

**Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York
“Living Christ’s ways and exploding with love and service”**

**UPDATE
June 12, 2012**

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH

9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship with the new worship team.

10:00 – Faith Express and Soul Strength will return in September

Vacation Bible School is July 16-20

**11:00 – Traditional Style Worship: Choir resumes in September
Bring a Friend this week and share the Love and Grace of God!**

www.Christchurchamherst.org

716-839-2460

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

Hi Everyone:

Summer time in our part of the world is time to get outside, rest, relax and play. I am one who is convinced that the “play” part of things is vitally important for healthy, happy and faithful living. God designed us to rest one in seven days (the Sabbath principle). In Western New York most of the year makes it difficult to shut down one in seven. The snow fall doesn’t care what day it is. Things have to be done when they have to be done. In other places of the world this is not the case. Some places I visit one day of the year looks exactly like any other day of the year. Here, when the sun finally shines and the weather turns warm and we can get outside of our houses and play . . . it is important that we do so. Having said that spending time with God and participating in worship is NOT a 9 to 10 month proposition. Your church is here every Sunday, rain or shine. Worship will continue at 9:00 and 11:00 all summer long. If you are away find a place to worship (and experience what it is like to be a stranger in a church). When you are home, we are here and look forward to seeing you! I am going to be away for about 3 weeks starting Thursday (14) of this week. Karen and I are going to do some work on our house in Liverpool, I am going to play some golf with my dad (and friends) we have a little fishing expedition planned and Karen and I are going to take a 8 or 9 day “meander” somewhere. The great thing about a meander is that you don’t always know where you are going until you get there. I will be back in the office on the 5th of July. If you need Pastoral care please call the church office.

Here is what is happening at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 111. We learned to be better encouragers (like Barnabas). Thank you to Sue Estee and Elizabeth Holt Curtis for their gift of music at 11:00 and, as always special thanks to the 9:00 praise team for their faithfulness and energy.

2. This Sunday is Father’s Day. Our special guest preacher will be our SPRC chair and Lay Member of Annual Conference, Mr. Roger Johnson.

3. Deepest appreciation to all of you who have been praying for my Mom, Lorna Norrix. Mom had an angioplasty and stent installed to open a 90% blockage in the artery to the bottom of her heart. She is now home (as of 10:45) and sounded great on the phone this morning. Again, thank you for your encouragement and prayers.

4. The Memorial Service for our custodian Dave Wolf's mom, Bernice, is this Saturday at 2:00 at St. Paul's Lutheran church on Main Street.

5. In our Prayers: Lorna Norrix (recovering); Nicky Sebastiano, Mary Emens, Barbara McCray, Carmen Ticconi, Dave Bechtel (recovering from surgery), Alicia Ticconi, Ed Maker, Jean DiDomenico (out of hospital), the Habitat Women Build Team, the Youth Mission team to Kentucky in July, and the Uganda Mission Team leaving October 1.

6. **COMMUNITY FAMILY PICNIC** is Tuesday, June 19 at 6:00 p.m. at Christ Church. Cost is \$1 per person and includes a hotdog, a soft drink and a DQ Dilly Bar. Even is sponsored by the Harlem Kensington Cleveland Community/Business Association. Families are invited to join our neighbors for food, fun and a visit with some interesting creatures brought by Nickel City Reptiles. For more information visit <http://www.HKCcommunity.com>. See Sally if you'd like to help out.

7. **ISRAEL 2013:** There are now 9 of us planning to travel to the Holy Land leaving Buffalo January 28, 2013. There is room for plenty more. See BJ or Rachel for a brochure. There are still discounts available for early registration.

8. Happy Birthday this week – and the next few as I will be away!

June 12 – Pat Zaleski

June 13 – Nathan Gowen, Samuel Suggs

June 14 – Richard Mestler

June 17 – Laura Smith

June 18 – Vincent Malpica, Andrew Rapini

June 19 – Taylor Ramsey

June 21 – Jean DiDomenico, Kristen Webb

June 22 – Louise Barber, Donna Hammond, Emily Nye, Laura Nye Hagley

June 23 – Sean Brown

June 25 – Julie Sciolino

June 27 – Ruth Munson

June 28 – Mildred Anderson Barbara Mitchell

9. Happy Anniversary coming up:

June 13 – Barry and Jean Wood (1964)

June 15 – Scott and Viki Smith (1985)

June 18 – James and Linnea George (1988)

June 19 – Bill and Gail LaVigne (1982)

June 20 – Allen and Joan Lesswing (1953); Charles and Marion Wenner (1948)

June 22 – Charles and Joanne Gilbert (1968)

June 23 – Peter and Wendy Johnston (1984)

10. DRESS OUR PEOPLE PROJECT

The goal is to make 300 dresses and shorts for the children in Uganda. Our Uganda Mission team will be delivering these items in October. We need cotton fabric, cotton blend fabric, polyester/knit fabric, trims, rick rack and seam binding. Fabric should be 1 yard or more in length. We will be gathering to cut out more outfits and to do some sewing on Wednesday June 13 and Wednesday June 20 from 1 to 5 p.m. in Youth Hall. All are welcome. Contact Molly Butler 204-8993 for more information.

11. The BoodMobile will be at Christ Church **Friday, June 22 from 2 to 6 p.m.** Contact Geoff Hill at 316-1522 for sign up or you may do so between worship services on Sunday. Free hot dogs to all donors.

12. The UMM will be setting sail aboard the “Blizzard” on Saturday, July 14. Men will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Church and car pool to the Erie Basin Marina Dock “F”. Sign up ahead of time with Capt. Don Critoph at 832-4408. Journey is limited to the first 12 sailors.

13. **GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT: August 9 and 10.** The Leadership Summit is a 2 day seminar on leadership led and organized by the Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago, ILL. The Seminar is held via Satellite. The Staff (BJ, Sally, Rachel) will be attending the Summit in Syracuse and would love for more of you to join us. Cost is \$159 per person, plus travel, housing and meals (we plan to economize). Contact Rachel ASAP if you would like to go. Price goes up the first of July. NOTE FROM PASTOR BJ: This is the one event I try not to miss. We will hear leadership practitioners **from** academia, military, church, and industry.

14. UMW – Upper New York Cooperative School of Christian Mission will be at the Camp Asbury Retreat Center in Silver Lake, NY on July 26-28. See Peggy Bermudez or Beth Sweet for more information. Deadline for registration is July 1.

15. **OPERATION OVERBOARD VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS JULY 16-20 FROM 9:00 TO NOON: PRE-K TO 6TH GRADE**—The VBS is free and includes a Field Trip to the Aquarium on the 20th. Operation Overboard: Dare to Go Deep with God! – register through the website (www.Christchurchamherst.org) or call the church office 839-2460.

16. THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT in a Year: See Dr. B.J.’s comments on his blog www.drbjthoughts.blogspot.com. The readings for the next few weeks: June 12 – Acts 13; June 13 – Acts 14; June 14 – Acts 15; June 15 – Acts 16; June 18 – Acts 17; June 19 – Acts 18; June 20 -- Acts 19; June 21 – Acts 20; June 22 – Acts 21; June 25 – Acts 22; June 26 – Acts 23; June 27 – Acts 24; June 28 – Acts 25; June 29 – Acts 26; July 2 – Acts 27; July 3 – Acts 28; July 4 – Matthew 1; July 5 – Matthew 2.

17. SUMMER Adjustments:

Office Hours will be from 9:00 to 3:00 beginning June 18 and running through August 17. Hours will return to 9 to 5 on the 20th of August.

Dr. BJ will be on vacation June 14 through July 4 – Contact the Church office if you are in need of pastoral care.

Guest preachers in Dr. BJ’s absence: June 17 Roger Johnson; June 17 Rev. Gail Lewis; July 1 Rev. Jim Pollard

18. **MISSION NEWS AND NOTES**

1. Hands for New York – this week’s collection: **Everything and anything! – The official tally was over 1.8 million fed.**

2. Habitat Women Build is underway with 10 from Christ Church leading the way! Lynn Ramsey, Marg Bauza, Kathy Weaver, Dede Johnson, Lisa Lawson, Joanne Gilbert, Patty Keller, Pat Noyes, Inger Darling, and Peggy Bermudez are the Christ Church builders!

3. Courtney Cataudilla and Jessica Lawson are back from Nicaragua – watch for an opportunity to hear them tell their stories.

4. Christ Church Youth Fellowship is on its way to Confrontation Point Kentucky in July. Pray for them and their work. They are gathering tools

5. 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.

5. Several of our "Make a Difference – Be the Church" projects will be continuing. The "Dress our People" team is cutting, sewing and making clothing. See Peggy Nye or Molly Butler for more information or to help out.

If you would like to support the Christ Church Uganda Team or any of our Mission Teams directly: write a check to Christ UMC with the specific mission in the memo line.

19. The Uganda Mission team will be holding a FUND RAISER on Friday, September 14 at Christ Church – Watch for details. If you can help out let us know. We are going to have a dinner and a Silent Auction.

20. Congratulations to our Graduates (this is the list we have so far – if you know others please let us know!).

AMHERST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Sean Brown

Nathan Gowan – will be attending Rutgers University, Rutgers School of Engineering in the Fall. He also received a Division 1 Scholarship for Lacrosse

WILLIAMSVILLE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

Jamie Jackson – Jamie will be attending Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio where she will major in Psychology and Social Work

UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO, Buffalo, New York

Bradley Loliger – Masters in Social Work. Brad will be completing his graduate studies in Law and plans to work in Social work and Law.

SUNY ONEONTA, Oneonta, New York

Kristin Scaringi – a degree in Computer Art. Kristin's future plans are to find a job in her field.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, Evanston Illinois

Sam Suggs – Bachelor of Music Theory and Cognition. Sam will be attending Yale School of Music Graduate School where he will be studying Bass performance.

We are happy and proud of all of our graduates! Congratulations and God speed your next stages.

Getting ready to take some time off reminds me that we are approaching our first anniversary together. I wrote something about his for the Caller but have been thinking back to a year ago when I was packing up my house in Liverpool and making the trek to Amherst on the Niagara Frontier. I wanted to Thank the Christ Church family: You have been engaged, welcoming, encouraging and supportive. I am excited at the progress we made in our first year together and I am excited to think about where God is taking us. I am going to go away and rest, reflect, do some reading and writing. Play a little golf (OK more than a little) hang out with family and friends, take a road trip, catch up on my sleep and generally disengage for about 3 weeks. I will be praying for you all in my absence and would ask you to keep me in your prayers as well. The next stages of our push forward are already in conversation stages and planning stages. I am grateful to be your pastor and very excited to be travelling with you on this journey of faith.

Blessings,

BJ Norrix, missionary, lead servant, at rest (and play!)

(this e-mail is a communication ministry of the Christ United Methodist Church. If you do not wish to receive this e-mail please reply: remove!)

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