

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York
"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"
UPDATE
October 28, 2011

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH
9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship with the new worship team.
10:00 – FaithXpress, and youth Sunday school and AOL
11:00 – Traditional Style Worship with Choir.
Bring a Friend this week and share the Love and Grace of God!

Hi Everyone:

I am home (thank you Michele Sciolino who took me to the airport on 10/9/11 and Tom Weaver who picked me up 10/27/11) from my mission trip to Uganda. Thank you, all of you, for your prayers and encouragement and support. We visited many new places (new for me) this trip. We traveled to the east of Uganda (which is quite mountainous) and I taught and preached near Mbale, Uganda. The highlight was Saturday when I taught in a small church high on a mountain side about 200 yards from a spectacular 200 foot drop waterfall. I preached and taught in a places called Nakasangola, Kiteme, Kikyusa and Nakakono. We commissioned the bore hole well at Pastor Grace's school in Kirimandagi (and I learned how to pronounced and spell Kirimandagi). The well was to be finished today. The team did excellently well with only a few minor mishaps (I kept hitting my head on things, one of our pastors lost her voice for a few days and one of our teachers took a fall one morning . . . all minor events in our 15 days in country. Travel was uneventful (planes took off, planes landed, sometimes they bounced a bit when they flew). We read of the 100 US troops in the Northwest of Uganda in the local papers (much as you did) but were hundreds of miles away from where it was happening and no one we knew seems to think or care or talk much about it.

I felt your prayers on this journey (THANK YOU). One example of the effect of your prayers: I was preaching in Nakakono, a place I had never been before and had been informed that I was the first white person to ever visit this church. It was way back in the jungle (our vehicle driving along a foot path for at least 2 miles of this journey). I had planned to preach a message about anonymous helpers that I had developed from the follow up stories to Paul's conversion in Acts 9. As worship and praise were going on I sensed an uneasiness in my heart and, continuing to pray, I looked around the congregation and looked at the faces of the people gathered. The more I looked the more I prayed the more I realized that I could not bring this particular message. Then, as I sat for a few moments the story of the woman who washes Jesus' feet with her tears (Luke 7:36-50) popped into my head and when it came time to preach I read that passage and preached about loving much and being forgiven. When we were leaving that place, my translator, Edward (one of our Nexus Seminary tutors) turned to me and said: I was going to tell you about the nature of this congregation and what might be helpful to preach here, but the Holy Spirit beat me to it. That leading of the Holy Spirit, I believe, is a result of so many of you holding me up in prayer. Thank you (and don't stop).

I was blessed to carry your greetings and was proud to use my new introduction (Hi my name is Dr. B.J. Norrix, I am the husband of one wife, her name is Karen and she is also a pastor. We live in a place called Buffalo, New York. I bring you greetings from the Christ UMC family.)

I will be sending a more detailed e-mail out on Tuesday but here are one or two things:

1. THANK YOU – To our Lay Leadership Team for leading worship on 10/16 and to the UMW for leading on the 10/23.

2. This Sunday I am preaching “On the Road Home” from Luke 15. The story of the man with two sons is told in the context of two groups of people coming to Jesus – Group one: Tax Collectors and Sinners; Group two: scribes and Pharisees.

We are baptizing Abigail Rose Johnson as part of the 11:00 worship time.

3. November 6 is our “All Saints Memorial Communion Observance”

4. THE HOPE FOR AFRICA CHILDREN’S CHOIR

Will be at Christ Church on Wednesday November 16 at 7:00 p.m. they will also be giving a concert at St. James UMC in Niagara Falls on November 15 at 7:00 p.m. Bring your friends and come and enjoy the music and energy and love of these children.

The Humble School is a United Methodist run orphanage/school in the Mokono district of Uganda (we briefly passed through there but did not have time to stop).

5. I learned from Tom Weaver, on our way back from the Airport, that our sign project was approved at the most recent Town of Amherst Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. The sign has been ordered and we are expecting to have it fully installed within the next few weeks. (YEA!)

Finally, deep and special appreciation to the Church leadership and staff who covered for me in my absence. Rev. Jim Pollard who was on call for pastoral care emergencies, Sally Pollard who worked on the Humble School arrangements along with all the rest of the things she cares for, Rachel Vaughan who keeps our church office up and running, and all who helped keep things on an even keel: THANK YOU.

I’ll see you in Worship,

BJ Norrix, jet lagged missionary, lead servant