

**Christ United Methodist Church**

***Harlem at Saratoga***

***Amherst, New York***

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

***May 7, 2014***

**UPDATE**

***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](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)

**716-839-2460**

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

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Hi Everyone:

I’m having a great time visiting with my good friend and mission partner, Rev. Davis Matovu. He arrived here on Monday afternoon and has been attending meetings with me, visiting with old friends and making new ones. It is a great blessing to have him with me. One of the things I have learned over my years of following Jesus and being in ministry is that all Christian service is about relationships. Our faith is about being in relationship with our creator through Jesus Christ. Living the Christian life is about living in vital and healthy relationships within this thing we call Christian community. Our mission is lived out, in the name of Jesus, through the formation of vital, vibrant and transformational relationships locally, nationally and around the world. We don’t do missions for people. We certainly don’t do missions to people. A ministry or mission outside of relationship is neither biblical nor healthy. When we go to work

we work with people. We work alongside those we are seeking to help. We stand shoulder to shoulder with our Christian brothers and sisters around the globe. My prayer is that my friend, Davis, will become your friend as well not because he might need our help or support but because he is a fellow brother in Christ seeking to serve Jesus in and through his life.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was about 130. Thank you to the communion team for helping enhance our knowing Jesus “in the breaking of the bread.”

2. This Sunday Rev. Davis Matovu is our guest preacher. Davis will be speaking from Luke 24:13-25 (some of the same text that I preached from last week) and will be talking about “Living Above Life’s Low Points.” We have a special “procession” in honor of our Ugandan guest. There will be opportunity to meet and chat with Davis between and following both morning celebrations.

This Sunday is also Mother’s Day: a day to remember, to celebrate and be extra nice to the mom’s among us!

3. Here is Davis Matovu’s schedule while he is here at Christ Church

Wednesday, May 7 – A meeting the Sundoulos leadership at Noon and dinner with friends

Thursday, May 8 – Davis will attend the morning Bible Study; a theological meeting in East Aurora; and

**Open House at the Parsonage at 7:00 – bring something to share if you’d like**

Friday, May 9 – Mission Youth meeting with Davis at 6:30 at the church

Saturday, May 10 – Davis and I will be attending my niece, Allison’s, graduation from Houghton College

Sunday, May 11 – Davis will be preaching both morning celebrations

Monday, May 12 – Misc. items in Amherst then a drive to Syracuse for the next phase of Davis’ journey.

I hope the we will be able to connect with my friend while he journey’s among us. I have known and worked with Rev. Matovu since the Fall of 2007. His Ugandan registered ministry is called “Soul Fishing Ministries”. The goal of Soul Fishing Ministries is to “Strengthen the rural church in Uganda”. Soul fishing ministries is engaged in pastoral education (Nexus Seminary Uganda); community development (water projects and others); new church development; youth ministries; and publications to strengthen all of the above. Davis is married to Samale and they have two children, Joan and Jesse.

4. "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](http://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>.

5. This Week at Christ Church:

Wednesday, May 7 – Choir Rehearsal at 7:30

Thursday, May 8 – Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.

Open House at Parsonage with Davis Matovu at 7:00

Friday, May 9 – Mission Youth at 6:30 at the Church (in the Café)

Saturday, May 10 – United Methodist Men to the Maritime Center (Carpool at 10:00 at the Church)

Sunday, May 11 – MOTHER'S DAY – Rev. Davis Matovu guest preacher

Tuesday, May 13 – Stewardship and Finance

6. **MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY IS 11 DAYS AWAY** on May 18– Have you signed up for your project yet?

Contact Janelle or Sign Up this week!

**Remember: worship is 9:00 on Make a Difference day** – prayer, commissioning and sending. Lunch is at 2:00

We are collecting: loose change; fabric for Dress Our People; SHOES; Kitchen appliances for Habitat for Humanity; gently worn clothing, toys and baby items for Clara's Closet.

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

We passed the 90 bags of shoes mark on Monday this week 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!!

8. **VERSATILE VIBRANT VIVACIOUS VERY ENTERTAINING VARIETY SHOW Friday May 16**

Is Friday, May 16 at 7:00. Tickets are \$10. Our goal is to raise \$3500 for Habitat for Humanity Buffalo and United Methodist Women's Missions.

Tickets are on sale this Sunday, through the church office or at the door. Music, poetry, comedy, and much much more!

9. Coming June 1 – the Ron Corsaro quartet will be performing at Christ Church from 7 to 9. Concert is a fundraiser for Mission Youth!

10. . 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.

11. In our prayers: Janet Hill knee surgery on Monday, Mary Emmons surgery on Monday, Phyllis Nicholson at Buffalo General over the weekend, 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 those who are serving overseas. Remember families in crisis. Remember those who are in harm's way. Remember those looking for work.

12. Happy Birthday this week:

May 12 – Rosemary Little

May 13 – Mary Ball; Chuck Terranova

May 14 – Jamie Carney; Jordon Lawson

13. Happy Anniversary this week:

May 10 – Roger and Dede Johnson

14. Through the Bible this week:

May 7 – Numbers 26-28 and Matthew 2

May 8 – Numbers 29-31 and Matthew 3

May 9 – Numbers 32-34 and Matthew 4

May 10 – Numbers 35-36 and Matthew 5

May 11 – Jonah (entire)

May 12 – 1 Kings 1-2 and Matthew 6

May 13 – 1 Kings 3-5

May 14 – 1 Kings 6-7 and Matthew 7

May 15 – 1 Kings 8-9

15. **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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

#### 18. COMING EVENTS

May 5 through May 12 – Rev. Davis Matovu of Soul Fishing Ministries and President of Nexus Seminary, Uganda will be with us.

May 9 – Davis Matovu meets with Mission Youth

May 10 – Men's Club to visit the Buffalo Maritime Center (car pool at 10:00 a.m. at the church)

May 11 – Rev. Richard Davis Matovu guest preacher

May 16 – Versatile Vibrant Vivacious Very Entertaining Variety Show (sponsored by UMW) – appropriate comedy acts needed see the UMW for details

May 18 – Make a Difference Day SIGNUP NOW!

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

19. 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.

**20. 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

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

Opportunity 1: Rev. Davis Matovu (our Uganda Mission partner) will be in the US in April and May and will be preaching at Christ Church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of May. He will be meeting with our Uganda travelers and supporters as well as the new Mission Youth group

Opportunity 2: MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY is only ***1 Week*** from this Sunday. Team leaders have been recruited and Sign ups are UP!

OPPORTUNITY 3: 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.

**Parting Thought:**

Occasionally I attend conferences and other training/teaching events. These events (except the Global Leadership Summit) are pretty similar. What I hope for in the one or two day event is one good idea; one good inspiring story; one good and fresh insight that will help me be a better follower of Jesus Christ and a better leader for his church. As I drove back from Camp Asbury yesterday, I remembered one of those conferences from about 25 years ago. The event and the material were fairly pedestrian – there were not a lot of new or provocative things going on. Then there was that bright shining moment. The presenter (whose name eludes me now) was talking about integrity and the importance of the leader living out in their own lives what they were expecting from others. That was not news. What struck me was how he said it. He used the following statement. He said, “You teach what you know but you reproduce what you are.” I have been unable to look at ministry

and the role I am called to play in the spiritual life and development of others the same. My role as Pastor (and, frankly, all of our roles as Christ followers) is less about spewing out information and data and knowledge and more about taking the Christ life that has been planted in me and planting it in the hearts, minds and lives of others. Who am I? Who am I becoming? These questions become the core spiritual matters in the life of a Christian leader. Think about how that applies to your parenting and grand parenting. Think about how that applies in your work, your club, and, dare I say it out loud, your church. You teach what you know but you reproduce what you are. . .

I'll see you when the Church gathers,

BJ Norrix, becomer, lead servant, missionary

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