

# **Christ United Methodist Church**

**Snyder, New York**

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

**UPDATE March 6, 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](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)

**716-839-2460**

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

Hi Everyone:

We are coming down the home stretch of our annual stewardship campaign. I am absolutely convinced that churches do not have money problems. If there is a lack of adequate resources there is a spiritual problem – that is to say somehow the community in question has a lack of depth in their commitment to the cause and purpose of Christ. In healthy Christian communities there is an understanding that everyone does their very best and learns to give generously. The use of wealth and the stewardship of resources is Jesus favorite subject. He speaks about money and wealth more than heaven or hell **combined!** He does this, I believe, because people in his time, as well as ours, have mistakenly placed their trust in something other than God. The Hebrew Scriptures emphasized giving the tithe – that is 10 percent of the produce of one’s life back to God. In an agrarian society this was not difficult to figure out. In our money driven society it is not complicated either – just move the decimal point one space to the left and you have the tithe. However, in the New Testament we do not live by law we live by grace and stewardship. I have come to believe that my love and faithful commitment to Jesus Christ is revealed in a life lived with open hands – that is a generous life. I use the tithe as a starting point – pledging and giving 10% of my gross salary to Christ through the ministry of Christ Church. I make regular offerings over and above that – for special needs, for emergencies, for disaster relief, because I wanted to say thank you, etc. One preacher made a joke that people should be tithing and not tipping God. It made me laugh and then, I thought, hey! Wait a minute, a tip is 15% maybe we should tip for services rendered (that is to say if God has provided all I have, all I am and all I hope to be . . .). Made me laugh again. My prayer for all of us, as we near March 17 and consecration Sunday, is that we will reveal the generosity in our giving and our living through our commitment to Christ through Christ church.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 136. Special appreciation to our “snow men” this winter and to all who make Sunday morning a meaningful experience for all of us.

REMEMBER to wish Elizabeth Holt Curtis a happy birthday TODAY!

2. This Sunday I am preaching from 1 Corinthians 12 and the subject is “Get in the Game!”. The New Testament clearly teaches that one of the key indicators that someone is living as a disciple of Jesus Christ is that they have discovered their spiritual gifts and are using them in mission and ministry. Most of us grew up in a “Church” culture where it was assumed that we paid our pastors and other church staff to “do ministry” for us. The New Testament teaches a “priesthood of all believers” understanding that challenges EVERY Christ follower to “get in the game!”

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.

This Sunday **One Great Hour of Sharing** – This annual collection goes to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). This collection helps to pay for UMCOR’s overhead expenses. Because of this annual offering and some “shared giving” support, 100% of all special collections for disaster relief are able to go directly to the designated area of need. I encourage Christ Church folks to be generous to this annual collection.

3. The Going Deeper group is now meeting every Sunday at 6:30 at the church. This group is open to any and all who would like to move deeper in their spiritual journey.

4. This Monday the “Women, Money, & Power” Workshops began. March 11,18 and 25 at 6:50 p.m. in the Café. 90% of ALL women will be solely responsible for their finances at some point in their lives. This event is co sponsored by Christ Church and Allaire Financial Strategies to help YOU understand who you are financially, take control of your financial future, achieve financial goals, and BE PROACTIVE. Call the Church office 839-2460 to register. There is a recommended \$10 registration fee. If you have questions contact Sally at [sjjoy@aol.com](mailto:sjjoy@aol.com) or call the church office. There is benefit in each individual workshop.

5. This Week at Christ Church:

Wednesday at 5:00 – Lenten Supper and Study (all are welcome) we are walking “in the footsteps of Jesus!”

Wednesday at 7:30 – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday at 10:00 a.m. – Bible Study

Thursday at 7:00 – Stewardship and Finance Team

Thursday at 7:30 – Elizabeth Circle

6. This Saturday the UMW (United Methodist Women) is hold a general meeting with Mary Travers Murphy. Ms. Murphy will be taking about the Family Justice Center and the proposed

new location in the North Towns. Meeting is a 10:00 with a continental breakfast served for \$5.

This Saturday the UMM (United Methodist Men) will be traveling to the Albright-Knox Art Gallery. Carpool meets at 10:00 a.m. at the church. Admission is \$12 (\$8 for seniors) and they will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant following the gallery. All Men are invited.

7. In our Prayers: Nicky Sebastiano, Jim Luss, Barbara Carier, Bim Rowlands, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Jan Beckwith, Mitch Mooney, Jean DiDomenico, Diane Lovejoy, Shirley Downey, Tom Brunner – it was good to see Jim, Barbara and Tom back in worship this week! Remember to pray for those in harm's way; for families in crisis; for those looking for work . . . for all who are in need of the Grace and Love of Jesus Christ offered through the ministry of Christ church!

8. Family Promise – Christ Church is hosting Family Promise at Crossroads Lutheran Church this Friday, March 8. If you can help with dinner (5-7:30 p.m.) or can be available from 7 to 10 p.m. please contact Lee Watson at 837-0589.

9. Happy Birthday this week:

March 6 – TODAY – Elizabeth Holt Curtis

March 7 – Gregory Watson

March 8 – Brad Bermudez; Molly Reed

March 9 – Christopher Kraatz

March 12 – Andrew Lopez

10. We have no Anniversaries listed for the month of March.

11. Through the Bible in 2013

I posted an introduction to the book of Deuteronomy on my blog this morning – go to [www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com).

This week's readings:

March 6 – Deuteronomy 3-4; Psalm 36 and Mark 13

March 7 – Deuteronomy 5-6; Psalm 43 and Mark 14

March 8 – Deuteronomy 7-9 and Mark 15

March 9 – Deuteronomy 10-12 and Mark 16

March 10 – Deuteronomy 13-15 and Galatians 1

March 11 – Deuteronomy 16-18; Psalm 38 and Galatians 2

March 12 – Deuteronomy 19-21 and Galatians 3

March 13 – Deuteronomy 22-24 and Galatians 4

March 14 – Deuteronomy 25-27 and Galatians 5

12. Coming in March

March 16 – Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast

March 22 – Krolick's Fish Fry (benefits the Youth Group)

March 24-31 HOLY WEEK

March 24 – Palm Sunday (procession with palms)

March 28 – Holy Thursday (Communion) at 7:00

March 29 – Good Friday (Stations at Noon and 7:00)

March 31 – EASTER – Resurrection Celebrations at 9:00 and 11:00

13. 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.

#### 14. MISSION NEWS AND NOTES

1. 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 28<sup>th</sup>. 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. Hands4NY – March 10 – canned/boxed meals; March 17 – Peanut butter and jelly

3. 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](mailto:kdweaver23@verizon.net) or 839- 5918.

4. Dress our People "Sewing Bee" drew a good crowd on February 3 – see Molly Butler ([kwmgbutler@gmail.com](mailto:kwmgbutler@gmail.com)) or 531-4209 for how you can help

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.

15. COMING April 13 – Spaghetti Dinner to help support a family in our neighborhood that is adopting three Ugandan orphans. Watch for more information.

16. 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.

17. 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

4. Multi-Ladder (currently borrowing Dave Wolf's ladder) **cared for (thank you)**

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.

## **Parting Thought**

This Friday, March 8 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the turning point of my life. I was 16.5 years old. I grew up in a good home with loving parents. We were Roman Catholic and attended Mass with a high degree of regularity. I went to Catholic schools for first and second grade; made my first communion and was confirmed at the age of 14. However, even with all those advantages, by my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday I was a mess. I had begun to sink deeper in drug and alcohol abuse, my grades were falling, my life was spiraling out of control. As is true for most 16 year olds I was making my way across the “Jackass Bridge” from youth to adulthood but was not doing a very good job of it. I was lost. I felt alone and had no sense of hope for the future. (This is the short version of this story) I found myself at a prayer meeting that was being held in my High School cafeteria on Tuesday nights. The group holding the meeting was an extension of the Jesus Movement of the late 60’s and early 70’s and had seen several dozen students at Flat Rock High School make deep commitments to follow Jesus Christ over the past year -- this group of students included my sister Cheryl. At that Tuesday, March 8, 1973 prayer meeting, I responded to an invitation to follow Jesus Christ and accept the forgiveness and mercy and new life he could make possible. In a moment that still touches the deep places in my soul and heart, I felt the presence of God in my life in a way that I had never known possible. I went to my knees in surrender and rose a new man. A journey of 40 years is but a hint and a wink of a life of eternity. I have had many experiences of Christ through the years and I have learned much and grown more in this faith since then. However, when times get difficult or the journey seems too hard I remember that night and find my heart warmed again and my life renewed again by the presence of the Holy Spirit and, once again, I rise to tell others of the power of the Good News of Jesus Christ to forgive, to renew and to send us out to challenge the assumptions and expectations of this world in which we live. That moment, about 9:00 at night on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, 1973, continues to define who I am and why I do what I do.

I’ll see you when the Church gathers,

BJ Norrix, missionary, lead servant, lover of Jesus