

May - June, 2006 Newsletter

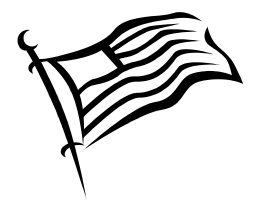


Memorial

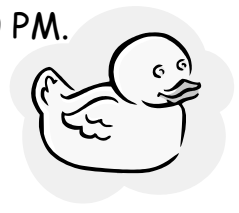
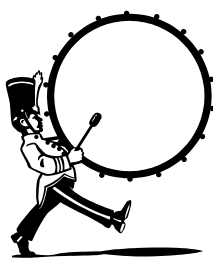
Day in the

Park

Come join neighbors, rain or shine, to watch the Byron Memorial Day Parade. It starts at Terry Street, 11:00 AM on Monday, May 29th. Following the parade there will be a ceremony at the Byron Cemetery.



Entertainment will follow at the Byron Presbyterian Church Park. There will be food, games, local booths, raffles, and a plant sale (*Contact Laura Platt 548-2245 to arrange table space*). For a special treat there will be music by the Flint Hill Folk (sponsored by the Byron-Bergen Library through a grant with GO-Art). And don't forget the Byron Park Committee's Duck Race at 2:30 PM.



INSIDE: PEOPLE, NEWS, EVENTS!!!

Church Information

Sunday Worship & Sunday School: 9:45 AM

Church Office: 548-2800

[byronfpc@localnet.com]

Church Web Page: www.byronfpc.org

Pastor: James Renfrew (548-7704 home, 494-1847

Stone Church, 548-2800 Byron Church)

[jrenfrew@rochester.rr.com]

Clerk of Session: James Lundmark (948-9336)

[lundmark@localnet.com]

Treasurer: Robin Glazier (548-2625)

[rglazier@brockport.edu]

Music Director: Elizabeth Weber (494-1545)

Youth Ministry: Valerie Liles (356-4193)

[cliles@rochester.rr.com]

Board of Trustees: Ron Glazier (548-2625)

Sexton: Luan Riner (548-2428)

Inside-Out Prayer

With last issue's "encouragement for "Upside-Down Prayer", it naturally follows that we would prescribe "Inside-Out Prayer"! You might think this is the old verse "Here's the church, and here's the steeple, open the doors and see all of the people", with your folded hands opening up. But this is what we have in mind: think of your prayers moving from deep inside your heart to the outside world. Prayer is not just a means to personal faith, peace, wholeness and balance – it also intends to transform the world around us. Prayer beginning on the inside moving to the outside is not a form of magic, but a way of encouraging more and more to take notice of what God intends for this world, and what God is doing to accomplish those intentions through people like you as you prayer!

Our Prayer Chain is ready to pray "inside-out" with you, to pray for you, to pray with you, for your family, for our community, that the whole world will delight in God's love and care. You can initiate the Prayer Chain anytime by calling Laura Platt (548-2245) or Jean Roda (494-2417).

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From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

In every team sport only one team is left at the end of the season with victory, the others are all defeated. The Buffalo Bills made it to the Supwerbowl four times, but four times they lost and



my California brothers-in-law delighted in calling the Bills and their fans "losers".

So is your life an experience of victory or defeat? I'm referring to victory or defeat at home or on the job. I've seen defeated people in my life. I've seen a close friend defeated by alcoholism. I've seen a family defeated by poverty. I've seen a church defeated by its rough neighborhood. Sometimes by things of our own doing, sometimes by things that have been done to us.

Victory and defeat ... it's a topic in a reading from the Letter of John: "... every child of God is able to defeat the world. And we win victory over the world by means of our faith. Who can defeat the world? Only the person who believes that Jesus is the son of God."

Why would God want us to defeat the world? The world and everything in it was created by God and is filled with God's love and promise. How could defeating a world of wonder and beauty be a victory?

Understanding the meaning of these verses requires us to get into John's head. In his day, to be a Christian was filled with danger. In our day becoming a Christian is a time for celebration and joy. In John's time, becoming a Christian meant you could be harassed, arrested, tortured, and even killed for your beliefs. John talks about victory and defeat in relation to a world that seems set on destroying the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ, his astounding return from death, is what motivates John in talking about victory - not winning the lottery, not getting your way in an argument, not winning the state championship, not beating up an enemy. He means that God's love, hope and peace can never be defeated.

To tell you the truth, much of the time I don't think about victory or defeat in my own life - I just plug along doing the best I can. But when things really matter, at the side of a sick friend, in losing a job, during a storm that ruins the crop before it can be harvested, feeling exasperation for peace talks that have fallen apart, John has us daring to dream of success when failure and defeat seem inevitable and unstoppable.

"Every child of God is able to defeat the world". So what I find in these verses is a feeling, not a fact, a feeling that God can help you and me face impossible odds, impossible situations, impossible challenges.

In Peace,

Jim Renfrew, Pastor

Preaching Themes for May & June

MAY 7 I John 3:1-16-24 "Don't Let God's Love Disappear"

MAY 14 I John 4:7-11 "Thinking in Circles"

MAY 21 I John 5:1-6 "Against the Odds"

MAY 28 I John 5:9-13	"Know What You Have"
JUN 4 Jonah	"Back on Course"
JUN 11 Mark 3:20-35	"Binding the Strong Man"
JUN 18 Mark 4:26-34	"A Healthy Church"
JUN 25 Mark 4:35-41	"The Other Side"

Deacons

We would like to remind everyone that we send cards to anyone who would benefit from having a card sent from us. All we need is the person's name, address and an idea of what kind of card you would like sent. There are papers to fill out this information on the back table in the church and on top of the mailboxes in the hallway.

Your deacons: *Linda Engle, Jeanne Sloat, and Tracine Lundmark, Sharon Buczek, Kathy George, Sara George, Harley George, Jane Ezard, and Melanie Nesbitt.*

The Easter season is always a busy time for the deacons. This year, with the help of our Sunday school children, the deacons made and distributed 18 baskets to our friends and shut-ins. Thank you to all who helped in this endeavor.



Please continue your contributions for the Salvation Army food pantry, all are appreciated. Follow the **Emergency Food Alphabet!** On the dates shown bring in a food item that begins with the letter shown! MAY 7 "E", MAY 14 "F", MAY 21 "G", MAY 28 "H", JUN 4 "I", JUN 11 "J", JUN 18 "K", JUN 25 "L".

We have been working on the possibility of starting a church library. This would be available to all members of the church, children and adults. More information to come.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from a visit, meal, etc., please contact one of the deacons. We are always willing to help. *[Kathy George & Tracine Lundmark]*

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Make a Joyful Noise!

We have enjoyed the music presented by the "Joyful Noise Choir" We are looking for youth of all ages to participate with instruments and voices. Please contact Tamara Hillabush-Walker (548-7303) if interested. Practices are for 15

minutes after Sunday worship and at 9:00 AM on those Sundays when music is to be presented during worship.

Church & Community News

We are praying for *George Toal* (returned to GCNH following surgery in April), *Eleanor Johnson* (home after a brief hospital stay), *Doris Fuller* (on-going medical treatment), *Ruth and Jerry McCracken* (on-going medical care), *Jim Moore* (Helen's husband receiving medical care), *Nelson Stamp* (medical care), *Shirley Mahon* (cancer treatment), *Sharon Keller* (Liz Weber's sister-in-law), *Sharon and Ed Buczek* (Sharon's mother and step-father need a lot of support, and Ed's mother recently died), *Jane Ezard* (tests), *Samantha Lane* (possible surgery).

And we always have prayers for *Jan Vanwyngaarden and George Toal* (at GCNH), *Art & Erma Weldon* (Erma is having trouble walking), *Doris Fuller, Beverly Dusing* (Valerie Liles' mother at the Village Green), *Ole Stewart.*

Congratulations to *David and Marilyn Liles* - great-grandchild Draven born at the end of April.

Continuing prayers for *PFC Susie Blair* (US Army, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina). Congratulations to *David Kenward*, for Geography Bee accomplishments.

www.byronfpc.org



Find out the latest information about the Byron Presbyterian Church at our new web page. All you have to do is enter "www.byronfpc.org" in your computer and our church home page will appear.

The web page includes the latest news about church events and activities, photos, sermons, and historical items. There are e-mail links to the Pastor, Church Secretary and Youth Ministry Coordinator. There is also a place where anyone visiting the web page can leave prayer concerns and comments.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

MAY 3 Benjamin Britt

MAY 4 Leanna Liles, Jessica Holly

MAY 5	Kennedy White
MAY 7	Susan Blair
MAY 8	Jill Szydowski
MAY 10	Taylor Stefaniak
MAY 15	Jamie Szydowski
MAY 19	Gina Schelemanow
MAY 20	Emily George
May 26	Teagan Mathes
MAY 31	Christopher Johnson
JUNE 1	Jordan, Lacey & Larissa Sloat Lauren Hughes
JUNE 2	Jim Renfrew
JUNE 5	Warren Leaton
JUNE 6	Lester Barnard, Dale Shuknecht
JUNE 10	Katelyn George
JUNE 12	Gwen George
JUNE 17	Kenleigh Stefaniak, Joe White
JUNE 18	Elizabeth Shuknecht
JUNE 22	William Tyler, Sarah Shuknecht, Liz Weber, Elizabeth Wilson
JUNE 23	Paul Riner
JUNE 25	Kay Johnson
JUNE 26	Connor Nesbitt



Anniversaries

MAY 18	Ron and Cheryl Toal
MAY 30	Art and Erma Weldon
JUNE 5	David and Jill Szydowski
JUNE 8	Marc and Pam Kenward
JUNE 9	Pam and Twilly Lynch
JUNE 10	Todd and Jeanie Sloat
JUNE 26	Jerry and Ruth McCracken Doug and Laura Platt

Did we leave you out by mistake? Did we forget a member of your family? Please leave your birth dates and anniversary dates at the church office, and we will be sure to include you next time!

The Membership Committee is taking digital photos of church members and friends on the first Sunday of each month. With these photos we will be constructing a "Wall of Fame" in the back of the church to help us all match faces and names. No need to get a haircut or a perm - these are meant to be candid!

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One Great Hour of Sharing

Many thanks to *Luan Riner, Don and Marilyn Britt*, and *David Franke* for sharing "minutes for mission" with us in the Sundays prior to Easter. We appreciate them taking the time to share their experiences and their outlook on mission and its importance in relation to One Great Hour of Sharing. This offering often brings to mind work in overseas countries, but through Don's and Marilyn's eyes, we were able to see that One Great Hour of Sharing also helps victims of natural disaster (Hurricane Katrina) in our own country. All of the minutes for mission were enlightening and informational.

To date, we have received an amount of \$301.00 from adult collections for One Great Hour of Sharing. Children's fish banks have not yet been counted, but results will be reported in the church bulletin. We thank each and every person that contributed to this effort! [*Pam Kenward. Mission Committee*]

Presbytery Opportunities

Resource Saturdays are special courses at the Presbytery Resource Center, 1190 Winton Road South, Rochester NY (near corner of Winton and Monroe): **CORE VALUES IN A POLARIZED WORLD**, Saturday, May 13, 2006 9:30-11:30 AM, with Rev. Jimmy Reader. Are you disturbed by the growing polarization in the church and in our nation? Are your basic values threatened by what you see happening? Do you want to know what you can do? This seminar is for you if you want to be able to talk to people about your values rather than just react to theirs. In this 2-hour interactive seminar, you will have opportunity to learn and practice some skills to help make the world a safer place for everyone. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Thursday, May 11, 2006. ALL COURSES ARE FREE! TO REGISTER, CONTACT SUSAN ORR AT 242-0099 or sorr@pbygenval.org**

Spiritual Renewal: An invitation to pastors and laity seeking spiritual energy and renewal: The Reverend Wayne Muller Facilitating a weekend of events focusing on Spiritual Vitality in Congregational Transformation **May 4 - 6, 2006**, Calvary St. Andrew's Presbyterian Parish, 68 Ashland Street Rochester, New York 14620. A detailed brochure can be found in the church office.

Thank You

"Thank you for your support of future Presbyterian Church (USA) pastors, educators, chaplains, scholars, spiritual directors and other church professionals by contributing to the Theological Education Fund last year. In 2005, more than 2100 congregations contributed a total of \$2,200,000 to the fund, the only denomination-wide source of financial support for our PCUSA seminaries. In a year where there were so many urgent needs for disaster relief, we are especially grateful for your generosity. We appreciate your encouragement and prayers - and for understanding that it takes seminaries and churches together to develop strong pastoral leaders ... for generations to come." [signed by the presidents of the eleven PCUSA-related seminaries]

"Thank you for the lovely Easter box of goodies. I'm enjoying everything very much. I appreciate your thinking of me." [Marian Shepard]

"We would like to thank the 'Easter Bunny's Helper' for the nice Easter basket." [Erma & Art Weldon]

Bike-a-Thon, May 13th

The St. Jude Bike-a-Thon takes place on Saturday, May 13th, from 9:00 until 11:15 AM at the Byron Town Park. The route follows the old railroad grade, one mile out and one mile back, for a total of ten miles maximum (or fewer if you wish - there is also a short route for tricycles and strollers!). St. Jude's is a children's hospital in Memphis focusing on cancer treatment, that never turns away a child due to inability to pay. Sponsor sheets for bike riders of all ages are available at the church or Gillett Hardware. For more information, please call **Laura Platt** (548-2245).



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Bible Study for Young & All

On March 12 we began an after-worship study of the Presbyterian Church USA "I Know My Bible" curriculum. It is the same study that teens are using in their after school meetings. We have several adults enjoying this program. New participants are welcome at any time. Please join us for this exploration of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation! We meet downstairs in the Fellowship Hall, right after church for one hour. Each participant receives a study manual and there is no mandatory homework! At the end of each unit you will receive a special bookmark for use in your Bible that reminds you of what to find in each book of the Bible. You can be a silent participant or an active one - it's designed for all! [Valerie Liles]



Christian Education

CE is almost done for the year. I would like to encourage our teachers not to give up on us yet. We have about one month left. Please sign up to teach if you are able during May. Children's Sunday will be June 11, 2006. June 4th, 2006 will be our "FUN DAY". Tracy has some fun games and things to do. I encourage all of the youth and friends that came with them to come back on Children's Sunday. All the teachers too. Don't forget about Memorial Day in the Church Park. CE will have some kind of yummy treat there. Thank you, everyone, for your support throughout the year. I truly appreciate it. [Tracine Lundmark, CE Committee]



Tables & Chairs



With graduation parties and other special summer activities coming up here is information about borrowing tables and chairs: Folding tables and chairs may be loaned to church members free of charge. Non-members are charged a fee of \$2 per table plus \$2 for each set of five chairs. Those wishing to borrow these must make arrangements well in advance with the Church Secretary, 548-2800. Please note: only the older tables may be borrowed from the

church. Borrowed items must be returned within 24 hours.

Ceiling & Wall Help Needed

Trustees Need You - do have skills working with ceiling tiles, or wall paper? Trustees would like to repair ceiling tiles in the Women's Rest Room and rain-damaged wallpaper in the front entryway. Please speak to Ron Glazier if you can help! [*Ron Glazier, Trustees*]



Hot Dog Sale

Our Hot Dog Sale will take place the weekend of July 7, 8 & 9 at Wal-Mart (Jubilee has closed). To volunteer for a shift, please contact *Vicky Truax* (494-1242).

The "Gospel of Judas"

Despite sloppy language usage in the media, no credible expert really believes that **The Gospel of Judas** was written by Judas. It is "authentic" only in the sense that it is a genuine **Gnostic** document written by someone about 100 years after the death of Judas. There were many such documents and so-called 'gospels' written in the second and third century. Biblical Scholar James Orr defined **Gnosticism** as "the fantastic product of the blending of certain Christian ideas ... with speculations and imaginings derived from a medley of sources (Greek, Jewish, Parsic; philosophies, religions, theosophies, mysteries) in a period when the human mind was in a kind of ferment... It involves, as the name denotes, a claim to 'knowledge,' knowledge of a kind of which the ordinary believer was incapable, and in the possession of which 'salvation' in the full sense consisted" (*Early Church*, p. 71). Here are some helpful web links:

On Gnosticism:

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/06592a.htm>

Biblical Passages Speaking of Judas:

<http://www.religioustolerance.org/gospj2.htm>

Download and read the so-called "Gospel of Judas":

http://www9.nationalgeographic.com/lostgospel/_pdf/GospelofJudas.pdf

[Rev. Mike Capron, First Presbyterian Church of Ogden]

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Memorial Day

On Monday, May 29th, the Byron Memorial Day parade starts at 11:00 AM. Immediately following the parade there will be activities for all ages in the park next to the church, including a plant sale, grill food, and games for all ages. From 1:00 - 2:30 PM there will be live music. Please contact *Laura Platt* (548-2245) if you would like to arrange free table space of your own.

Nursery School News



Meet our Byron Nursery School Teacher: *Roxanne Noeth*. She is a NYS certified teacher and has been with the Nursery School in this role for six years. She lives in Byron with her husband and two children. Roxanne is a member of the St. John Fisher Sports Hall of Fame, in recognition of her basketball skills. Another interesting fact about Roxanne is that she is a graduate of the Byron Nursery School!

The Nursery School is taking registrations for the 2006-2007 year right now! There will be classes for 3 year olds on Monday and Wednesday mornings, for 4 year olds on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, as well as Thursday morning. The \$30 registration fee is applied to the annual tuition. Contact *Paula Hohn* at 548-9051 or *Laura Platt* at 494-2245 for more information or applications.

A beautiful "Hand Print" quilt will be raffled on Memorial Day for the benefit of the Nursery School: 1 chance for \$1, or 3 for \$2.00. For tickets, please call the Nursery School at 548-2800.