

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York
"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"
UPDATE
September 19, 2012

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH
9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship

10:00 – FaithXpress and Soul Strength and AOL

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.drjthoughts.blogspot.com

Hi Everyone:

Thank you, all of you, for your most generous support of John Miller, Kathryn Weaver and I as we prepare to make our mission to Uganda. Friday's Spaghetti Dinner, silent auction, etc. fund raiser was such a great example of your support and encouragement. We raised \$2500+ for our mission projects in Uganda and our on the ground expenses. There are dozens of folks to thank but let me list a few who are representative of the whole. Thank you: Barb Critoph and Patty Bechtel who imagined, coordinated, arranged and set up the silent Auction – I know they had husbandly help and some help from many of you who made donations of goods and services – but Patti and Barb THANK YOU. Thank you to the Christ Church youth fellowship who worked hard on clean up (and leader Vicki). Thank you to Ron Corsaro who played jazz piano through the dinner and dessert (adding a very nice atmosphere). Thank you to Michele Sciolino for coordinating all of the dessert activities before at and after the dinner! Thank you to the Miller and Weaver families who all stepped up in a huge way. Thank you to Sally Pollard and Rachel Vaughan and Dave Wolf for their onsite and behind the scenes help in making this event such an unqualified success. Thank you to Peggy Bermudez and friends who have been staffing the presale ticket table at church and at the event. We served spaghetti to over 165 men, women and children (earning over \$900), we raised \$1300+ at the auction and another \$250 in desserts and free offerings. John, Kathy and I want to thank all of you who helped you were marvelous! Christ Church was buzzing on Friday night! And the influence of Christ Church in a remote place called Uganda just took a step forward!

Here is what is happening at church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was in the 130's with appreciation to the mission teams and our music teams and choir. We had 7 people worship with us this past Sunday who had never been with us before – remember to great all those around you and not just those you know.

2. This Sunday I am preaching from 1 Corinthians 12 a message titled “Parts is Parts”. Every Christ follower has been gifted by the Holy Spirit to serve in mission and ministry in some capacity. What are your gifts? What are you called to do for God through your local Church? Either this week or next we will be hearing from the youth mission team that travelled to Confrontation Point this past Summer . . . there is lots of special music in the works.

3. This Saturday and Sunday is **ROCK THE LAKES** – doors open at 3:00 at Coca Cola Field in Buffalo. Program runs from 4 to 9:30 both days. Admission is free with Franklin Graham (son of Billy and founder of Samaritan Ministries and Operation Christmas Child – that Shoe box ministry!) as evangelist and speaker. The bands and music are geared at a younger generation but there will be plenty for everyone. Contact Bill Bauza 837-2421 to arrange for carpool and transportation. (Thank you Bill for taking lead on this!)

4. The “Talk to the Experts” Partnering with Parents “Common Sense Parenting” scheduled for Saturday morning **is cancelled** due to lack of registration—watch for more in the future.

5. **Mature Years Ministry MYM** “Autumn Days” renewal, community and relaxation at Chautauqua Institution will be held October 5-7. Rev. Jim Pollard is the leader at this event. Cost is \$80 – use the registration form in Sunday’s bulletin.

6. This Week at Christ Church:

Wednesday at 7:30 – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday at 10:00 a.m. – Weekday bible Study in the Wesley Room

Thursday at 7:30 – Trustees meeting

Friday at 10:00 – Books Loved in the Wesley Room

7. In our **Prayers**: Carmen Ticconi in hospital; family and friends of Truman “Skip” Curthoys whose funeral was Saturday at Christ Church. Skip was 82 and was a member at Christ Church since 1960. His Brother, Irwin “Curt” Curthoys, died 2 weeks ago at the age of 92 and served as an usher at Christ Church. Pray for Nicky Sebastiano, Barbara McCray, Katy Cady, Alicia Ticconi, Ed Maker, Marian Steve, Ruth Kitson and Sandy Cumming. Remember to pray for the Habitat Women Build team and our Uganda Mission Team : BJ, John Miller Kathryn Weaver, Esther Keeney and Rev. Clair Mosher – they depart on October 1.

8. **DRESS OUR PEOPLE** – Packing Day is September 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. Contact Molly Butler (204-8993) if you have any questions.

9. **Greeters needed:** An important part of hospitality for any community is having people who will greet and welcome all comers on Sunday morning. Pam Lopez coordinates this vital ministry for Christ Church. If you can help by being a greeter call Pam at 741-3592.

10. **CAFÉ HELP needed:** The café is a welcoming place every Sunday morning. We gather for coffee and fellowship (and usually something sweet) before, between and after our Sunday morning worship celebrations. We need your help – sign up to set up food, beverages and supplies before the 9:00 worship celebration or to replenish supplies as needed and clean up at the end of the morning. **Signup sheet is in the café** – or call the church office. Many hands are willing to assist but we need someone “on point” each week. THANK YOU to all of you who have faithfully served your church through this vital hospitality ministry.

11. Making Strides to **End Breast Cancer:** The American Cancer Society is sponsoring the “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” walk on Sunday, September 30, beginning in Niagara Square, Buffalo. Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.. For more information contact Rachel at the Church office 839-2460. Together we can fuel the fight to end breast cancer! We are building a team from Christ church (they are having way too much fun coming up with a team name). See Rachel or Sally for more information. The Christ Church “Cupcakes” aka the c-cups are adding team members and appreciate your support.

You can join them in the walk or support their walking through direct donations.

12. **Happy Birthday** this week:

September 19 – Will Gowen, Jessica Lawson, Jonathan Miller

September 20 – Rob McCray, Sandy Paddock, Beth Reilly-Brown, Drew Smith, Hildegard Webber

September 24 – Lisa Malpica

September 25 – Danielle Keller

September 26 – Barbara Carier

13. **Happy Anniversary** this week:

September 21 Herb and Nora Townsend Wilber – 22 years

14. **Through the New Testament** in a year: follow the commentary on Dr. BJ’s blog at www.drjthoughts.blogspot.com

September 19 – 1 Corinthians 13

September 20 – 1 Corinthians 14

September 21 – 1 Corinthians 15

September 24 – 1 Corinthians 16

September 25 – Colossians 1

September 26 – Colossians 2

15. Sundoulos LVII – Men . . . Sundoulos' 57th quarterly gathering is Friday, October 5 from 6:45 to 9:00 at Primera Iglesia Metodista Unida at 62 Virginia St. in Buffalo. Speaker is Dr Rafael Lorada executive director of the NE Region of Prison Fellowship. His topic is "Let Us Rise Up and Build!" a free will offering will be received. Contact Bill Bauza for more information – 837-2421.

16. HANDS FOR NEW YORK – our ongoing food collection – this week: **Peanut Butter and Jelly!** All nonperishable food donations are appreciated.

17. **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 October 15. Questions?** See BJ for more information. There is plenty of room for more. Base cost is **\$2598** 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.

We are getting close to the deadline – if you are thinking about this but have not told me please contact me asap.

18. Coming Soon:

September 27 – Church Council Meeting

September 28 – MYM Board at Noon – Game Night at 7:30 p.m.

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

October 7 -- District Superintendent Rev. K. Wayne Butler is guest Preacher

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

October 12 – YOUTH GROUP SPONSORED Chivetta's Chicken Barbecue – 4-7 \$9 per dinner (take out or eat in). postponed from September 28.

October 14 – Children's Sabbath

October 19 – Fall Harvest Dinner

October 21 – M&M Sunday (Mission and Ministry)

Annual Church Conference 3:00

18. CROP WALK – is coming October 14 – meeting at the Amherst Community Church at 12:30 (walk begins at 1). Sign up this week to walk or support a walker.

Crop Walk raises funds to combat hunger locally, regionally and internationally. **See Sign up table in the Café on Sunday.**

Life gets a bit crazy from time to time. Sometimes, through no fault of our own, things just go sideways and we find ourselves in a frantic stretch to maintain "normalcy". Sometimes we

over schedule and find ourselves clinging to our sanity as we work to get it done. I have found over the years that people either strive to manage their lives in such a way that these crazy periods are minimal or do not occur at all. Or, people are striving to make a difference in so many ways and so many places that these crazy periods are inevitable. I remember the old adage “if you want to get something done ask a busy person” and am reminded of its essential truth. I have found in my own life that I am constantly in a state of gearing up and paring down. Most of the need to do this is not because I do not know how to say “no” – I do and am pretty good at it. No, most of the need to do this is simply the consequence of believing I can do more than I can. Put another way, I occasionally find myself getting up in the morning and saying in my prayers, “Lord, if you don’t help me today this is going to be a _____ (fill in your own favorite expression – dumpster fire, train wreck, etc.). Having said all of that I would not trade these stretches for anything in the world. It is in the world spinning, frantic, seasons that I am most aware of my dependence of God. It is in the world spinning, frantic, seasons that I am most aware of the difference my life can make. I do not, like Bill Hybels so eloquently put it, ever want to reach out a well manicured and soft and un-calloused hand and grasp the nail scarred hands of my savior. So, here’s to taking care of our selves . . . but, more importantly, here’s to spending our lives and using them in ways that matter and have significance and have an impact on the transformation of the world.

I’ll see you when the church gathers,

BJ Norrix, missionary, lead servant, crazy person (at least for the next 12 days).