

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

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

***UPDATE***

***October 2, 2013***

***SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH***

***9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship***

**10:00 FaithXPress/Soul Strength/Youth Group 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)**

Hi Everyone:

Kathryn, Joe, Clair and I would like to thank everyone for your support of the Uganda Mission Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction. Special appreciation to Michelle Sciolino (our meatball and sauce chef); Guy Castellino (our pasta chef); All of our set up, break down, and clean up folks!; Patty Bechtel and Barb Critoph (our basket shapers and decorators); Peggy Bermudez (and Brad) our ticket sellers and auction number assigners; ALL who donated items for the Silent Auction; all of you who came and ate and all who bid on auction items; Dede Johnson for gathering donations for us; Mr. Dave Wolfe who helped set up, break down, clean up and was generally around all day long; And all of you who baked desserts! We made over \$3500 on the dinner and auction!! This was a little more than last year. THANK YOU. The money raised plus the over \$5000 in direct donations is going to allow us to make a difference in the lives of many of our Ugandan missions and friends. Kathryn Weaver, Joe Forte, Rev. Clair Mosher and I leave for Uganda

following worship on Sunday November 3 (one month from tomorrow). We will be teaching, helping build a church, holding youth rallies, a graduation for Nexus students in Kikyusa, preaching on two different Sundays in 8 different places, and holding several health seminars and two big “Bible Scholar Summits!”. We are profoundly grateful to all of you for your support.

For those that missed it, a young woman (14 years old) named Erisawe who attends worship in one of Pastor Clair’s churches, raised \$1200 (ON HER OWN) to support purchasing medicines for the Lusanja clinic that is run by our friend Moses. Erisawe was present at our Spaghetti Dinner to present the cash to Kathryn Weaver and the team.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance Sunday was in the 140’s. We dedicated a new brass music stand in memory of Richard Carier. We took time to pray a blessing over Stephen and Rachel as they prepare to begin married life together. We also took time following worship to celebrate Rachel and her two plus years with us as Office Manager.
2. This Sunday is World Communion Sunday (October 6). Rev. Jim Pollard will be presiding at Communion (as Pastor BJ will be away with the MYM group at Chautauqua). The Mission team will be presenting representatives from three food pantry ministries that we support as part of our mission time.
3. We welcomed Michelle Panasiewicz as our new Office Manager on Monday, September 30. When you are at the church remember to stop by and say “hi” to Michelle!
4. The Staff Parish Relations Team has formed a “Search Team” for our new Minister of Music. They have been meeting to put together a job description, establish search priorities and to design an interview process. There have been several resumes submitted and the team hopes to have a new Minister of Music in place in the not too distant future. In the interim: 1) Mac Sabol will be leading the choir beginning October 16; 2) we will have “guest” organists on Sunday morning until the new Minister of Music is in place. We are asking everyone to hold this process in your prayers as we seek to move forward.
5. A retirement celebration for Elizabeth Holt Curtis will be held following worship on Sunday October 13. Members of the Choir, the SPRT and our Lay Leader, Peggy Bermudez have taken leadership in planning the celebration. If you

would like to help, please let us know. Retirement gifts should be sent to Roger Johnson.

6. In our prayers: Dick Ball had hip replacement surgery yesterday and is doing well; Kathryn Weaver had her gall bladder removed yesterday and is now home; Ian Johnson will be sworn into the Navy on Thursday, October 3; Bim Rowlands; Glenn Hurst Nicky Sebastiano, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Carl and Jean Ericson, Art Gundlach, Alice Schmidt and Diane Lovejoy. Remember Alex Dunbar who is also serving in the US Navy

7. FOOD PANTRY: We are collecting Mac and Cheese and boxed dinners; Cereal and breakfast bars!!

8. Tonight: Financial workshop #3 "Saving and Paying for Education Funding, College and Financing at 7:00 in the Wesley Room.

9. FLU SHOTS – October 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Library. Schedule an appointment by calling Geoff Hill (316-1522), Barb Mitchell (839-2435 or Debbie Fiebelkorn (626-3398).

10. This Week at Christ Church:

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

6:00 – Search Team

7:00 – Financial Workshop (Wesley Room)

7:30 – Choir Rehearsal (choir room)

Thursday, October 3, 2013

10:00 – Bible Study

7:30 – Elizabeth Circle

Friday, October 4 – Sunday October 6

MY+M Chautauqua Days

Monday, October 7

6:00 – Praise Team Rehearsal

7:00 – SPR Team

11. United Methodist Men are going to the Paddock Golf Dome for some Miniature Golf on Saturday, October 12 (car pool at 10:00).

12. UMW – *Harvest Dinner!!!* Is October 18 from 4:30 to 7:30 tickets on sale in café following worship.

13. The Christ Church Cupcakes (aka “c” cups) will be joining the “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” event to be held on Saturday October 19 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Niagara Square in Downtown Buffalo. If you would like to join the team contact Sally Pollard at [slpjoy@Christchurchamherst.org](mailto:slpjoy@Christchurchamherst.org) or 839-2460. Last year the Christ Church C Cups raised about \$1500 for the Buffalo American Cancer Society.

14. AARP DRIVER SAFETY – taught by Jim Pollard – is being held on November 1 or November 18. Call the Church office to register (839-2460). Cost is \$17 for AARP members and \$19 for all others. Payment is due the day of the event. You must sign up in advance. Lunch will be available (\$5).

15. Happy Birthday this week:  
October 2 – Carolyn Day; Todd Evans; Brad Loliger  
October 4 – Nicholas Darling  
October 9 – Susan Cataudella

16. Happy Anniversary this week:  
October 8 – Susan and Tomas Cataudella (25!!)

17. Through the Bible! This week’s readings  
October 2 – Zechariah 13-14; Psalm 147 and Luke 15  
October 3 – Ezra 5-6; Psalm 138 and Luke 16  
October 4 – Esther 1-2; Psalm 150 and Luke 17  
October 5 – Esther 3-8 and Luke 18  
October 6 – Esther 9-10 and Luke 19  
October 7 – Ezra 7-8 and Luke 20  
October 8 – Ezra 9-10; Psalm 131 and Luke 21  
October 9 – Nehemiah 1-2; Psalm 133-134 and Luke 22

18. The Uganda Mission Team (BJ Norrix, Kathryn Weaver, Joe Fort, Clair Mosher) is 1 month from their mission journey. Here’s how you can help:

A. Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser and silent auction was **enormously successful!!** Raising over \$3500!! THANK YOU

B. Direct Support can be made by writing a check to Christ Church labeled “Uganda 2013”

C. Pastor BJ **has raised an additional \$1000** for a “Bible Scholar’s Summit\*” he will be teaching in two places –Kampala and Mbale -- in November  
THANK YOU EVERYONE who contributed to this effort.

\*Bible Scholar's Summit – I'll be taking the basics of Biblical Interpretation (called Hermeneutics) and applying them to a specific passage of the Bible over a two day period. Day one – the basics of hermeneutics (review) followed by a day and a half of application. This will be interspersed with worship and other activity.

#### 19. DRESS OUR PEOPLE – Update from Molly Butler

The final bags of cut out dresses and shorts are in the Dress Our People mailbox. Please take some and help us finish up this project. We are on our way to the 300 pieces of clothing to send with the team in November.

If you purchased t-shirts for this project, please turn them in as soon as possible. We still need a few more t-shirts, so if you would like to purchase some please contact Molly Butler (716-204-8993 or [kwmgbutler@gmail.com](mailto:kwmgbutler@gmail.com)).

We are also looking for children's stickers to send in the packages this year. If you have any you would like to donate, please put them in the Dress Our People mailbox.

#### 20. FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER UPDATE – from Kathy Weaver

The Northtowns satellite of the Family Justice Center is making great progress. We now have a lease for the North Forest house that will be the home of the satellite location. We also have our building permit and remodeling has begun. The grand opening of the center **is scheduled for November 9 watch for more details**. If you are interested in volunteering in the new center once it has opened please contact Kathy Weaver for details on the training process. We would like to thank Scott Smith and Dave Mitchell for all their efforts in remodeling the bathroom of the new center. It is looking great and is ready to be cleaned and painted. The Family Justice Center has a fundraising event coming up on Thursday October 17th from 5:30-8:30pm. It is called Mosaic, A celebration of everything Buffalo. See the poster on the outreach board in Crafts Hall for details. Any questions please contact Kathy Weaver, Peggy Bermudez or Dede Johnson.

21. 4040 Harlem Road property – the executors are in the process of sorting the contents of the house into three categories: 1) items for the estate sale; 2) items for donation; 3) trash. Following the completion of the estate sale we will be able to have the home inspected and a church conference (all members have voice and vote) will be scheduled. Watch for more information.

#### 22. Coming Soon to Christ Church

Friday October 4 – Sunday October 6 – MYM at Chautauqua

Saturday, October 12 – United Methodist Men going to the Paddock Golf Dome carpool at 10:00 Lunch at the Grill at the dome following. We will be playing miniature golf!

Sunday, October 13 – Farewell gathering for **Elizabeth Holt Curtis** – Flu clinic sponsored by Health and Wellness Team in library from 10 to 1

Wednesdays – October 16, 23, 30 – Financial workshops

Friday October 18 – UMW Fall Harvest Dinner 4:30 to 7:30

Saturday, October 19 – Making Strides against Breast Cancer – 10:00 a.m.

Niagara Square in Downtown Buffalo!

Tuesday October 29 – Church Council at 7:00

Wednesday October 30 – Dress Our People packing 3-5 in Youth Hall

Sunday, November 3 – **ALL SAINTS Memorial Communion Sunday**

(remembering those of our family who have died in the past year)

Sunday November 3 – Uganda Mission Team leaves (returns November 22)

Monday, December 2 – Annual Charge Conference

### *Parting Thoughts:*

There is an old hymn that I learned from one of the original Christian “rock and rollers” (Larry Norman). It began: when you know a wonderful story you don’t let it go unsaid. You tell it to your children as you tuck them into bed. And when you know a wonderful secret you tell it to your friends. You tell them a life time filled with happiness is like a street that never ends. Sing that sweet sweet song of salvation . . . There is a lot of anxiousness about evangelism in main line churches. The word evangelism raises specters of white shoed TV preachers; people on street corners with megaphones; people knocking on my door like door to door salesmen of years ago. Fortunately those specters are NOT what evangelism is or is about. Christian evangelism is rooted in our own experience. This is critical when we are reading the Gospels. The followers of Jesus never told people to believe in something. The followers of Jesus told people “something happened!” They had experienced, first hand, the powerful resurrection of Jesus and this experience gave them new life, hope and direction. The point of my being a follower of Jesus Christ is not that I have come to “believe” something about him. The point is I have experienced Jesus Christ in my life and that experience has made me a new person and is making me into the man I am today. That is the sweet song of salvation. It is where the story of what happened with Jesus connects with my story and a whole new story ensues. There is a near infinite variety of experiences of Jesus – in some ways they are all different – there is, however, a universal element to every one of these stories: they are encounters with Jesus who is alive and present with us. If we would get off trying to force others to ‘believe’ something and simply tell our

story, I believe more and more of our friends, family, neighbors and coworkers would come to know Jesus in a transforming way.

That's my story . . . what's yours?

BJ Norrix, story teller, missionary, Christ follower

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