

**Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York**

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

UPDATE May 21, 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.drjthoughts.blogspot.com

Hi Everyone:

We had an outstanding day on Sunday with our “Make a Difference”. We had teams gardening in the round about (thanks FaithXpress); at Central City; at the Massachusetts Avenue Project and at Seneca Street Church; we had a cleanup team at Hope House (American Cancer Society); we had a team working with “It Takes a Village”; we had teams making a quilt and cutting out dress patterns; we shredded over 3000 pounds of paper, filled the Habitat for Humanity truck with used electronics, collected clothing and furniture for The Asbury Shalom Zone and Journey’s End; raised awareness about fresh water and malaria; we froze multiple dinners for our new frozen assets ministry and had a crew fix all of us lunch (did I miss anyone?). WELL DONE everyone! In big ways and small ways and all ways in between we took the presence and power of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost and did our best to make a difference in the name of Jesus Christ! We will plan an even bigger event for next year (start planning now for the 3rd Sunday in May 2014 (May 18, 2014). There were over 100 of us participating in various ways. Special appreciation is extended to all team leaders and most especially to Rachel Vaughan, Peggy Bermudez and Sally Pollard (our coordinating team). You were marvelous!

Here is what is happening at Christ Church this week:

1. This Sunday, May 26, I will be preaching about an odd story in the ministry of Elisha. Naaman is a commander of the army of the king of Aram and has leprosy. He hears of Elisha, the man of God, and goes in search of healing – he has expectations about how his healing should happen and these preconceived ideas initially block what God intends to do in his life. How often on our spiritual journey do we miss the blessing of God because it does not come or happen in a form or matter we anticipated? The Passage is 2 Kings 5:1-19.

2. In our Prayers: We are praying for the families and survivors of the tornado in Moore, Oklahoma. With the possibilities of scores dead and hundreds of homes destroyed as well as two elementary schools seriously damaged or destroyed, pray for healing, pray for help, pray for abundant grace. There will be opportunities to help with the reconstruction through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) – more details to follow.

Doris Schanzlin is home from Rehab but will be house bound for several weeks; Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Chris Klenk, Carl and Jean Ericson (recently moved to Asbury Pointe); Gena Magoon (in Florida); Art Gundlach, Mitch Mooney, Alice Schmidt (in Florida), Diane Lovejoy and the Harley and

Sue Estee family on the death of Robert (Bobby) Estee; pray for those looking for work; pray for families in crisis; pray for abundant and merciful grace!

3. OFFERING ENVELOPES – Boxes will be available this Sunday for you to pick up!!

4. Annual Conference Lay Member – With Roger Johnson out of the country we are in need of someone to represent Christ Church at Annual Conference in Syracuse May 30-June 1. Is God calling you to fill this important role for our Church Community? Expenses are covered (if you don't mind camping at Pastor BJ's home in Liverpool).

5. This Week at Christ Church:

Wednesday May 22 – Choir at 7:30

Thursday, May 23 – 9:30 Caller Team

10:00 Bible Study

7:00 Out Reach Team

6. CPR and AED training will be offered at Christ Church on Monday June 10 from 6:30 to 9:30. Learning to use an AED (automated external defibrillator) is highly intuitive and surprisingly simple. Many people report that it is far easier than learning CPR. And CPR has gotten simpler as well. Join instructor, Tim Reed, for some hands-on practice that will sharpen your skills and increase your confidence. Sign up by calling the Church office 839-2460.

7. Happy Birthday this week:

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

May 22 – Taylor Deer, Lisa Juergens, Sally Pollard

May 24 – Janet Hider, Sinnathamby Thevanesan

May 26 – Marg Bauza

May 27 – Christopher Maliken; Annette Smith (1 year old)

May 28 – Jacob Rhinehart; Alice Schmidt

8. Happy Anniversary this week:

May 21 – John and Pam Lopez

May 26 – BJ Norrix and Karen Bellimer

May 29 – Wayne and Molly Butler

9. Remember to Pray for our Missionaries:

Pray for Courtney Cataudella who is now working in Nicaragua

Pray for Jessica Lawson who is now working in India

10. Through the Bible in a Year – this week's readings

May 21 – 1 Kings 7; 2 Chronicles 4, Psalm 98 and Romans 2

May 22 – 1 Kings 8; 2 Chronicles 5; Psalm 99 and Romans 3

May 23 – 2 Chronicles 6,7; Psalm 135 and Romans 4

May 24 – 1 Kings 9; 2 Chronicles 8; Psalm 136 and Romans 5

May 25 – 1 Kings 10; 2 Chronicles 9 and Romans 6

May 26 – Proverbs 1- 3 and Romans 7

May 27 – Proverbs 4 - 6 and Romans 8

May 28 – Proverbs 7-9 and Romans 9

May 29 – Proverbs 10-12 and Romans 10

Remember to check periodic updates on my blog: www.drbitthoughts.blogspot.com. I'll soon be posting an introduction to Proverbs

11. The UMW reported nearly 120 people attended "Fashions in Bloom" on Saturday May 18. Thanks to all who made this a successful event!

12. COMING SOON:

May 30 – June 1 – Annual Conference

June 4 – Church Council Meets at 7:00

June 8 – Confirmation Rehearsal and Dinner

June 9 – Confirmation Sunday come and celebrate the Confirmation of **Julie Anne Sciolino and Hannah**

Grace Smith at 11:00

June 15 – Wedding of Kathleen Morris and Steven Mong at 2:00 at Christ Church

June 18 – Harlem Kensington Cleveland Community Association end of School Picnic 6-8 at the Harlem Road Community Center

Family Entertainment by "Magical John" Hot dogs, dilly bars and beverage all for only \$1!!

July 15 – 19 – Vacation Bible School at Christ Church – 9:00 a.m. to Noon

July 20 – Community Fun Fair

13. UGANDA TEAM UPDATE: The Money for the Well survey was wired this week and a site has been located (watch for more information!).

Airline tickets were purchased last week for Kathryn Weaver, Joe Fort, Rev. Clair Mosher and Pastor BJ for their November 3 through 22 mission journey. They will be working with clinics, schools youth events and, of course, the core of the trip will be working with the Nexus Seminary training. We are planning to dedicate a well (thanks to your generosity) and the way things are looking we may need to dedicate more than one!! We may be traveling into Kenya and some other locations as well. Please hold us in your prayers. We will have some fund raising events this Fall as we get closer to departure.

14. **FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER (NORTHTOWNS) UPDATE:** Please come to the **Town of Amherst Zoning Board of Appeals Hearing on Tuesday, May 21 at 7:00** at the Town Hall on Main Street to support our change of use request to the board. Our next meeting for the Northtowns Center is **Tuesday, May 28 at 7:00** at North Presbyterian Church.

THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER (Northtowns edition) is underway. Here is a report from the Christ Church representatives: Dede Johnson, Kathy Weaver, Peggy Bermudez – if you wish to help with any of the items below see Dede, Kathy or Peggy!

1) The loose change collection that was suggested we do on Make a difference Sunday. We would like to call it "change" a life and let people know that it would benefit the FJC. We would like to give people time and reminders so they bring their donation on that day. We will also have donation jars at the drop off trucks in the parking lot.

2) The FJC Northtowns group is looking for names of people/companies that we can ask for help with the building project. We need tons of thing; for instance, furniture, lamps, carpeting, paint, art work. Also people who can help with carpentry, putting in a new concrete walkway, building the handicap ramp to the back door, making or donating window treatments. If we have anyone in our congregation that can help with or provide possible contacts it would be very helpful.

3) **Volunteer skills forms are available in the Church office.** We need to have interested people fill it out asap and return it so the group knows what kind of volunteer work we can do verses paid contractors and vendors.

4) The FJC is having a fundraising breakfast June 7th 8:00 am to 9:00 am. They will take a free will offering. If we have enough people interested we can arrange for our own sponsorship table.

15. Trustee's Wish List – We had two of you wanting to provide a lawnmower for the parsonage (and the Pastor's use). So here is what we did – a lawnmower has been purchased and **has been deployed**. The second donor has agreed to **designate their gift for a new gas stove for the parsonage**. We need about \$250 - \$300 more to buy and

install the stove if you can help please see Tom Weaver. Here is the rest of the list: If you can help with one of these see Tom Weaver:

5. Parking Lot Repaving
6. Sanctuary Wing Hot Water Tank
7. Refurbish Sanctuary wing restrooms

And for the parsonage:

1. Gas stove/range (**partially cared for need another \$250**)

Back Yard Deck

4. Lawn mower (**now cared for THANK YOU!**)

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

16. We learned this week that Alicia Ticconi has moved into a group home near her sister in Ohio. Pray for a safe and happy transition for Alicia (we will publish the new address in the next few weeks).

17. Summer Time is away time: Staff will be in and out through the Summer: Rachel will be out of the Office May 23 through 29 (other staff and volunteers will be filling in). Pastor BJ will be away June 17 through July 5.

Parting Thought:

I find myself deeply moved by the pictures from Moore, Oklahoma. I lived in Tulsa (about 100 miles away) for my 4 college years. Tornados are pretty common in Oklahoma one hit the ORU campus in the Summer before my Freshman year I saw a few others from distance in my time there. I lived in Michigan for my first 18 years and remember on very vivid night when a small tornado (only an EF1 on the new scale) took out a house a few blocks to our southwest and another a block or so to our north east – having jumped pretty close to right over our home (yes the noise was like a freight train going over head). Tornados are pretty destructive forces of nature. Like the bombing last month in Boston or the hurricane damage of the season before that, I am most interested in those who are running toward the noise. Most of us, when we hear an explosion or hear the warning alarms take cover and wait for the all clear. There are those heroes among us who are always running toward the noise – responding first to the crisis and helping in whatever way they possibly can. On our spiritual journey it is easy for us to run away from tension, from pain, from injustice. It is much easier to find an easy path – to just “go with the flow”. But God calls us to be heroes of another sort. God calls us to go where we might not choose to go. God calls us to run toward the noise of evil and injustice and oppression (in whatever forms they present themselves) and to be agents of grace and mercy in whatever way we can. Following Jesus is not the easiest path. It is a path with great adventure and profound risk and unspeakable joy! So, I think to myself, why be normal? Why be dull? Why try to preserve myself when I am called to a heroic spiritual life? Why not strive to live this life for Jesus to its absolute fullest!

See you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, missionary, adventurer

This e-mail is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church, Snyder, New York. If you do not wish to receive this e-mail please let us know.