19 from noon to 4:00pm in the Wesley room. Clothing will be packed for the Uganda team on make a Difference Day, May 17. Needed Items: ½" to ¾" wide elastic; plastic zip bags (6.5x7" and 8x7") double/triple strip zip works best; fabric buttons, bias tape, trim, lace and thread. Clothing will be taken to two sites in Uganda for the poorest of our friends.

7. **AARP Driver Safety Class:** Christ Church will host an AARP Driver Safety Class on Friday, April 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Class is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members (paid by cash or check on the day of the training). Lunch will be available for \$5. Register by contacting Janelle at 839-2460 or [cumc350@gmail.com](mailto:cumc350@gmail.com).

**8. Bach Children's Choir and Bach Chamber Youth Chorus of Ontario, Canada** will be singing in concert at Christ Church on Saturday evening, April 25. The concert features singers ages 6 through university age are divided into three choirs. These award-winning choirs compete nationally; have released 6 CD's and recorded a song for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics! Mark your calendars – you won't want to miss this. For more information, **or to host children/adults from the group in your home (beds or air mattresses)**, contact Sally Pollard (839-2460).

**9. FOOD PANTRY – THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS IMPORTANT MISSION.**

**10. Uganda Team Fund Raisers and events** (come and help us out)

A. **Anderson's Coupon Books – Uganda team** is selling these books for \$4. They contain over \$60 worth of coupons and all proceeds benefit the Uganda 2015 trip.

B. We are also selling handmade Ugandan bead necklaces for \$5 each. Contact Janelle (839-2460) for more information. Proceeds support two ministries in Uganda.

C. **Ron Corsaro CDs available to anyone contributing \$25 or more.**

D. **Krolick's Fish Fry – is scheduled for April 10 here at Christ Church –** Tickets are \$12 and will be available in advance.

E. We are planning a chicken barbecue/silent auction in early May (watch for more details as the date approaches).

**11. Happy Birthday this week:**

March 16- William Morris

March 17- Marshall Rhinehart

March 19- Florence Stengel, Karen Arrison

March 21- Nicky Sebastiano, Barry Wood

**12. No anniversaries listed for this week.**

**13. THROUGH THE BIBLE – this week**

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

HERE'S A WAY TO ENHANCE YOUR BIBLE READING: Try keeping a Journal.

Sometimes, when you are reading, something in the reading will speak to you or stand out to you. Take a moment and write down the SCRIPTURE. Then make an OBSERVATION (what spoke to me??). Thirdly, ask "How would I APPLY this to my life. Finally, make what you learned into a PRAYER. This method of bible reading is called the S.O.A.P. method and allows us to ask "how will I be different because of what I just read?"

#### 14. MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

**A. Uganda 2015** – The team is set. Dr. BJ Norrix will be leading a team of 8: John and Brandon Miller, Viki and Hannah Smith, Kathryn Weaver, Janelle Martin, and Erisawe Briere. We will be travelling to Uganda June 28 through July 14. We fly from Toronto through London on British Air. Your prayers are desired and appreciated. We will be visiting schools, presiding at Nexus graduations, dedicating water projects and a church, visiting an animal preserve, working in a health clinic and a school and much, much more.

**B. MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY** we are beginning to set up projects and mission opportunities for our annual Make a Difference Day the third Sunday of May. Have an idea or a project? Let Janelle know at your earliest convenience.

**15. Uganda Bibles:** For our graduates in Rakai and Nakasangola, I need to purchase a case and a half of Lugandan language bibles (every graduate of Nexus Seminary, Uganda, receives Bible study resources, a Bible (English or Lugandan), and a copy of my Bible Primer (in English or Lugandan). The purchase price for 33 of these bibles is \$400. **Would you like to be the donor of these bibles?** Please see ME (BJ) if this is something you'd like to make this gift.

#### 16. Coming Soon:

March 21 – Amherst Lions Club Pancake Breakfast – 8:00 to 1:00 at Christ Church

March 22 - Baptism - Alexander Robert Rothfuss, 11 am worship celebration

March 28 – Niagara Frontier District United Methodist Women Communion Breakfast and Memorial Service at Christ Church from 9:30 to 12:00. Rev. Anne Cole is the guest speaker and Dr. B.J. Norrix will be presiding at Communion.

March 29 – Palm Sunday

April 2 – Holy Thursday worship at 7:00p.m.

April 3 – Good Friday – observance at Noon and 7:00p.m.

April 5 – EASTER – RESURRECTION DAY!!

April 10 -- Uganda Team Fish Fry 4-7 p.m.

April 25 – The Bach Children’s Chorus and Bach Chamber Youth Choir of Ontario, Canada – in Concert (see more below)

May 2 – Uganda Team Chicken BBQ

May 17 – MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY!!

17. Christ Church’s Mission footprint (AKA our “Salt Map”): Peggy Bermudez (and friends) has put together a couple of maps. One is Erie County and the other is the rest of the world. On the map is a representation of the agencies and ministries that the Christ Church community is engaged with around town and around the world. The display is in the parlor. Take a look and see that Christ Church people are in ministry in a multitude of places and ways!

18. Did you know . . .

. . . Al Sillato will turn 100 on March 24!

19. **ABOUT THOSE ROOF LEAKS:** since a number of you have asked. Our Trustees have been in communication with the roofing contractor (Tuscarora) and with our Insurance Company (Church Mutual) regarding the ice jams and roof leaks (especially those in the “New” roof). These issues are being attended to and as soon as it is safe to do so they will be repaired. Thank you for expressing concern.

20. Don't forget the ongoing collection for the local Veterans Hospital regarding supplies for the in patient, day programs and homeless. Below are needed items. If you can help see Diane Klenk or bring these items to the church and leave them in the container provided in Crafts Hall. Needed items: Socks, underwear, T-shirts (White, L to XXXL, V-neck), towels, Toiletries (deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, disposable razors, mouthwash, nail clippers, body wash, combs, shaving cream, pocket mirrors, chap stick – be sure mouth wash and other items are “Alcohol free”); Gift cards (McDonald’s, Wendy’s, Burger King, Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Tops); Patriotic throws or lap blankets, books and audio books, DVDs.

**Parting Thought**

As a Facebook user I see "friends" who mark on their profile, "in a relationship." The status changes from time-to-time as relationships go through ups and downs. It got me wondering, what would it take to make the decision to to be "in an ongoing relationship with Jesus" our status? When did the relationship change from casual to a life changing identity we want to announce to the world?

With Joy,

Sally, *apprentice of Jesus*