

**Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York
"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"
UPDATE
August 21, 2012**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH
9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship
10:00 – FaithXpress and Soul Strength and AOL will return September 9**

11:00 – Traditional Style Worship: Choir resumes in September

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:

The signs are all around us that we are ramping down out of summer. The Erie country fair has come and gone (the State Fair starts Thursday). Back to school sales have filled the market places (along with, sigh, the Halloween candy – I mean, really? Two months early?). We even caught a nice even chill this past week to remind us that sunshine and 85 does not last forever (unless, of course, you live in equatorial Africa). The last two weeks of August (the two weeks before my birthday) is inventory time for me. I have done this inventory for the past 35 years. I make space in these weeks to assess where I am spiritually, relationally, professionally, etc. I take time to see what is working and what is not working; what needs to change and what can stand pat; what needs to be renewed and what can be allowed to lapse. I believe it is vital for personal and spiritual growth, at least once a year, to take a long, hard, honest look at my life and make the necessary adjustments. How are you doing this late August?

Here is what is going on at Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was 97 (first time this year below 100). Between vacations, camps, back to college and all the rest a lot of us were away (you missed the best sermon that involved growing egg plant I've ever preached). Special thanks to Bill and Marge Bouza who provided special music and to Bill who led the musical side of worship for both Sunday gatherings.

2. This Sunday, August 26, I am preaching from Ephesians 6. Paul concludes his letter to the Ephesians by reminding them to be fully equipped for the challenges that are ahead. I once saw a sign in the Inner Hebrides that said “there is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing”. Are you dressed for spiritual success?

3. **HOLY LAND CLASSIC 2013** – January 28, 2013 a group (we are currently 8) of us will be visiting the Holy Land. The trip will include visits to Galilee, Nazareth, Jericho, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, the Jordan River and more. **Deadline for registration is approaching. Questions?** See BJ for more information. There is plenty of room for more. Base cost is \$2695 which includes round trip (JFK to Tel Aviv) air fare, ground transportation, guide and driver, hotel accommodations and two meals a day, plus entrance fees to all the historical and archeological sites.

4. The **Uganda Mission Team** would like to thank everyone for their generous donations. Over \$1500 has been donated directly to the mission team through your generosity. We are hoping to do many things while in Uganda – a youth rally, a medical clinic, resources for our students, etc. How many of them we are able to do will depend of the resources we are able to gather and muster. Here are some ways you can help and support us:

A. PRAY – PRAY FOR THE Five of us making the journey.

B. BIG FUND RAISER EVENT ON: September 14, 2012 from 6 – 8

1. **Spaghetti and Meatballs** comprise the menu for the evening (meatless sauce will also be available). \$7.50 will buy Spaghetti, salad, bread and beverage. Desserts will also be available. Tickets may be purchased through the church office (see Rachel) or on Sunday morning in the café.

2. **A Silent Auction** will be going on at the same time. Baskets, gift items, gift certificates, and more will be available for your silent bids. You do not need to be present to have the winning bid. We will call you. **Barb Critoph and Patti Bechtel are coordinating the Silent Auction: here is a note from Barb:** Patti and I are working on putting baskets together for Sept. 14. If you have donations please contact: Patti Bechtel (896-6313) & or Barb Critoph (832-4408) directly. Some suggestions for baskets are: Pet, pasta, holiday, kids, car, fall, ladies, movie, baking, men's, golf, etc. Donations can be left at the church or we will pick up. Thank you for your help. Barb Critoph

All proceeds will support our Uganda Mission Team: John Miller, Kathryn Weaver and Pastor BJ Norrix. They depart on October 1 for 17 days. Each team member has purchased their own plane ticket (\$1050) and we are raising funds to cover our on the ground expenses (so we are not a burden of any kind to our hosts) and to leave funds for the mission project.

C. The Mission team is also selling **Anderson's Coupon Books** for \$5. \$5 gets you a coupon book worth over \$60 in food and ice cream at any local Anderson's. Coupons are available through the Church office, any Mission team member or in the Café on Sunday's. The team keeps \$4 of the \$5 purchase price.

D. Direct donations to support the team should be made to “Christ UMC” and clearly marked “Uganda 2012” or put in the special “Uganda” envelopes at the church.

Over \$1400 has come in through direct donations as of Sunday 8/19. (THANK YOU!!)

E. Uganda Mission Team is Collecting Medical Supplies: If you have any of the following items and would be willing to donate them please contact John, Kathy or BJ BEFORE bringing them to church: Elastic bandages, Fever Thermometers, Glucometer, Microscope, Blood Pressure Cuff, Stethoscope Bathroom scale (metric if possible), Exam gloves, Tooth brush, Vitamins, Tylenol, **Imodium, Benadryl, Anti itch cream, 2x3 inch zip baggies, Amoxicillin, Bactrim** – we've decided it is better to acquire the medicines in Uganda than to try to carry them there – if you would like to contribute directly to the purchase of medicines see me.

F. Pray for the Uganda Team. BJ, Clair Mosher, Esther Keeney, Kathryn Weaver and John Miller as we prepare to go (**6 Weeks away**). **We depart on October 1.**

Did I remember to ask you all to pray?

5. Franklin Graham Rock The Lakes September 22 and 23 – this note from Bill Bauza

The Billy Graham Evangelical Association is reaching out in cities like Rochester in June, Green Bay in August and Ottawa in September. Buffalo's Coca Cola Field hosts our own "Rock The Lakes" beginning at 4 pm on both Saturday and Sunday September 22 and 23. Admission is free, with the retirement system out of this world! You can help by inviting your friends, co-workers, and neighbors to attend with you; forming a carpool is fun! Metro Rail is another opportunity to fellowship. Many local Churches have participated in sponsoring the event; many volunteers have been trained through the Christian Life and Witness course to help as counselors on the field, continuing as friendly liaisons between the conference and our local Churches. You can help! Pray for all the workers, the new believers, and the follow-up that will continue. Your financial support will ensure that all materials are available for distribution. Volunteers before and during the event will help with guest relations, directions, collecting and sorting information. To volunteer, call 716-932-7721. Rosemary Kochan and Bill Bauza have been preparing for this event. We invite you to journey with us, and be gracious to visitors who may be referred to our Church for follow-up and training. Christ Church may be used in the Neighborhood Discovery Group Training for adults and youth. The love of Christ that is so evident here at Christ Church can be shared with all we meet!

6. In our Prayers: Barb Mitchell (hip replacement on Thursday – is at Elderwood for rehab); Nicky Sebastiano, Barbara McCray, Katy Cady, Carmen Ticconi, Ross Markello, Diane Lovejoy, Ed Maker, Alicia Ticconi, Sandy Cumming, Bill Watson (back to church and making progress) – the Habitat Women Build Team, the Uganda Mission Team. Pray for the transition of our New Bishop, Mark Webb, pray for those looking for work, for those families in crisis and for all who are in harm's way around the world.

7. When is Pastor BJ available? Many of you have asked so here it is:

I like to pray with people before surgery, during crisis and other emergencies. If you would like for me to come to the hospital and pray with you before your surgery just let me know when and where and I will be there.

In an emergency call the Parsonage number (839-3260).

I go where I am invited – if you would like me stop by please let me know. I would love to come and see you. I know in the old days Pastors just showed up at people's homes. In today's world this does not work out too well (most of the younger folks are working and consider an unannounced visit an intrusion). If you want me to stop by just ask and I'll make arrangements to do so.

I am enjoying being pastor of Christ Church, Snyder and I am looking forward to getting to know all of you even better.

8. **GOING DEEPER:** The going deeper group, a group that will be experiencing the classic spiritual disciplines, will begin meeting on Sunday September 9 at 6:30 in the parlor at the Church. If you are planning to join us please contact me (Pastor BJ) as soon as possible so I can fill you in on what we will be doing. The book we will be working through is titled Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster – it is available in any good bookstore or through Amazon on line.

9. Happy Birthday this week:

August 21 – Kathy Webb

August 23 – Nancy Hess, Robert Nachbar, Clarence Spitzer

August 24 – Megan Weaver

August 25 – Chris Johnson

August 26 – Jeffrey Gelormini, Marcia Miller

August 27 – Sandy Cumming, Christopher Pollard

August 28 – Shaun Carrier

10. Happy Anniversary this week:

August 22 – Brad and Peggy Bermudez (31)

August 24 – Glenn and Beverley Hurst (49)

August 26 – Bill and Andrea Kearney (51)

11. This week at Christ Church

We returned to regular office hours today – Rachel is here from 9 to 5.

August 21 – tonight – Christian Education Team

12. UMW General Meeting – September 8 at 10:00 a.m. will feature the Horse and Buggy Quilters. Sally McCarthy will be displaying quilts, sharing stories around the quilt patterns said to have been used in the Underground Railroad in the 1800's. She will be providing some history on the Amish and quilting as well. Continental Breakfast will be provided for \$5 at the door.

13. COMING IN SEPTEMBER: **Thursday Bible Study to Resume: September 6**

The Thursday morning Bible study will resume on September 6 at (10:00 a.m.) in the Wesley room at the Church. Pastor BJ Norrix will be leading this class as Diane (and Chris) Klenk moved to the Ogdensburg, New York area this summer. This is an open group with open discussion and all are welcome.

14. COMING IN SEPTEMBER: **New Comer Orientation: September 6 6:00 to 8:00**

Are you new to Christ Church? Would you like to know some others who are new to the church family and community? Would you like to know more about Christ Church and how to become more involved? Call the Church office for reservations. We will serve a light supper at 6:00 and will conclude at 8:00.

We plan to receive new members on September 9.

15. HANDS FOR NY – The food collection for this week is **fruit juices and powdered drinks**. All non perishable food items are always welcome.

16. Coming soon:

September 6 – Thursday Bible Study resumes at 10:00 and New Comer Orientation is at 6:00

September 8 – UMW General Meeting at 10:00

September 9 – FaithXpress, Soul Strength, Youth Sunday School, and AOL resume

Coming in MID September – Talk with Expert series on Parenting (watch for more information!)

GOING DEEPER – begins meeting at 6:30 in the parlor.

September 14 – Uganda Team Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction – 6 to 8 p.m.

October 1 – Uganda Mission Team departs (returns the 17th)

October 5-7—Mature Years Ministry Autumn Days at Chautauqua Institution with Rev. Jim Pollard leading.

17. AMHERST NURSERY SCHOOL (which is housed at Christ Church) sent us the following:

Share the Joy of your child's first school experience at Amherst Nursery school located in the lower east wing of CUMC. We have dynamic programs for 2, 3, and 4 year olds as well as a Mommy and Me class for 18+ months. Parental involvement is key at ANS where parents "co-op" or assist in the classroom on a regular basis. Call Amy at 839-0298 to find out more about this wonderful education experience for your child and family. Registrations are now open for September 2012.

18. UMW is holding is 2013 planning and budget meeting on Tuesday August 28 (postponed from the 14th) in the Wesley room. All Christ Church women are welcome to come and share ideas and make plans.

19. The sanctuary boilers arrived today and installation is progressing (yea!).

I've been reading an excellent book by Dallas Willard titled The Divine Conspiracy. Among other things, Dr. Willard suggests that American consumerism has control of many American Christian churches. This consumerism, he suggests is revealed in how often we are controlled by our "likes and dislikes" at church rather than responding to the call to Discipleship. Becoming a disciple of Jesus is not an easy thing. Becoming a disciple requires me to begin to bend my will and desires to the ways of Christ. Becoming a disciple forces me out of the "what do I want" consumer model to the "what does Jesus intend" biblical model. It is a very different way of living our faith. I have long suspected that there is a deep part of each of us that earnestly desires more from our faith that deeply desires to grow spiritually and in our relationship with God. It is such a profoundly countercultural life style that few choose this path. My hope, as your pastor, is that more and more of us will take the deeper plunge. My prayer is that more and more of us will (as I said Sunday) will stop paddling about in the shallow end of the faith pool and sail for deep adventure: deep adventure in the life of prayer, in the life of love, in the life of mission and service, in all aspects of life.

See you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, missionary, lead servant, coach