

**Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York
"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"
UPDATE
September 12, 2012**

**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.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com

Hi Everyone:

Karen and I have taken to exploring the Western New York region on our day off. We have taken rides through the country, walked around state and local parks, wandered into and out of museums, that kind of thing. We are drawn to the strange and usual. We visited the "Potato Museum" when we were on Prince Edward Island, the Jell-O museum in LeRoy, New York, the textile museum in Toronto, and on and on it goes. We have seen a wide range of the "world's biggest" displays around the US and Canada. It should come as no surprise (it certainly did not surprise us) when we found ourselves in Eden, New York wandering through the Kazoo factory and museum yesterday afternoon. It was not exactly a large place but it was interesting, unique and a fun sort of place to hang out. I ended up buying 50 kazoos for some Ugandan children (the staff gave me a very kind discount when I explained where they were going). I was pleased to learn at the museum that, although the kazoo is a unique American instrument, it is based on traditional African models of making sounds with vibrating things (like wax paper over a comb or a maple leaf between the teeth). What new and interesting thing has brightened your week?

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance Sunday was 151 – it was great to have the choir back with us and to see so many faces back in worship.

We celebrated the reception of new members this week: Welcome, **Christine Morgante, Susan Schauer, Julianna Sabol, and Mac Sabol**

2. This Sunday is “National Back to Church Sunday”. There are some very amusing and touching videos at www.backtochurch.com I thought you might enjoy checking out – look for the promotional videos. We will hear from our Outreach team this week. I am preaching from 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1 a message titled “All to the Glory of God.” Come worship and bring a friend!

3. Friday, **September 14 – Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction for the Uganda Mission Team 6 – 8 p.m.**

\$7.50 will get you spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread, beverage – all to support Kathy, John and BJ and their mission to Uganda

There will be a bake sale for dessert.

Silent Auction – over 30 baskets have been prepared. Everything from baking and pampering to golf and entertainment – come and bid.

Thank you Patti Bechtel and Barb Critoph (and your helpers) for pulling this together!

This is our final fund raiser – Kathy, John and I leave in under 3 weeks for Uganda.

We have been overwhelmed by your generosity and support and encouragement.
THANK YOU.

(You never know what will come until you ask. We have been blessed with an abundance of medical supplies, with microscopes, with 2500 (yes 2500) tooth brushes, with medicines and scales and bags and on it goes – an embarrassment of riches that will enrich the lives of our Ugandan friends.) THANK YOU EVERYONE!!

REMEMBER TO KEEP THE TEAM IN YOUR PRAYERS (John, Kathy, Clair, Esther, and BJ).

4. Talk to the Experts: “**Partnering with Parents**” – begins this Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m.

September 15 – Common Sense Parenting Part 1 – with Anne Nowak of the Sweet Home Family Support Center

September 22 – Common Sense Parenting Part 2 – with Anne Nowak of the Sweet Home Family Support Center

September 29 – Improving Challenging Behavior – with Marcus Thomeer, PhD, Canisius College Institute for Autism

October 6 – Parenting in the Digital Age – with Christopher Gengo, MBA and author of upcoming parenting handbook

October 13 – Teaching Children Money Matters – with Patrick Allaire and Keith Schottman of Allaire Financial Strategies

October 20 – Spiritual Formation Happens at Home – with Sally Pollard, Minister for Christian Education and Community Life at Christ UMC.

All sessions are free and open to the public.

5. Choir rehearsal resumes tonight at 7:30 in the choir room.

6. THURSDAY at Christ Church:

Week day Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. in Wesley Room

Stewardship and Finance at 7:00

7. In our Prayers: Carmen Ticconi is in the hospital this morning; Nicky Sebastiano, Barbara McCray, Katie Cady, Ed Maker, Alicia Ticconi, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson. Remember the Habitat Women Build Team and our Uganda Mission Team.

8. MYM (Mature Years Ministry – *for those 55 and above*) “Autumn Days” retreat at the United Methodist House, Chautauqua Institution – October 5-7. Rev. Jim Pollard will be leading. Cost is \$80 with first preference given to Church members. Scholarship funds are available. For more information contact Phyllis Nicholson. Registration forms are in Sunday’s bulletin and available through the church office.

9. Franklin Graham Rock The Lakes September 22 and 23 – this note from Bill Bauza

The Billy Graham Evangelical Association is reaching out in cities like Rochester in June, Green Bay in August and Ottawa in September. Buffalo's Coca Cola Field hosts our own "Rock The Lakes" beginning at 4 pm on both Saturday and Sunday September 22 and 23. Admission is free, with the retirement system out of this world! You can help by inviting your friends, co-workers, and neighbors to attend with you; forming a carpool is fun! Metro Rail is another opportunity to fellowship. Many local Churches have participated in sponsoring the event; many volunteers have been trained through the Christian Life and Witness course to help as counselors on the field, continuing as friendly liaisons between the conference and our local Churches. You can help! Pray for all the workers, the new believers, and the follow-up that will continue. Your financial support will ensure that all materials are available for distribution. Volunteers before and during the event will help with guest relations, directions, collecting and sorting information. To volunteer, call 716-932-7721. Rosemary Kochan and Bill Bauza have been preparing for this event. We invite you to journey with us, and be gracious to visitors who may be referred to our Church for follow-up and training. Christ Church may be used in the Neighborhood Discovery Group Training for adults and youth. The love of Christ that is so evident here at Christ Church can be shared with all we meet!

Saturday's event is focused on youth and features some of the best known Christian rock and metal bands. Tell your kids and grandkids and encourage them to be a part of this great event!

10. **Greeters needed:** An important part of hospitality for any community is having people who will greet and welcome all comers on Sunday morning. Pam Lopez coordinates this vital ministry for Christ Church. If you can help by being a greeter call Pam at 741-3592.

11. **CAFÉ HELP needed:** The café is a welcoming place every Sunday morning. We gather for coffee and fellowship (and usually something sweet) before, between and after our Sunday morning worship celebrations. We need your help – sign up to set up food, beverages and supplies before the 9:00 worship celebration or to replenish supplies as needed and clean up at the end of the morning. **Signup sheet is in the café** – or call the church office. Many hands are willing to assist but we need someone “on point” each week. THANK YOU to all of you who have faithfully served your church through this vital hospitality ministry.

12. Making Strides to **End Breast Cancer:** The Amherst Cancer Society is sponsoring the “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” walk on Sunday, September 30, beginning in Niagara Square, Buffalo. Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.. For more information contact Rachel at the Church office 839-2460. Together we can fuel the fight to end breast cancer! We are building a team from Christ church (they are having way too much fun coming up with a team name). See Rachel or Sally for more information.

13. Happy Birthday this week:

September 15 – Doris Steinmetz

September 17 – Glenn Hurst

September 18 – Kevin Johnston, Jim Pollard

14. Happy Anniversary this week:

September 15 – Ed and Marie Maker (61 years)

15. Through the New Testament in a year: follow the commentary on Dr. BJ's blog at www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com

September 12 – 1 Corinthians 8

September 13 – 1 Corinthians 9

September 14 – 1 Corinthians 10

September 17 – 1 Corinthians 11

September 18 – 1 Corinthians 12

September 19 – 1 Corinthians 13

16. HANDS FOR NEW YORK – our ongoing food collection – this week: Canned meats (tuna, spam, ham, chicken, etc)

17. CROP WALK – is coming October 14 – meeting at the Amherst Community Church at 12:30 (walk begins at 1). Sign up this week to walk or support a walker.

Crop Walk raises funds to combat hunger locally, regionally and internationally.

18. **DRESS OUR PEOPLE** – All Dresses and shorts need to be completed by September 15 so that they can be labeled and packed for travel with the Uganda Mission Team. We are approaching 200 dresses/shorts. See Molly Butler for more information.

19. **HOLY LAND CLASSIC 2013** – January 28, 2013 a group (we are currently 8) of us will be visiting the Holy Land. The trip will include visits to Galilee, Nazareth, Jericho, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, the Jordan River and more. ***Deadline for registration is October 15.*** ***Questions?*** See BJ for more information. There is plenty of room for more. Base cost is **\$2598** which includes round trip (JFK to Tel Aviv) air fare, ground transportation, guide and driver, hotel accommodations and two meals a day, plus entrance fees to all the historical and archeological sites.

We are getting close to the deadline – if you are thinking about this but have not told me please contact me asap.

20. Coming Soon:

September 28 – YOUTH GROUP SPONSORED Chivetta’s Chicken Barbecue – 4-7 \$9 per dinner (take out or eat in).

October 1 – Uganda Mission Team departs (returns the 17th)

October 7 -- District Superintendent Rev. K. Wayne Butler is guest Preacher

October 5-7—Mature Years Ministry Autumn Days at Chautauqua Institution with Rev. Jim Pollard leading.

October 14 – Children’s Sabbath

October 19 – Fall Harvest Dinner

October 21 – M&M Sunday (Mission and Ministry)

Annual Church Conference 3:00

For the past 7 years September has hit me like a slap up the side of the head. Part of this is getting everything up to speed after our Summer rest and part of it is the sandwich between that Summer time and my annual mission excursion to Uganda. Things can get a little frantic from time to time. What I have learned, over the years, is to not panic and to make sure that I continue to practice my physical and spiritual disciplines. Making time for prayer and study, making my way to the gym and getting adequate rest are essential for my spiritual, physical and emotional well being. What do you do to keep life in proper focus? I find that it is easy to get flustered and crazy about all that “has to happen” and forget to simply put one foot in front of the other and tackle each task and project as it comes along. This is the way I work to “be here now” in all of my encounters, relationships and ministry. How do you keep in proper focus. . . .?

Have a great week and I'll see you when the Church gathers,

BJ Norrix, missionary, coach, lead servant