

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

**UPDATE  
May 16, 2012**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH  
9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship with the new worship team.  
10:00 – FaithXpress, Soul Strength, 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!**

**[www.Christchurchamherst.org](http://www.Christchurchamherst.org)  
716-839-2460**

**Dr. B.J.'s blog is [www.drbitthoughts.blogspot.com](http://www.drbitthoughts.blogspot.com)**

Hi Everyone:

**"What Time is Church this Sunday?" Just a reminder ONE SERVICE THIS WEEK at 9:30 a.m.**

We will gather at 9:30, have a brief worship time, meet and commission our work teams and go out into the community to do the work we have agreed to do. There is still time to sign up: Call the Church office 839-2460 or come next Sunday and sign up on site.

We have teams going to do some "handy man" type jobs (led by the MYM)

We have a team that will be cleaning the Harlem Road (Main to Cleveland)

We have a team making clothing for "Dress our People"

We have a team planting flowers and vegetables

We have a team serving food at a shelter and here at Christ Church

We have a team collecting

BICYCLES

USED ELECTRONICS

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Anything paper that needs to be shredded (sponsored by Allaire Financial)

We have a team visiting our shut-ins

**ONE SERVICE THIS WEEK at 9:30 a.m. We will return to Christ Church for lunch.  
Lunch will be available at 1:00 p.m.**

Here is what else is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was (officially 199 – but I am counting Laura Smith as 1 and 8/9<sup>ths</sup> and rounding up to an even 200). Our deepest appreciation to Mack Sabol who sang the offertory this Sunday. Thank you to Ed Fisher who was our "Make a Difference " speaker. We had a great Mother's day. I gave a gold star to Joyce Moser for bringing almost her entire family with her (they filled 3 pews!). It was a great blessing to meet so many extended family and friends. We also commissioned Courtney

Cataudella and Jessica Lawson for their mission work in Nicaragua and the Women's Build Habitat for Humanity team (and their styling new bright orange hard hats – thanks to Darling Construction): Lynn Ramsey, Marg Bauza, Kathy Weaver, Dede Johnson, Lisa Lawson, Joanne Gilbert, Patty Keller, Pat Noyes, Inger Darling, Peggy Bermudez

2. This Sunday the UMW awarded our own Beth Sweet with the 2012 Mission Pin. Beth was recognized for her tireless work for the ministry of Christ through Christ Church! Former recipients who were present joined Carolyn Hess, presenter, as the pin was awarded. We are blessed to have Beth as part of our family!

3. **SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE:** As a reminder we will NOT change the worship schedule this Summer.

Worship will continue at 9:00 and 11:00 all Summer long! We are planning to worship in our garden on July 8.

4. In our Prayers: families in grief; Nicky Sebastiano, Mary Emens, Barbara McCray, Carmen Ticconi, Helen Peacock, Ed Maker, Alicia Ticconi – pray for Courtney and Jessica on their way to Nicaragua on Friday; pray for families in crisis, those struggling with addictions and the beginning of Upper New York Annual Conference meets this Saturday and again May 31 through June 2 in Syracuse.

5. This Week at Christ Church:

May 16 – Wednesday – Choir at 7:30

May 17 – Thursday – Trustees at 7:30

May 18 – Friday – Books Loved at 10:00 a.m.

May 19 – Saturday – Harlem Kensington Cleveland Association Clean up day 9:00 a.m. to . . .

May 20 – Sunday – WHAT TIME IS CHURCH? – Make a Difference – Be the Church!

**ONE SERVICE at 9:30 a.m. Lunch begins at 1:00**

May 22 – Tuesday – Talk To the Expert 3:00 – Values Workshop with a Financial Test: Patrick Allaire and Keith Schottman

6. Happy Birthday this week:

May 16 – Linnea George

May 18 – Kristin Darling

May 20 – Mary Landel

May 21 – Rachel Vaughan, Rebecca Lopez, Ryan Lopez; Scott Smith,

May 22 – Sally Pollard, Taylor Deer

7. Happy Anniversary this week:

There are none listed.

8. Finance Report: The Spring Stewardship Campaign is now concluded (but we would still accept any outstanding pledge cards). We ended up with 116 for over 244,000 in total commitments. THANK YOU! Everyone for your great work. Funds for the **Boiler Campaign** are coming in nicely. The oldest boiler has been replaced along with the old water heater. The boilers for the Sanctuary wing are purchased and will be installed later this Summer. THANK YOU everyone for your financial faithfulness to the work of Christ Church.

9. Congratulations to Stuart Woodside and Jamilyn Thibault who were married by Dr. B.J. on Saturday May 12 at the Manuscript Museum on Elmwood and North in Buffalo. The groom is the son of Stuart and Helen Woodside.

10. THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: Readings for the next week: May 16 – Galatians 4; May 17 – Galatians 5; May 18 – Galatians 6; May 21 – Philippians 1; May 22 – Philippians 2; May 23 – Philippians 3; May 24 – Philippians 4; May 25 – Acts 1

11. MISSION NEWS AND NOTES:

1. Hands for New York – this week's collection: **cookies (everyone needs a little treat from time to time!)**

The goal is to feed 1million people in 1 year (July to June). If each congregation in Upper New York Conference fed 1050 people we would reach our goal. Christ church will well exceed that goal knowing that some congregations will not be able to feed 1050!

2. Habitat Women Build is underway with 10 from Christ Church leading the way!

3. Courtney and Jessica are on their way to Nicaragua this week to help build a school, make friends, and work and play with children!

4. UGANDA PROJECTS UPDATE:

a. Dr BJ will be travelling to Uganda to continue his work with the Nexus Seminary this fall (October 1-October 17). The 2012 Uganda team: Rev. B.J. Norrix, Rev. William Mudge (Adirondack District Superintendent), Kathy Weaver and John Miller of Christ Church, Esther Keeney (of Pulaski) and Rev. Clair Mosher (Erieville and Ononativia United Methodist Churches in Onondaga County)

b. Rev. Clair Mosher has formed a Uganda Youth initiative that will sponsor the training of youth leaders and hold youth rallies in Uganda. Pray for Clair's work as well.

Watch for fund raising opportunities for our Christ church team. Our team met on April 29 to continue our team building and preparations for our journey. **PLEASE KEEP us all in your prayers. The team will be travelling to all of our previous graduation sites to distribute Dr. B.J.'s book A Biblical and Theological Primer to the Nexus graduates. Each location will be teaching day. The nurses (Esther and Kathy) will be providing health and wellness clinics at all of these locations. This year's itinerary will require a lot of day to day travel.**

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12. **Make a Difference: Be the Church:** Christ Church's day in mission is May 20, 2012. We have over a dozen different projects available for the Christ Church family. We have projects to clean and build and gather and sew and cook and encourage, etc. There should be something for everyone! Join the over **100** who have already signed up! Sign up on the clipboards in the back of the Sanctuary. PROJECTS:

1. City Mission Cornerstone – to Serve Lunch (sign up in back of church)

2. Collection Trucks at Christ Church (sign up to help at the Church)

a. Asbury Shalom Zone – collecting clothing and household items

b. Habitat for Humanity – Electronics Truck (of any and all kinds to recycle)

c. Recycle-A-Bicycle – old bikes and bicycle parts

d. Shred it – sponsored by Allaire Financial: Paper recycling and shredding of out of date documents.

3. Community Gardening Projects (sign up at church)

- a. Babcock Neighborhood Gardens (Seneca Street UMC)
- b. Christ Church garden
- c. Garden of Stewardship at Central City Café
- 4. Dress our People Sewing Team (sign up at church)
- 5. Habitat for Humanity Restore (sign up at church) – work at the Habitat Warehouse cleaning, organizing, etc.
- 6. Journey’s End Refugee Family – spend time with the family’s children and their friends at the park, playing game, enjoying snacks. (sign up at church)
- 7. LUNCH TEAM – making lunch for all the returning teams
- 8. MYM Repair Jobs – helping local families and projects in need of small repair jobs (sign up at church)
- 9. Refreshments provided by CUMC kids – sign up at church
- 10. Road Clean UP Crew – led by the CUMC youth group – clean up for Harlem Road
- 11. “keeping in touch” visitation – led by Ed and Cindy Fisher – touching base with our friends who cannot get out.

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13. There are now **6** of us officially signed up for ***the Israel 2013 journey***. The tour is 10 days: we spend 3 days in the Galilee in and around the sea; we spend four days in and around Jerusalem, Bethlehem, etc. We will visit Jericho and the Dead Sea and walk the via Dolorosa. **We depart on January 28, 2013.** If you would like to join us see the Church office or Pastor BJ for brochure and more information. All Inclusive cost is \$2598 (transportation from New York; deluxe hotel accommodations; breakfast and dinner ground transportation, guide, deluxe motor coach and all entrance fees).

This will be my 5<sup>th</sup> journey to the Holy Land. Each trip I discover something new to illuminate my understanding of the Bible (Old and New) and the background needed for understanding.

If you know anyone who would be interested in joining us there is room for more.

There is plenty of room for more . . . see Dr. B.J. for more information and/or brochure.

#### 14. COMING IN JUNE

June 1 – Chicken Barbecue – sponsored by the youth group to raise funds for their Mission trip to Confrontation Point

June 3 – CONFIRMATION SUNDAY – we will be confirming 2 young people at our 11:00 worship gathering

June 3 – RON CARSARO and the Upstate Express – 7:00 p.m. at Christ Church. Donations for the Youth Groups 2012 Mission Trip.

June 22 – Red Cross Blood Drive at Christ church.

June 23 and 30 – Youth Car Wash to raise funds for mission trip to Confrontation Point in Kentucky

15. Remember: Vacation Bible School is coming July 16-20 and is called “Operation Overboard!”

I remember stories. My head is filled in word pictures and images from over 30 years of ministry and nearly 40 years of walking with Jesus Christ and striving to be a disciple. As we prepare for our Make a Difference – Be the Church there is a word picture that Bill Hybels painted several years ago that haunts me on a daily basis. He said “I do not want to reach out with my soft and well manicured hand and grasp

the callused and nail scarred hands of my savior.” What Mr. Hybels was attempting to convey is the urgency with which we should approach our mission and ministry. Jesus gave his all for us. The least we can do as his followers is to give all that we can for him. This giving is not just about money, it is about my time, my energy, my creativity, my talent, my very self. In fact, when I realize that all that I am and all that I have and all that I dream of being is a gift from God . . . I really give to God nothing that is not already His.

I am excited for our “taste and see” mission event (aka Make a Difference – be the Church). I am excited for many of you who will be the hands and feet and voices of Jesus in new places and in new ways this week. Connect with the people around you. Enjoy the camaraderie of working with others. I will be looking forward to your stories!

Have a great week!

B.J. Norrix, lead servant, missionary, coach