

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

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

UPDATE September 17, 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

716-839-2460

Dr. B.J.’s blog is www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com

Hi Everyone:

Another day, another seemingly senseless act of violence. 12 innocents dead (plus the gunman) in shooting spree in the US Navy Yard (of all places). We watch our TVs and we bemoan another senseless shedding of human blood. We wring our hands and we wonder what went wrong this time and when will it stop. As Christ followers we should know better. The human being is flawed and broken. The central evidence of this flaw is the human propensity for violence (Genesis 6:11). John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, once said that the doctrine of original sin (the biblical teaching that we are all essentially flawed) was the only doctrine of the church that could be proven empirically. If you want to see evidence of human brokenness all you need to do is stand on a street corner and watch. Most of us do not wear our brokenness on our sleeves and most of us are pretty good at keeping our emotions and other tendencies under check but the reality and context in which we live is that the very best of us is capable of the behavior of the very worst of us. What hope is there? Our faith gives a simple (frustratingly simple) solution: humans are transformed through direct and consistent contact with God through Jesus Christ. It is not a one and done deal – our violence is like a chronic illness – it is only through repeated exposure to Christ that we are slowly (sometimes painfully slowly) transformed and as we are transformed we align ourselves with the cause of Jesus Christ to make this world a better place. Have you spent time with Jesus Christ today? Did you make time to worship today, this week?

Here is what is going on at Church:

1. Sunday’s worship attendance was 113. Thank you to the choir for some “upbeat” anthems and to all who provided leadership in worship this week! We announced and introduced our new Office Manager/Ministry Assistant, Michelle Panasiewicz at the 11:00 worship service. Michelle officially begins work on September 30.
2. This Sunday is the last of the 10 Commandments series. The 10th Commandment (in short) says “you will not covet your neighbor’s anything”. What does it mean to covet? Learning contentment is the answer.
Are you not yet a member of Christ Church? Would you like to be? Let us know.
3. Congratulations 1: to Chris and Erin Johnson on the birth of Brennan Murray (8 pounds 10 ounces) on September 13. Welcome baby brother for Abby!

4. Congratulations 2: to Dr. Robert Nachbar who was named a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International at their meeting on September 11, 2013. This is the highest honor Rotary has for its members.
5. The Staff Parish Relations Team has formed a “Search Team” to begin the search for a new Minister of Music for Christ United Methodist Church. The Team begins meeting this Wednesday evening. A job description for our opening has been posted on American Guild of Organists web sites, through various music schools in our area as well as District and Conference web sites. If you know of people who would qualify please have them contact us. Please keep this process in your prayers. The members of the team: Roger Johnson, convener, Jim Pollard, Lisa Lawson, Mac Sabol, Julie Wrisley and Pastor BJ Norrix. We have already had a few calls. Interim plans are being put in place should there be space between Elizabeth’s retirement date of October 13 and hiring our new Minister of Music.
6. In our prayers: 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. Pray for the victims of the Colorado flooding; pray for the families of those who were killed in the Navy Yard yesterday; pray for families in crisis, for those looking for work; for all who are in harm’s way.
7. FINANCIAL WORKSHOPS begins this Wednesday the 18th at 7:00 p.m.
9/18 – protecting your family through financial planning
9/25 – cash flow, household budgeting and building wealth
10/2 – saving and paying for education funding, college, and financing
- 8. UGANDA MISSION TEAM FUND RAISER IS SEPTEMBER 27**
Spaghetti Dinner is \$10 (\$8 for seniors and under 5 is free) and Silent Auction from 5 – 7
This is “homemade” sauce and meatballs!! Desserts will also be available (meatless spaghetti is also available)
Support Joe Forte, Kathy Weaver and Pastor BJ Norrix as they continue our work with Nexus Seminary, Uganda and various other projects.
9. This week at Christ Church:
Today – Rachel Circle in the Wesley Room
Wednesday the 18th – Search Team at 6:00
Financial Workshop at 7:00
Adult Choir at 7:30
Thursday the 19th – Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.
Trustees at 7:30 p.m.
Friday the 20th – Books Loved 10:00 a.m. in Wesley room
10. Disciple Bible Study – we are forming a Disciple Bible Study. Disciple is a 34 week Junior College level Bible Survey course that incorporates multimedia and covenantal relationships into the study. Pastor BJ and Jim Pollard are team leading this group. Watch for information meeting and start date.
11. Food Pantry – This week: Peanut butter and Jelly!!
12. . The Uganda Mission Team (BJ Norrix, Kathryn Weaver, Joe Fort, Clair Mosher) is 2 months from their mission journey. Here’s how you can help:
A. Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser and silent auction **Friday September 27 from 5 – 7 (auction 4-7)**
1) tickets for the dinner at \$10 for adults \$8 for Seniors and students; 5 & under are free: spaghetti, salad and garlic bread. Desserts will be available for purchase.

2) make a basket for the auction (see Barb Critoph and Patty Bechtel)

3) make a donation for the auction (see Barb or Patty)

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

C. Pastor BJ is raising an addition \$1000 for a "Bible Scholar's Summit*" he will be teaching in two places –Kampala and Mbale -- in November

If you can help with this see him directly.

*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.

13. 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).

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.

14. Happy Birthday this week:

September 17 – Glenn Hurst

September 18 – Kevin Johnston, Jim Pollard

September 19 – Will Gowen, Jessica Lawson, Jonathan Miller

September 20 – rob McCray, Sandra Paddock, Beth Reilly-Brown, Hildegard Webber

September 24 – Lisa Malpica

September 25 – Danielle Keller

15. Happy Anniversary this week

September 21 – Herb and Nora Townsend Wilber

16. Through the Bible in a year: This week's readings

September 17 – Ezekiel 42-44 and Revelation 22

September 18 – Ezekiel 45-46 and Luke 1

September 19 – Ezekiel 47-48 and Luke 2

September 20 – Daniel 5-6, Psalm 130 and Luke 3

September 21 – Daniel 7-8, Psalm 137 and Luke 4

September 22 – Daniel 9-10, Psalm 123 and Luke 5

September 23 – Daniel 11-12 and Luke 6

September 24 – Ezra 1, Psalm 84, 85 and Luke 7

September 25 – Ezra 2-3 and Luke 8

17. CELEBRATION OF THE MINISTRY AND SERVICE of Office Manager RACHEL VAUGHAN

Sunday, September 29 at 12 Noon in Crafts hall at Christ Church

Join us for food, fun and an opportunity to extend blessings and best wishes to Rachel

As she moves forward on life's journey.

18. 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. We are hoping for the grand opening of the center to be in early November. 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.

19. 4040 Harlem Road property (borders the church to the North) update: **There is nothing new to report: here is current update:**

- the sale of the property will likely be in late October the executor is working with us, exclusively, on the purchase

- there will be a Church Conference in **October** (watch for announcements this will be after worship on a Sunday and there will be at least 2 weeks' notice)

Purpose of the church conference will be three things: 1) do we make the purchase? 2) if yes to 1) will we assign the Trustees as our "building team"? And 3) if yes to 1) and 2) will we approve the necessary financing to see it through. All Christ Church members will have voice and vote at this meeting.

- short term financing – a member of the congregation has agreed to provide a "Bridge Loan" until a conventional mortgage can be obtained. This loan will allow us to purchase the property in the window available to us.

- The short term plan: is to rent the house until we can finish a capital campaign to pay for the installation of a new parking lot and, perhaps, reduce the mortgage

- The long term plan is to tear the buildings down and put in a new parking lot with sufficient green space.

We are waiting to be able to inspect the property – we cannot hold our church conference until we have had the facility inspected by a professional inspector and the District Committee on buildings. Our inspection will not happen until after an impending "estate sale". Watch for more details as they become available to us.

20. Coming Soon to Christ Church

September 26, 27, 28 – 65th Anniversary Directory Photographs – call church office (839-2460) or sign up on line christchurchamherst.org

Friday, September 27 – **Uganda Mission Fundraiser** – 4-8 p.m.

Sunday, September 29 – Farewell gathering for **Rachel Vaughan** following worship

Wednesday October 2 – Bishop Mark Webb on Niagara Frontier District (watch for more)

Friday October 4 – Sunday October 6 – MYM at Chautauqua

Sunday, October 13 – Farewell gathering for **Elizabeth Holt Curtis** – details pending

Flu clinic sponsored by Health and Wellness Team – contact Geoff Hill (316-1522) or Barb Mitchell (839-2435)

Postponed from 9/29 – in library from 10 to 1

Friday October 18 – UMW Fall Harvest Dinner

Saturday, October 19 – Making Strides against Breast Cancer – 10:00 a.m. Niagara Square in Downtown Buffalo

Tuesday October 29 – Church Council

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

Monday, December 2 – Annual Charge Conference

21. AARP Driver Safety

AARP Driver Safety course will be offered at Christ Church with James Pollard as the instructor. Two opportunities to complete the course: Friday, November 1 and Monday, November 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$17 for AARP members and \$18 for non members. A \$5 lunch is available. Each class is limited to the first 30 people. Register by calling the church office at 839-2460. Payment is due day of the class. (Checks payable to AARP)

Parting Thought:

I've been reading an excellent book titled Unbinding the Gospel. The unvarnished focus of the book is about sharing our faith in Christ with others. The Author, a United Methodist by the name of Martha Grace Reese, makes a very simple argument in her book. She says that people always talk about what they have deep passion about. Think about it – the water cooler chats on Monday were about the Bills last second win (lots of passion there). We all have hobbies: model trains, golf, books we love, gardening, film, music of all kinds, etc. and, when given opportunity, we love to tell others about them. Martha Reese strongly suggests that “main line” churches have little to no effectiveness in evangelism for the simple reason that most main line churches are not passionate about their relationship with Jesus Christ. In Wesley's day, most Methodist preachers considered themselves “brands plucked from the burning”. That is to say they had deep personal acquaintance with a wasteful and sinful life before they entered into a relationship with Jesus Christ and began a whole new journey. My story is like that. My life was (and still is) transformed through my relationship with Jesus Christ. I talk about this relationship because this relationship is the very heart of my life. Martha Reese would encourage us to discover and rediscover our passion as Christ followers by discovering or rediscovering our core relationship with Jesus. Where is your passion?

I'll see you when the ecclesia gathers,

BJ Norrix, Christ followers, missionary, lead servant

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