

UPDATE

Christ United Methodist Church

Harlem at Saratoga

Amherst, New York

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

May 14, 2014

EVERYONE is WELCOME

EVERY SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH

9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship

10:00 – FaithXpress/Soul Strength/AOL (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

716-839-2460

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

Like us on Facebook!

Hi Everyone:

IT IS MAKE A DIFFERENCE WEEKEND! (insert appropriate noise maker sounds, cheers, hoorays, etc.) One Sunday to not just “go to church” but to go out into the wider community and “be the church.” Over 100 of us have signed up for various projects. **We gather at 9:00 for worship** and will be heading out to our projects by 9:30ish. Lunch will be served beginning at 1:00. If you have not already signed up for a team call the church office and Janelle will get you situated OR just show up on Sunday and we’ll put you to work! We have been encouraging our friends and neighbors to come and join us and several of them have signed up for our teams! My prayer is that this little “taste and see” mission event will get under all of our mutual skins and encourage us to get even more involved helping to build the Kingdom of Heaven on earth (thy kingdom come . . . on earth) and

taking the grace and love of Jesus Christ outside our walls and off the corner of Harlem and Saratoga to greater Buffalo.

THIS WEEK – ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:00

This is a very busy weekend here at Christ Church:

Friday, May 16 – Versatile Vibrant Vivacious Very Entertaining VARIETY SHOW – comedy, music, dance, choirs, quartets, solos, instrumentals and loads of good fun from the Mistress of Ceremonies! **Tickets are \$10 and will be sold “at the door”**. Come and support our UMW’s Mission projects and Habitat for Humanity.

Saturday, May 17 – HANDS ACROSS BUFFALO – Taking a stand against poverty and for diversity in the Buffalo/Niagara Area. District Superintendent, K. Wayne Butler reports: “Our Niagara Frontier District Ministry Team has registered to participate in Hands Across Buffalo, which will take place on **Sat., May 17** in Downtown Buffalo. We have registered a group, *Niagara Frontier District UMC*, for this event so that we can all be grouped in one block (Ferry Street from Elmwood to Delaware). You need to register individually, but be sure to specify that you are part of our group! Go to <http://www.handsacrossbuffalo.com> for their website and to register. We hope to fill a whole block and are hoping that you will join us that day at 11 a.m.” Parking is limited so we encourage car pooling. **Sally Pollard and I are registered and would love to have you join us. Go to the above web site to register. If you have questions see me. We should car pool at about 10:00 from the church.**

Sunday, May 18 – MAKE A DIFFERENCE – ONE WORSHIP SERVICE at 9:00 – then off to serve Jesus.

Monday, May 19 – Carl Ericson’s Memorial Service is at 7:00

Here is what is going on at church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 180 (plus one cat named Mongo). Special appreciation to Rev. Davis Matovu of Uganda, East Africa, who was our guest preacher. Special kudos to Phyllis Nicholson and Joyce Moser who worked hard to fill the pews with children and grandchildren for Mother’s Day! It was great to see so many of our extended family with us.

2. This Sunday is MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY -- **THIS WEEK – ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:00** after a brief worship/message and commissioning we will be off to “Make a DIFFERENCE!”.

3. "Sunday at Christ Church" is a music and image presentation based on photographs taken by Ian Webber and Ross Markello and arranged by Janelle Martin. The show can be accessed through our web site: www.christchurchamherst.org (just click on the "Sunday at Christ Church" button on the home page). Or you can go direct to the YouTube link by clicking here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pwlk9G1g7M>.

4. This Week at Christ Church:

Wednesday, May 14 – Choir Rehearsal at 7:30

Thursday, May 15 – Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.

4:30 UMW Variety Show Set up

Friday, May 16 at 7:00 – UMW Variety Show (**tickets are available at the door for \$10**)

Saturday, May 17 11:00 a.m. – Hands Across Buffalo

Sunday, May 18 9:00 – MAKE A DIFFERENCE Day

6:00 p.m. – Disciple Bible Study

Monday, May 19 – 7:00 Carl Ericson Memorial Service

Tuesday, May 20 – Trustees at 7:30

Friday, May 23 – Sarah Mudge, Young Adult Missionary at 6:30

5. In our Prayers: Janet Hill had some complications with her knee surgery and is still recovering; it was great to see Phyllis Nicholson back in worship following her recent hospitalization, Tom Davis; Caroline Hess; Fred Painton, Guy Castellino, Mitch Mooney, Bim Rowlands, Glenn Hurst, Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy. Remember also Mary Emmons and Sissy Mooney with recent surgeries. Pray for those who are serving overseas. Remember those looking for work and for all families that may be in crisis.

6. HERE IS WHAT WE ARE COLLECTING ON SUNDAY

SHOES; Loose Change for the Family Justice Center; Fabric for Dress our People; Kitchen appliances for Habit for Humanity; gently-worn clothing, toys and baby items for Clara's Closet – the Shredding truck will also be here for your no longer needed documents.

7. FOOD PANTRY – We collect all the time – this week we are especially looking for **canned meats/tuna**.

8. **GRADUATES** – We are compiling a list of our College and High School Graduates please contact the Church office with this information.

Here is what I have so far:

Taylor Ramsey – St. John Fisher College

Meaghan Ramsey – SUNY Empire State College

Sean Johnson – Canisius College

Kelsey Reed – Nazareth College

High School (so far):

Molly Reed – Cleveland Hill

Nicole Sciolino – Williamsville East

Let us know so we can honor all of our graduates this coming June!

9. At the Mission Youth (MY) gathering on May 9 with Rev. Davis Matovu we passed out Application Forms for the 2015 Mission Youth journey to Uganda. This 11 day trip will connect our youth (and adults) with comparable aged Uganda youth for worship, mission work, some evangelism and a little play time.

Applicants must be 16 by the end of June (or be travelling with a parent). See BJ for further information regarding cost and other matters. We are planning to leave the last Sunday of June in 2015.

10. Happy Birthday this week:

May 14 – Jamie Carney and Jordan Lawson

May 16 – Linnea George

May 18 – Kristen Darling

May 20 – Mary Landel

May 21 – Rebecca Lopez, Ryan Lopez, Scott Smith, Rachel Vaughan

May 22 – Taylor Deer, Lisa Juergens and **Sally Pollard**

11. Happy Anniversary this week:

May 16 – Brian and Jamie Carney (5)

May 19 – Chris and Diane Klenk (7)

May 21 – John and Pam Lopez (20)

12. Through the Bible – this week

May 14 – 1 Kings 6-7 and Matthew 7

May 15 – 1 Kings 8-9

May 16 – 1 Kings 10-11 and Matthew 8

May 17 – 1 Kings 12-13

May 18 – 1 Kings 14-15 and Matthew 9

May 19 – 1 Kings 16-18

May 20 – 1 Kings 19-20 and Matthew 10

May 21 – 1 Kings 21-22 and Matthew 11

May 22 – 2 Kings 1-3

13. COMING JUNE 1 – The Ron Corsaro Quartet

The Ron Corsaro Quartet will be performing on June 1 from 7 to 9 p.m. as a fund raiser for Mission Youth. Come and hear some great jazz music and help support our youth in mission.

THIS WEEK – ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:00

14. SHOES? Did someone say we are collecting SHOES?

We passed the **112 bags of shoes** mark on Monday. We are on our way to 300!

Friends, family, coworkers – who else can we get old shoes from? Bring them in today or on Make A Difference Day!!

Could this be an alternative way of **speaking in tongues?**

Could it be a **Harvest of soles?**

Could it be a replay of **Genesis 3:15??**

15. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT – August 14 and 15, 2014. This event, put on by the Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago, is an annual gathering of leaders from a wide variety of disciplines and expertise. It is an event I try to attend every year. The nearest satellite location is in Rochester. Sally, Janelle and I are preregistered but there is room for plenty more. Current registration is \$189 (\$199 after May 20). If you would like to attend with us please let me know ASAP and we'll get you signed up. Scheduled speakers include: Louis Giglio, Erica Ariel Fox, Carly Fiorina, Patrick Lencioni, Susan Cain, Tyler Perry, Jeffrey Immelt and Bill Hybels (Pastor at Willow). This event was attended by nearly 200,000 people worldwide last year.

16. DRESS OUR PEOPLE: Will begin sewing clothing for the Ugandan children on Make a Difference Day, Sunday May 18. **Donations of Cotton fabric or cotton/polyester blends no less than 1 yard in length, thread, bias tape, and trim are needed.** Donations may be placed in or near the Dress our People mailbox outside the church office. Thank you.

17. Men's pre-work breakfast group is now meeting at the **Sheridan Family Restaurant** on Sheridan near Harlem Road. We will next meet on **May 15 at 7:00 a.m.** at the Sheridan Family Restaurant. All men are welcome to join us.

18. Christ Church is blessed with excellent gathering and fellowship space. One of the most popular is the **Café on Sunday morning**. The café provides hot and cold beverages and tasty snacks before and following our Sunday worship gatherings. What makes this work is a lot of volunteers who “Host” the café by preparing coffee/tea, etc. and putting the snacks out and then cleaning up afterwards. Would you like to help in this vital hospitality ministry of our Church? Contact Sally Pollard at 839-2460 or by signing up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Café.

19. COMING EVENTS

May 16 – Versatile Vibrant Vivacious Very Entertaining Variety Show (sponsored by UMW) – 7:00 p.m. Tickets \$10 at the door.

May 17 – Hands Across Buffalo

May 18 – Make a Difference Day - time to roll up your sleeves.

May 19 – Carl Ericson Memorial Service

May 23 – US 2 Missionary Sarah Mudge will be with us – gathering at 6:30. Sarah, a 2013 Roberts Wesleyan graduate, is serving a 2 year stint as a Missionary in the United States (US2). She is currently working with a Women’s ministry in Seattle, Washington.

May 28 through 31 UPPER NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE --
Syracuse

June 8 – Confirmation Sunday

20. CHANGE TO CHANGE THE WORLD: Save up your loose change for the Family Justice Center! We will be collecting change on Make a Difference Day (May 18) to make a positive transformation in the lives of those affected by domestic violence.

THIS WEEK – ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:00

21. **MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES (ministry is what we do for the existing church community)**

Opportunity 1: Hospitality – looking for friendly extroverts – see BJ for more

Opportunity 2: Creative Worship Team being formed – see BJ

Opportunity 3: A **new ministry team for singles**

Opportunity 4: Ministry with Senior Adults

22. **Mission Opportunities: (Mission is what we do for those who are not yet part of the church community)**

Opportunity 1: MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY is THIS Sunday. Team leaders have been recruited and Sign ups are UP!

OPPORTUNITY 2: We have begun collecting items for the September Uganda Fund raiser “Silent Auction” baskets. If you have something to donate please bring it to Pastor BJ’s office.

23. Spring Pledge Campaign – did you know that just over 15% increased our pledges in the interim campaign! THANK YOU!! Summer is coming – remember the mission of Jesus Christ all Summer long – our mission to “Live Christ’s Way and Explode with Love and Service” does not take a vacation!

Parting Thought:

One of the great challenges in cross cultural relationships is attempting to see the world through the experience and eyes of the other while at the same time helping them to see the world through your eyes. I have found that this process and experience has made me a better student of the Bible and, I hope, a more compassionate pastor and leader. This past week with my friend Rev. Davis Matovu was eye opening for both of us. We who live in North America live in a culture of options and choices. I took Davis to Wegman’s and attempted to explain the economics of a grocery super store. We walked around the store. How many different types of pasta, breakfast cereal, cat food, paper products, and soups does a person need? We live in a society where we expect options and we have been well trained to be “good consumers” in our consumer goods driven economy. Life in Uganda is very different. Yes there are grocery stores (none at all like Wegman’s). The large grocery in Kampala caters to expatriate Westerners. Most Ugandans purchase food from the many large open air markets and dry goods from much smaller groceries in the various business centers. I have become increasingly aware of what our “got to have options” does to our worshipping life. We become spiritual consumers and many Americans journey from church to church looking for that perfect and comfortable blend of music we like and preaching that is engaging but doesn’t challenge us all that much and where there is lots of stuff for the kids and too many of us move from place to place never getting past our own needs and desires – and never experiencing the joy of life in authentic community. It is not spiritual consumption that transforms lives it is spiritual surrender. The moment I surrender the idea that life (and the spiritual life) is all about me and my needs and my wants and my preferences the possibility exists for me to move deeper in my spiritual journey. But, as I said, this is difficult in our consumer mentality society. Seeing our culture through the eyes of my friend helps me see

the blind spots and the assumptions that can be problematic. I am blessed to have him as my friend.

Blessings,

BJ Norrix, missionary, surrendered, lead servant

This email is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church, Amherst, New York. If you do not wish to receive this email please let me know.

Did I mention: **THIS WEEK – ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:00**