

Christ United Methodist Church
Snyder, New York
"Living Christ's ways and exploding with love and service"
UPDATE
September 25, 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.drbitthoughts.blogspot.com

Hi Everyone:

A week from now Kathy and John and I will be on our way. The week before a overseas trip like this is a bit detailed focus. We have to pack our suitcases (and they cannot weigh more than 50 pounds). We have to pack our mission supplies (medical, dress our people clothing etc.) and it cannot weigh more than 50 pounds per bag. We have money to arrange, transportation to double check and, at least in my case, sermons to prepare, bible lessons to prepare and all the rest. We do covet your prayers and ask you to keep on praying until we return (October 17). John, Kathy and I will be commissioned this Sunday as part of our morning worship – come and pray over us. Pray for our families and for the good people of Uganda with whom we go to work. Even though this is my 7th journey into Africa, I am quite excited about what God can and will do through us on the journey. Please pray for Pastor Clair Mosher and Esther Keeney as well as they make final preparations for this journey.

1. Last Sunday attendance was in the 140's. Special appreciation to the youth group (and their leaders) for sharing with us their mission experiences of this past Summer.

2. This Sunday I am preaching a sermon titled "Christ Centered" which draws from Colossians 1:15-20. As Christians (a word that means like Christ) the object of our faith is the Son of God, Jesus Christ. He is the focus of our worship and his teaching and life is the driving force in our lives.

We will commission the Uganda Mission Team this week.

3. Rev. Paul Emery, Trinity UMC on Niagara Falls Blvd. will be covering for me while I am in Uganda. If you need pastoral care call Christ Church's office 839-3260 and Rachel or Sally will contact Paul should he be needed.

Worship on October 7 will be led by Rev. K. Wayne Butler, Niagara Frontier District Superintendent

Worship on October 14 will be the "Children's Sabbath" led by the UMW

4. This Thursday at 7:00 is the Church Council. All are welcome to attend.

5. This Week at Christ Church:

Tuesday the 25th (only 90 days till Christmas)

Deborah Circle at Noon

Dress our People packing meeting at 6:00 in Youth Hall

Wednesday the 26th

Church Choir rehearsal at 7:30

Thursday the 27th

Weekday Bible Study at 10:00

Gifts and Graces at 6:00

Church Council at 7:00

Friday the 28th –

MYM Board at Noon –

Game Night at 7:30 p.m.

6. This Sunday **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.

7. I have been talking to a lot of **Cancer Survivors** in and around Christ Church. There are a lot of you. I thought it might be helpful for those of you who are survivors to tell the rest of us how we can help you (and what people do that you find unhelpful). I know there is a tendency, when we are with someone who has cancer and is undergoing treatment to do one of three things: 1) ignore the subject entirely; 2) try and say that perfect thing to "make it all better"; or 3) to tell our own tales of woe and horror. I'm pretty sure none of these are helpful. So, **Cancer Survivors** can you help the rest of us out? Contact Rachel Vaughan at 839-2460 (or

respond to this e-mail) and we'll compile a Christ Church – “**Survivor's advice booklet**” for all of us to use.

8. This Sunday: Bishop Mark Webb will be installed as the Bishop of The Upper New York Conference of the United Methodist Church. Installation service is to take place at 4:00 at Hendricks Chapel at Syracuse University.

9. As many of you know Carmen Ticconi has relocated to Ohio to be near her daughter Carlina and her grandchildren. Carmen is in a hospice room at the Center Ridge Health Campus. Alicia has made the move as well. Here are their addresses:

Carmen Ticconi
38600 Center Ridge Road Room 212B
North Ridgeville, OH 44039

Alicia Ticconi
9352 Victoria Lane
North Ridgeville, OH 44035

We continue to hold Carmen and Alicia and family in our prayers.

10. In our prayers: Nicky Sebastiano, Barbara McCray, Katie Cady, Carmen Ticconi, Ed Maker, Marian Steve, Beth Sweet, Ruth Kitson and Sandy Cumming. Remember to pray for the Habitat Women Build Team and the Uganda Mission Team.

11. **Ruth Kitson** is now living with her son in Hamburg: Her current address: 18 Randall Terrace, Hamburg, NY 14075

12. HANDS FOR NEW YORK: September 30 – we are collecting RICE.

13. SUNDAY, September 30 – Geoff Hill will be holding an information Meeting about the shingles' vaccine following both worship services in the library. A shingles' clinic will be held at the Williamsville UMC on October 30. For more information contact Geoff at 839-3052.

14. HABITAT for HUMANITY Women Build dedication will be held on Sunday October 7 at 1:00 p.m. at the building site. Bill and Marg Bauza will be providing music for the dedication service. Christ Church will present its annual check for \$1000 to help support this vital mission. All are welcome.

15. THE YOUTH CHIAVETTA's BBQ has been postponed to October 12 from 4-7 (\$9 per).

16. Happy Birthday this week:
September 24 – Lisa Malpica

September 25 – Danielle Keller
September 26 – Barbara Carier
September 27 – Jean Wood
October 2 – Carolyn Day, Todd Evans, Bradley Loliger, Elleigha Nye

17. I have no Anniversaries listed for this week.

18. **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.

19. **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.

20. **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.

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

September 25 – Colossians 1
September 26 – Colossians 2
September 27 – Colossians 3
September 28 – Colossians 4
October 1 – 2 Timothy 1
October 2 – 2 Timothy 2

22. 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.

23. **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.

24. Coming Soon:

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 – UMW Fund raiser

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

Annual Church Conference 3:00

25. 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.**

Parting Thoughts

As I was preparing for my first Uganda journey, about 5/6 years ago, I was whining a bit about long air plane rides and “substandard conditions.” About that time I ran across an account of an English Clergyman who was traveling to the Upper Nile Region (aka Uganda) as a missionary in 1890. According to this pastor’s account, in preparation for his mission he sold his house and all his possessions, he wrote out his last will and testament, and he prepared for a journey that he assumed he would never return home from. The journey from London to Lake Victoria took just over a year. The journey was to sail to Cairo and then sail up the 4000 mile long Nile river portaging around the various waterfalls and rapids. Most 19th century missionaries never returned and a significant percentage died on the journey. Kathy, John, Clair, Esther and I will be inconvenienced for about 34 hours on an airplane (round trip) and 7-8 hours in a van. We will have fairly modern conveniences and protection from difficulties. When the travel gets a bit wearisome I always think about this pastor from 120 years ago and say “suck it up Norrix, you got it easy on the travel end!”

I believe that somewhere in every Christian there beats the heart of an adventurer, an explorer and a daring believer who will follow God’s call no matter how different or how odd or how “risky” it might seem when compared to the hum drum of our day to day lives. Somewhere in the heart of every Christian there beats the heart of a lion or lioness that

desires above all to live the unfettered and consequence making life. I don't claim to be all that brave and I don't claim to have anywhere near the courage that 1890 clergyman had. What I do claim is a desire to follow Jesus to not count the cost and to serve wherever, whenever and however I can. That's probably outrageously bold of me but having taken the step of faith I cannot imagine living any other way.

I'll see you when the Church gathers,

BJ Norrix, missionary, lead servant, bold person (and getting bolder by the day)