

UPDATE
October 28, 2014
Christ United Methodist Church

**Harlem Road at Saratoga Road
Amherst, New York**

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

EVERYONE is WELCOME

SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH
9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship
10:00 FaithXpress, Soul Strength and 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
Or call us at: 716-839-2460

Dr. B.J.’s blog is www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com
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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-United-Methodist-Church-Amherst/294709713921168?ref=hl>

Hi Everyone:

It is great to be back in Amherst and it was good to see everyone on Sunday. The Uganda journey went very well. We made some new friends in Mombasa and Nairobi, Kenya. We made some new friends in Lugala and the Busia District of the United Methodist Church. Joe and I also reconnected with many of our good friends: Davis and his family; Moses the builder, Moses of Jinja, Dr. Moses, and many of our current and past Nexus students. We assisted at the graduation of 9 Nexus students in Kalangaalo. We worked on laying bricks for the new church at Seeta. We met with the brand new Academic Society in Luweero. I preached in Mombasa and in Seeta (and Wampeweo) and taught in several places. All in all it was a very good journey. Thank you, Christ Church, for your encouragement and your support. It is a great blessing to represent you when I am away and a great blessing to see all of you when I return. Next journey will be late June 2015 with the youth and friends. We are already making our plans and arrangements. Please keep us in your prayers.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was about 110. I am deeply appreciative of the Christ Church staff and leadership who care for things in my absence. Thank you Sally Pollard, Janelle Martin, Kevin Durkin, Doris Schanzlin and Dave Wolf – I could not do what I do without you (or, at the very least, it would be MUCH harder). Thank you to the UMW for Children's Sabbath and to Jose' Cotto, who preached for me on October 19. We began our series on Stewardship this Sunday by looking at how we are stewards of each other.

***Please note** - Every Sunday message (By Pastor BJ or others) is recorded and available for listening through our church web site. <http://www.christchurchamherst.org> Click on the tab "worship" & move the cursor to a drop screen labeled "Sermons." Click on "sermons" and you'll see a list of every sermon of this year by date, title and preacher. Click and listen to any and all.*

2. This Sunday is **All Saints Memorial Communion**. We will remember those members of our church family and friends who have died in the past year. A special time of recognition, communion and a message titled "Remember" are all part of the celebration.

3. **350 Concert is THIS SUNDAY at 3:00p.m.** – This is a concert of all the groups who utilize Christ Church (350 Saratoga – hence the title) for rehearsal, plus the Christ Church Choir and Praise Band. Bel Canto Choir, the Amherst Red Blazer Chorus, Tara's Dance Studio, the Christ Church Praise Team and the Christ Church Chancel Choir, each will be performing a couple of songs. Concert begins at 3:00p.m. and will conclude with a light reception in the Parlor. Admission is canned or boxed goods for the food pantry (or other donation).

4. **Trustees** and friends did a cleanup day on Saturday – a lot of dead shrubbery and leaves and stuff were removed as we get ready for the winter season. Thank you everyone who helped!

5. **Bible 101** – Learn your way around the Bible in 3 simple sessions. Hands on (BYOB – Bring your own Bible) class led by Pastor BJ will teach the basics of the Bible and how to navigate this essential book. Thursdays at 1:00p.m. on October 30, November 6 and 13 in the Wesley Room.

6. Christmas Pageant - there's a place for you!

At FaithXpress at 10 am this Sunday through December we'll be preparing to tell the Christmas story in a fun and memorable way. All children, youth and adults are invited to participate in speaking & non-speaking roles as well as instrumental and song opportunities. Join us Sunday at 10 am to hear more about **The Kings of Orient, AR.**

7. **Food Pantry** is collecting: Brownie Mix – (after all what is Thanksgiving dinner without something sweet?)

8. **IN OUR PRAYERS:** - Al Wrisley - continues recovery from surgery, Brian Martin - as he recovers following bone marrow transplant; Guy Castellino - recovering from pneumonia, Edmond Wrycza (Julianna Sabol's father in a nursing home in Fort Erie); Glenn Hurst, Lois Lewis, Barbara Clinton, Mac Sabol, Tom Davis, Fred Painton, Nicky Sebastiano, Shirley Downey, Ed Maker, Alice Schmidt, Diane Lovejoy and all who are at home and unable to get to church.

Remember those who are serving in the armed forces (especially Alex Dunbar and Ian Johnson and Lindsey Darling serving in the US Navy). Pray for the West African nations, the World Health Organization, Doctors without Borders, the US military and all the others who are battling the Ebola virus. Pray for the ongoing situation in Iraq and Syria. Please pray for all who are in harm's way.

9. Keeping in Touch - Visit* Church Friends...

...unable to get out to church. You're invited to share stories of your visits on Saturday, November 1st at the gathering planned by the United Methodist Women at 10 am at church.

10. Visitation Ministry and training to be offered

Is visiting someone who is no longer able to get out regularly to attend worship something you enjoy or even feel called to do? Would you like to learn and practice Christian caring skills for bringing hope to people who are sick or homebound? Then you are invited to participate in this workshop: ***The Practice of Visitation Ministry.***

Our District is sponsoring a pilot workshop on Christian visitation ministry. Informed by her experiences as a Stephen Ministry leader and palliative care chaplain, Deacon-candidate Rebecca Naber is offering instruction to equip those interested or currently involved in visiting the sick and/or homebound. Discussion and class exercises will focus on: listening/responding, approaches to home & hospital visitation, care-giving with older adults, supporting the bereaved, and offering hope through presence, prayer & scripture.

Dates: Tuesday, November 4th and Wednesday, November 12th from 9:00am to 4:00pm at Christ Church. (Includes lunch) Contact Sally Pollard for details sipjoy@christchurchamherst.org, 839-2460.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

11. SENECA STREET COAT DRIVE – it is about to turn colder the end of this week and there is a need for winter coats, boots, hats, and mittens. A gift of warmth for the families of the Seneca Street Church. Please bring items to the Church by November 2 – there is a special need for children and youth sized clothing.

12. Cheektowaga Food Pantry – Janet Neiman, Director of the Cheektowaga Food Pantry, is in need of volunteers to help each Tuesday and Wednesday during November. Call Janet (392-2318) for details.

13. Family Justice Center – October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Mary Murphy, Executive Director of the Family Justice Center, is available to give presentations to any group. Contact Mary Murphy at 558-5270.

14. Uganda 2015 – Our team is nearly set. Dr. BJ Norrix will be leading a team of 11: John and Brandon Miller, Viki and Hannah Smith, Kathryn Weaver, Janelle Martin, Briana Woods, Erin Patrick, Katey Waldon and Erisawe Briere. We will be travelling to Uganda for 2 weeks the end of June/July 2015. Your prayers are desired and appreciated. We will be visiting schools, presiding at Nexus graduations, dedicating water projects and a church and much, much more.

15. Living Well Coach Training -- Dr. Tom DeLoughry and Pastor BJ

Help Yourself, Your Loved Ones, Your Church and Your Community

LEARN HOW TO OFFER EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL SUPPORT, PLUS PROVIDE PRACTICAL HELP FOR MANY PROBLEMS.

(Approved for 10 hours of continuing education credit for Lay Servants in the UNY United Methodist Conference)

Part One: Help Yourself and Deepen Your Love

Thursday, Oct. 30th, November 6th and 13th 7-8:30 PM

Prepare to help others by using four Satisfaction Skills to reflect and act on the wisdom of the Greatest Commandment and the Golden Rule

Part Two: Practical Help and Spiritual Support

Thursday, Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26 and Apr 2. 7-8:30 PM

Learn to use twelve Action Guides as “conversation starters” that provide well-researched help for each piece of the Wellness Puzzle

16. Happy Birthday

October 28 – Bob Kreib

17. through the Bible in 2014

October 28 – 2 Samuel 9-11 and 1 John 2

October 29 – 2 Samuel 12-13 and 1 John 3

October 30 – 2 Samuel 14-15 and 1 John 4

October 31 – 2 Samuel 16-18 and 1 John 5

November 1 – 2 Samuel 19-20 and 2 John 1

November 2 – 2 Samuel 21-22 and 3 John 1

November 3 – 2 Samuel 23-24 and Colossians 1

November 4 – Nahum 1-3 and Colossians 2

18. This Week at Christ Church

Tuesday, October 28 – Finance Team “Stuffing” Party at 6:45p.m.

Wednesday, October 29 – Church Choir at 7:30p.m.

Thursday, October 30 – 10:00a.m. Bible Study

1:00p.m. – Bible 101

7:00p.m. – Living Well Coaches

Saturday, November 1 – UMW at 10:00a.m. “Keeping in Touch”

Sunday, November 2 – 350 Saratoga Concert at 3:00p.m.

Monday, November 3 – SPRC Meeting at 7:00p.m.

19. Coming Soon

November 2 – 350 Saratoga Concert 3:00 p.m. Performances by groups sheltered at Christ Church. Admission will be a canned or boxed item for the food pantry. Come and

enjoy the entertainment and meet some new friends from the Red Blazers, Amherst Bel Canto, Ballroom & Beyond and more...

November 7 – Ron Corsaro Jazz Trio *with Wayne Moose & Danny Hull* – 7:00 pm An evening of excellent music to benefit Mission Youth.

November 16 – Annual Charge Conference 3:30 pm at Pendleton Center UMC

20. United Methodist Men – Men’s Club will be going golfing at the Paddock Golf Dome in Tonawanda on Saturday, November 8. Carpool leaves church at 10:00a.m. Cost of play is \$5 with lunch at the Dome following the game. Contact Chris Klenk (651-0236) with questions.

21. Christian Community helping each other

A. Dr. Bob Nachbar needs an occasional driver. Dentist/eye appointments on Monday/Tuesday mornings. Is willing to pay driver. Will call ahead to confirm details. Call Bob at 837-1905 to volunteer.

B. A Neighbor of Diane Lovejoy is moving to a larger apartment to accommodate medical equipment. Help is needed to clean the apartment following the move. If you would like to help call Diane at 276-9711. Diane is also selling an Amana Microwave. Used only one Month. Call her if interested.

Parting Thought

The building that Christ Church owns at 350 Saratoga is a busy place and a vital community resource. Between the ANS (Preschool); Bel Canto, AA and other support groups, Red Blazers, food groups and others, nearly 1000 people pass through our doors every week that are not part of our worshipping community. We have begun to reach out to this community that meets within our building. First, we purchased and installed information monitors in three critical locations around our building. These monitors convey welcome and invitation information to these “partner” groups. Secondly we arranged for this Sunday’s 350 Saratoga Concert. There will be 5 groups participating – 2 Christ Church groups and 3 groups who are part of our wider community. The idea of the concert was to get groups in the building connected with members of the Christ Church congregation. I hope you will come, enjoy the music and welcome any, every, and all who come to this event. We will have a light reception following the concert (which should take about an hour). The reception gives us all some space to welcome the guests among us. I am very excited about these developments and hope to see many of us here Sunday afternoon. In our effort to reconnect with the world around us I find myself asking more questions than I have answers to. Here are a few of them: How else would you reach out to the wider community? How else might we invite those who are not connected with a community of faith to come and be a part of ours? How might we build stronger bridges and ties to the Amherst/Cheektowaga/Buffalo community that surrounds us? All ideas are welcome!

Have a great week,

BJ Norrix, missionary to 14226 (and beyond)