

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

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

UPDATE September 25, 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:

I’ve been looking at my schedule for the next few months and it is beginning to look like an extended game of “Whack a Mole”. Between leavings and comings and retreats and workshops and new groups and (oh yeah, that whole Uganda thing) I am feeling just a little bit under the gun. How convenient of me have chosen last summer to begin a series this autumn on dealing with life issues and to begin with a sermon on Stress! I was once told by a great preacher that the best sermons are those we preach to ourselves and allow the congregation to overhear – this series will be a perfect example of that approach. I am well aware that some tension in life is essential. As a guitarist I know that proper tension on the six strings of my instrument is what makes it musical – some tension is essential. I also know that if I put too much tension on them (tighten those strings a little too much) they will snap and be useless. Life has tension and is often stressful. The issue is not will there or will there not be stress. Get over it: there will be stress. The issue here is how I will deal with it. My response to the “whack a mole” season is threefold: First and best of all is to deepen my prayer life and find ways to surrender ever more of my life to God. Second, a learned response from years gone by is to immediately begin to scale back on anything non essential. I take a look at my schedule, my responsibilities, my commitments and see if there are things that I don’t really need to be a part of any more. Third, I have what I affectionately call a season of “no”. As the saying goes if you are digging yourself into a hole the first step to the solution is to put the shovel down. I don’t get too excited about the craziness because this is the nature of missional ministry and I wouldn’t have it any other way, but I DO make adjustments. So, I’m back to my game of “Whack a Mole” and praying for God’s grace to see me through.

Here is what is going on at Church,

1. Attendance last Sunday was in the 130’s. Special appreciation to Mac Sabol for his offertory gift.

We heard from our Youth Group about their mission trip to Confrontation Point.

We welcomed Gaetano Castellino (Guy) into membership in our church community this past Sunday. Welcome Guy!

2. This Sunday I am beginning a series on Coping with Stress. The Scriptures are the letter to the Philippians and 2 Corinthians 4:8-10.

We are dedicating a brass music stand in memory of Richard Carrier this week

We are celebrating Rachel Vaughan's 2 plus years as our Office Manager this week with a celebration following worship.

3. Uganda Mission team spaghetti dinner and silent auction is this FRIDAY

Dinner is served from 5 to 7 (or till the food or the people are gone) – spaghetti with homemade sauce and meat balls

Silent Auction is open from 4 to 7 – many theme baskets, a Jim Kelly signed Bills helmet, a new woman's bicycle . . .

4. The Staff Parish Relations Team has formed a search team to find a new Minister of Music.

We already have several excellent resumes and will be designing an interview process to help us make the very best decision.

5. a Farewell gathering for Elizabeth Holt Curtis will be held following worship on Sunday October 13, 2013 watch for details.

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, Diane Lovejoy, Bill Watson following surgery and the family and friends of Ruth Kocher. Ruth was a member of Christ Church at one time, helped to establish Central City Café.

7. 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.

8. This Week at Christ Church:

Wednesday, September 25

6:00 – Minister of Music Search Team

7:00 – Protecting your family through financial planning

7:30 – choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 26

10:00 – Bible Study

2:00 to 9:00 – Lifetouch Photo shoot

7:00 – Outreach Team in Wesley Room

Friday, September 27

12:15 - MYM Board Meeting in Wesley Room

2:00 – 9:00 – Lifetouch Photo shoot

4:00 to 9:00 – Uganda Mission Team Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Aucution

Saturday, September 28

2:00 to 9:00 – Lifetouch Photo Shoot

Sunday, September 29

Noon (ish) – Going Away Celebration for Rachel Vaughan

Monday, September 30

Michelle Panasiewicz first day as Office Manager

1:00 to 7:00 – Lifetouch Photo Shoot

6:00 – Worship Band Rehearsal

9. 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.

10. Food Pantry – This week: Peanut butter and Jelly!!

11. 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.

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.

12. 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.

13. Happy Birthday this week

September 25 – Danielle Keller

September 26 – Barbara Carier

September 27 – Jean Wood

September 28 – Wayne Butler

October 2 – Carolyn Day; Todd Evans; Brad Loliger

14. There are no anniversaries listed for this week.

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

September 25 – Ezra 2-3 and Luke 8 (See intro to Ezra on BJ's blog: Drbjthoughts.blogspot.com)

September 26 – Ezra 4, Psalm 113, 127 and Luke 9

September 27 – Haggai 1-2 (intro on blog), Psalm 129 and Luke 10

September 28 – Zechariah 1-3 and Luke 11

September 29 – Zechariah 4-6 and Luke 12

September 30 – Zechariah 7-9 and Luke 13

October 1 – Zechariah 10-12; Psalm 126 and Luke 14

October 2 – Zechariah 13-14; Psalm 147 and Luke 15

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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

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** – 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 join the Christ Church “C-cups” in the battle against breast cancer!

Tuesday October 29 – Church Council at 7:00

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

Monday, December 2 – Annual Charge Conference

19. 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 \$19 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) There will be a price increase for this course after January 1, 2014.

Parting Thought: Thank you Rachel Vaughan

Life is, more often than not, about coming and going. It is about welcoming new persons, new activities, new understandings into our lives and it is about saying farewell to people, abilities, and old understandings.

Rachel Vaughan came to Christ Church about six weeks after I did. She was my first staff change here, my first major leadership decision and she has those decisions look great! She has been exceptional! Rachel has blessed us with her deep spirituality, her attention to detail, her quiet (and not so quiet) humor and her near constant grace filled presence in our church office. I will certainly miss her gentle smile. I will also miss that look she gives me when I say something goofy or ask for something from her. This is the smile that hides the truth that what she really wants to ask is "are you serious? or Have you lost your mind?" I also have been blessed to get to know her future husband Stephen. Stephen has been a regular guest in the parsonage guest room when he has been in town to see Rachel. We have shared a quite a few late night conversations. He is also a blessed Christ follower and the two of them seem ideally suited for one another. Rachel leaves our church office (and my office) in much better condition than when she first entered it. She has arranged, scheduled, cleaned out and reorganized pretty much everything she put her hands and mind to. In her first six months here Sally and I turned her name into a verb. Something that had been reorganized and cleaned out had been completely "Racheled!" Rachel has done her work with excellence and grace and I will miss her. Rachel Vaughan has left her mark on our Church and she has touched many of our lives in deep and positive ways. I know you all join me in wishing her and Stephen all the best as they begin their married life together.

I'll see you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, lead servant, coach, missionary

This email is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church, Snyder, New York. If you do not wish to receive this email please let us know.

OH, Did I mention **Uganda Team spaghetti dinner and silent auction this Friday from 4 to 7??**