

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York
“Living Christ’s ways and exploding with love and service”
UPDATE
March 6, 2012

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH
9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship with the new worship team.
10:00 – FaithXpress, Soul Strength, youth Sunday school and AOL
11:00 – Traditional Style Worship with Choir.
Bring a Friend this week and share the Love and Grace of God!

www.Christchurchamherst.org

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

Hi Everyone:

I pray this finds everyone well. We seemed to slip back into the deep freeze for a few days but warmer weather is promised and well on the way. My snow drops are blooming and I have a crocus or two in bloom back in Liverpool. I see that the bulbs are beginning to green, the willows are yellowing, the fields are beginning to shift from their drab winter brown, the geese are moving . . . the inexorable March of Spring is under way. I am amazed and blessed every year. Somehow every spring is the same . . . and, yet, every spring is new, original and amazing.

Here is what is going on at Church:

1. Attendance Sunday was around 140. Thank you Dick Mugel for telling us about Christ in your life. Thank you to our music and worship teams who do such an amazing job with our music. Thank you Tammy Mugel for putting the communion together. We had a great day of “Extravagant Generosity!”
2. This Sunday is the 3rd Sunday in Lent. We continue the theme of Extravagant Generosity by looking at Relationships. The bible reading is John 13:34-35 that ends with: “by this will everyone know that you are my disciples if you have love one for another!”
We will be celebrating Scouting this Sunday
Our Stewardship Moment will be provided by Mr. Tim Reed
3. As most of you have already heard **Jean Kellner** died peacefully at home on Saturday (March 3). A memorial service in celebration of Jean’s life will be held at Christ Church on Saturday, March 10 at 11:00. There will be a light luncheon to follow: watch for more information.
4. Thank you Amherst Players, Inc. Their production of “Mugsy Sent Me” helped to raise \$500 for Christ Church mission and ministry on Saturday, March 3.
5. Christian Education Team PIZZA Sale fundraiser: Sunday March 11, 2012

Homemade pizza: Baked ahead or Raw. Take Home or Eat In
ORDER in advance by filling out the form in the Church bulletin or calling the Church office.
Same day order will depend of availability.

6. This week at Christ Church:

Tuesday, March 6 at 7:00 – Outreach Team
Wednesday, March 7 at 5:30 – Lenten Supper, Study and Reflection
Thursday, March 8 at 7:00 Stewardship and Finance Team

7. We are reading the **New Testament** One chapter a day on week days. This will take us through the New Testament in a year.

This week's reading: March 6 – James 1; March 7 – James 2; March 8 – James 3; March 9 – James 4;
March 12 – James 5; March 13 – John 1

8. In our Prayers: The family and friends of Jean Kellner; Barb Carier (surgery this week); Carol Gundlach, surgery this week; Nicky Sebastiano, Joe Day, Mary Emens, Barbara McCray, Erik Schmitz, Carmen Ticconi, Ed Maker. Remember those who are in harm's way, remember families in crisis and our students away at school.

9. NICKY HITS 100 – on Sunday March 18 we will have a special birthday cake in Crafts Hall to celebrate Nicky Sebastiano 's 100th birthday (the actual birthday is March 21). Come and share in this great celebration of a wonderful woman.

10. Happy Birthday this week:

March 6 – Elizabeth Curtis
March 7 – Gregory Watson
March 8 – Brad Bermudez; Molly Reed
March 9 – Christopher Kraatz
March 12 – Andrew Lopez

11. I have no anniversaries listed for his week.

12. **HOLY LAND (ISRAEL) 2013 – Several of you have indicated an interest in making this journey. If you are interested see me for brochure.** I am planning a journey to the Holy Land (10 day tour) in January/February 2013. I now have brochures with the essential information. See me for more. Watch for an information/travel meeting in the near future. Questions? See me. 10 day trip includes air travel (from New York's JFK); hotel, two meals a day, ground transportation, etc. I am estimating cost to be about \$3000 (2700 for trip plus incidentals).

13. 1. **THANK YOU for helping sponsor 14 orphans** at Pastor Grace's school in Kirimandagi. If there are more opportunities we will let you know. \$100-110 sends a child to school for the year. **I just learned that my friends in Syracuse have sponsored the remaining orphans!**

2. DVD's of the Hope for Africa Children's choir are available in the café on Sunday mornings. You may have one of the DVDs for a free will offering (you decide how much to give). Proceeds will be used for scholarships for our African friends.

3. Hands for New York – this week's collection: **March 11 is Canned Meats**
We have provided nearly 5000 meals since July 1!!!!

The goal is to feed 1million people in 1 year (July to June). If each congregation in Upper New York Conference fed 1050 people we would reach our goal. Christ church will well exceed that goal knowing that some congregations will not be able to feed 1050!

4. UGANDA PROJECTS UPDATE:

A. Dr BJ will be travelling to Uganda to continue his work with the Nexus Seminary this fall (October 1-October 17). Uganda 2012 team: Rev. B.J. Norrix, Rev. William Mudge (Adirondack District Superintendent), Kathy Weaver (Christ Church), Esther Keeney (of Pulaski) and Rev. Clair Mosher (Erieville and Ononativia United Methodist Churches in Onondaga County).

B. I have three DVD's from last year's Uganda journey. I would be glad to lend them to you.

a. is me teaching a series of lectures on Palestine of Jesus time

b. is Kikyusa graduation

c. is of the well project at Kirimandagi

5. **Habitat for Humanity:** Christ Church was one of the original Habitat Sponsors in Erie County. We continue our participation in several ways:

a. We contribute \$1000 annually to Habitat

b. We have several women who participate in the WOMEN BUILD

Friday March 23 at 6:00 in the Main Ballroom of Statler City there will be a **Women Build Roof Raiser.**

Event is \$30 (tickets purchased before March 16) and \$35 at the door. It includes: beverages, appetizers, desserts, wine tasting, silent auction, live auction and a raffle for a Smokey Mountain Vacation. Business casual for the event. See Marg Bauza or Peggy Bermudez or the Sunday bulletin or web site for more information.

14. Christ church hosted **World Day of Prayer on March 2.** We had over 50 women (and a few men) from several Snyder area Churches participating. Thank you to the Christ Church UMW who did an excellent job coordinating and hosting this event.

15. A Biblical and Theological Primer, written by Dr. B.J. Norrix is in the translation phase of its publication. This book was written for the Nexus Seminary students in Uganda and will be printed in English and Lugandan. I am looking for some folks with a heart for education for rural Pastors to help sponsor this project. The total cost to publish the first 2000 copies of this book will be around 5-6,000 US dollars. I have 1300 covered as of this writing. Can you help? See BJ.

16. Coming Later in Lent:

Palm Sunday is April 1 – we will have a procession with palms and a reading of the Passion narrative.

Holy Thursday is April 5 – we will gather at 7:00 for an observance of the Last Supper (no Seder this year).

Good Friday is April 6 – we will have the Stations of the Cross at Noon and again at 7:00 p.m. Easter festival celebrations at 9:00 and 11:00 on April 8.

March 8 marks the defining moment in my spiritual journey and my life. I was 16.5 years old and one of the “boys in the band” just hanging out with my fellow band members, smoking dope, running the roads, disconnected from God and quickly disconnecting from most everything else. I grew up Roman Catholic and, no offense to my roots, never spiritually connected in my home church. I went through the motions, even attended Catholic school for first and second grade, was confirmed at 14 . . . but none of

that kept me from the mess I had become 39 years ago this week. My sister Cheryl had a life transforming experience of Jesus a few months earlier and had made it her life mission to bring me to the same place and experience. I was resistant but, by this week 39 years ago I was feeling desperate. There was little future in the life I was living, there was little hope in the relationships I had and there was no sense of belonging, no sense doing anything that ultimately mattered. I went to a prayer meeting on March 8 that met in my High School cafeteria. After some music and singing and message that I do not remember an invitation was extended to "come to Jesus and start a new life". The compulsion within me was overwhelming. I responded to that invitation with great emotion and in the following time of prayer (at about 9:00 in the evening) I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ and rose from my knees a new man. There have been many turnings and ups and downs in the past 39 years, but that moment, that experience, remains the one moment in my life that remains totally and completely undeniable. It is the choice (and a choice I've made every day since) that defines me. So, happy spiritual birthday to me.

Have a great week, everyone, and live into God's blessings!

BJ Norrix, sinner saved by grace, coach, missionary