

March – April 2008 Newsletter

Easter Is In the Air!



**Palm Sunday -
March 16, 9:45 AM - "Hosanna!"**

**Maundy Thursday
March 20, 6:00 PM (in the Dining Room)**



**Easter Sunrise
March 23, 7:30 AM (at Byron
Presbyterian Church)**

**Easter Breakfast
8:00 AM (at Byron Presbyterian Church)**



**Easter Sunday
9:45 AM - "He's Alive!"**

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*
Clerk of Session: *James Lundmark*
Treasurer: *Robin Glazier*
Organist: *Elizabeth Weber*
Board of Trustees: *Ron Glazier*

Sexton: *Rhonda Hickey*
Secretary: *Janet Pike*

Under Construction

We will be rebuilding the Prayer Chain over the next several months. If you want to become a new link or repair one that is broken, please contact Laura Platt (548-2245) or Jean Roda (548-2417). You can also call them with your prayer, so that everyone can pray with you.



Preaching Themes for March & April

MAR 2	John 9:1-41	"Blaming"
MAR 9	John 11:1-45	"Yes, But ..."
MAR 16	Palm Sunday	Bill Ellis preaching
MAR 23	John 20:1-18	"Emptiness & Fullness"
MAR 30	John 20:19-31	"Fear and Joy"
APR 6	Acts 2:14a,36-41	"What Shall We Do?"
APR 13	Acts 2:42-47	"Signs & Wonders"
APR 20	Acts 7	"What Stephen Saw"
APR 27	Acts 17:22-31	"Not Far"

Rev. Renfrew's office hours are normally Tuesday 3-6 pm and Wednesday 10 am to 1 pm. You can easily make an appointment with him at a more convenient time by calling him at home 638-6679 or on his cell phone 813-2934.

From the Pastor



Dear Friends,

Our community recently experienced a terrible tragedy this past month, in which Victoria and Christopher Claus lost their lives in a traffic accident not far from our church. As the Byron-Bergen Superintendent of Schools said to a reporter, no words can adequately explain or resolve all of our questions, but we know that the ability to move forward comes from the strength of a community coming together.

In the days that followed we saw how many people were putting the grieving parents and grandparents of the children at the center of their prayers and intentions for the future. I noticed how quickly the children who suddenly lost their dear friends found the beginning of a healing process by remembering the special things about Christopher and Victoria, with a plan to share those special stories, pictures, and photos with the parents. I realized how overwhelming the crash scene was for "first responders", but I was pleased to learn that they do a debriefing afterwards to begin their own

healing. I saw how the school was focused on creating opportunities for students and teachers to grieve and share.

No words can explain what happened, but there are many words – loving words, helping words, caring words – that we will use to move ahead with one another.

In the Hope and peace of Jesus Christ,

Jim Renfrew, Pastor

Session Notes

Bill Ellis, an elder at the Wyoming Presbyterian Church, is serving as a Certified Lay Pastor intern at our church this spring.

New elders ordained and installed on February 3rd: **Eric George, Jan Kent, Vicky Truax** (second term). New Deacons ordained and installed: **Beth Wilson, Bridgette Yaxley, Faline Tyler**. New Trustees: **Dorothy Myers, Robin Shuknecht, Mark Dewey** (second term).

The 2008 Budget was approved. **Robin Glazier** was re-elected Treasurer, and **Jim Lundmark** was re-elected as Clerk of Session. [**Jim Lundmark, Clerk of Session**]

One Great Hour of Sharing

Did you find the One Great Hour of Sharing offering envelope enclosed with this newsletter? Our Byron Presbyterian Church Mission Committee urges you to make a generous donation to this important cause. Nearly every crisis you've heard about in the news – Hurricane Katrina, drought in Africa, war in the Darfur, the Indian Ocean tsunami – becomes an opportunity for the Presbyterian Church to provide immediate relief assistance, as well as long-term community development.

We encourage you to make your donation to One Great Hour of Sharing by Easter Sunday, March 23rd. Fishbanks are available for any child or adult who needs one.

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and development, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

Of the money received, 36% is dedicated to the Presbyterian Hunger Program, while Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Self Development of People receive 32% each. [**Pam Kenward, Mission Committee**]

Spring Mission Project!

On Sunday, April 20th, the Mission Committee invites you to spend a few hours preparing a meal for the residents of Cameron Community Ministries in Rochester. Each day of the week large numbers of children and adults receive a hot meal at Cameron. Sunday is a special day, with a meal and brief worship service (conducted by us!). We have room for a limited number of youth and adult volunteers. Please let us

know that you would like to participate. [Pam Kenward, Mission Committee]

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Please contact the church office if you would like to participate in or support this ministry of love. There is no charge for a shawl – they are a labor of love - except that we welcome donations of 3 skeins (same color) of yarn for each prayer shawl. More than 40 shawls have been offered to people in the church and community.

www.byronfpc.org



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

Did you miss Sunday’s service? Look for the sermon here! Also, we are now featuring on our web page direct links to the testimony of Presbyterian mission workers serving in a variety of interesting places around the world.



Deacons



The Deacon's are collecting items for shut-ins for Easter. Suggested items include: small bottles of lotion or body wash, stamps, small note cards, candy, figurines, etc. The list is at the back of the church, and all items need to be to the church by Sunday March 9th. Church youth are decorating the baskets and making cards for them. The next Deacon Meeting is going to be March 9th, right after church. We will be assembling the items collected for the Easter Baskets.

Please continue your contributions using the Emergency Food Alphabet! On the dates shown bring in a food item that begins with the letter shown! MAR 2 “V”, MAR 9 “W”, MAR 16 “X”, MAR 23 “Z”, MAR 30 “A”, APR 6 “B”, APR 13 “C”, APR 20 “D”, APR 27 “E”. Contributed food items are delivered to the emergency food program of Genesee County Churches United at Salvation Army in Batavia. [Pam Lynch, Moderator, Deacons].

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Byron Youth Group

Spring Mission Project! – Sunday, April 20th, 3:00 - 6:00 PM – at Cameron Community Ministries in Rochester. We will help prepare a meal for 80 children and adults, and offer a brief worship service. Sign-up with Pam Kenward.

Mission Madness - Saturday, April 26, 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM, Gates Presbyterian Church. Mission Madness is a “hands-on”

mission workday. Washing windows, cleaning up a basement or yard, playing with children, visiting the elderly, or feeding the hungry - it is done in the spirit of caring. Mission Madness is for youth in grades 6-12 and adult advisors.

Groups must bring one adult driver for every car load of youth. Cost is \$5.00 each to be paid with group registration form (morning snacks and lunch included!) Registration fees are due at the church by Sunday, April 20th.

Joyful Noise - Practices are for 15 minutes after Sunday worship and at 9:00 AM on the third Sunday of the month when music is to be presented during worship. Please contact *Tamara Hillabush-Walker* if interested.

Paper Retriever Program – We want everyone’s newspaper, magazines, office and school papers, shopping catalogs, mail, envelopes, folders, fax and copy paper, colored paper! Can we collect 4 tons or more per month????? We (the youth group) get paid \$15 per ton – it’s FREE MONEY! Ask your family and friends for ALL OF THEIR PAPER! Bring it to the bins behind the church – it’s that easy! No cardboard, please.



Summer Mission Project – we’re still working on the exact summer dates – but we are planning to take church youth on a mission trip to the Albion area. We plan to work with migrant children at Holley Agribusiness Child Development, and at Project Life with children from Afghanistan, Chechnya and Bosnia who are recovering from war-trauma. Several other projects are being considered, depending upon the number who sign on! Many thanks to all helped with our Spaghetti Dinner at the end of February, a mission trip fundraiser.

Church & Community News

Erma Weldon passed away in January. It was a blessing, and she was ready, in her eagerness to reunite with her husband in heaven. The Byron Presbyterian Church is grateful for the love Erma shared with her husband, church and community.

Our good friend *Dale Baldwin* has moved to a new home after living for many years with George and Anita Hillabush, who are beginning to phase-out their involvement with Lifetime Assistance. It is not likely that we will see Dale again, so we are preparing a big poster to send to him with lots of photos of the people of our church. Dale has a great love of prayer, singing, and the Bible (his favorite book). Dale was baptized at our church some years ago, and we all remember how happy he was to experience God’s love on that special day. Dale was also a regular helper during the Children’s Time each Sunday.

Prayer Group Forming

Dear Byron Congregation,

After talking in length with Pastor Jim Renfrew, I began to see how atuned this church is to prayer. I can also see how this congregation has a passion for prayer. This passion is evident in your Sunday prayer concerns that overflow like a

fountain from one service to another. This is a beautiful part of worship.

I believe prayer is very important and all concerns should be addressed. As a part of my CLP education I would like to put together an “**Intercessor Prayer Group**”.

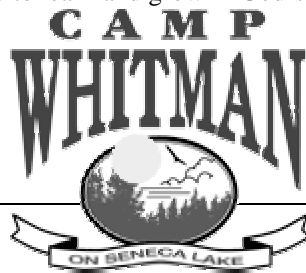
This is how it will work: There will be a prayer bowl placed on the table outside of Pastor Jim’s office. Any person can place a concern or prayer request in the bowl anytime a need arises (paper and pen will be provided). On the 3rd Sunday of each month after the worship service we will meet to pray over the concerns and names of those requesting prayer. This meeting will last about 15-18 minutes. If time should allow, we can learn what prayer is as we look at scripture. We may even do some craft projects relating to prayer.

I know that everyone has a busy schedule, so there will be no sign up sheet—just show up.

The date for our first meeting will be in the bulletin a week or so ahead so you can plan to meet on the chosen Sunday.

Thank you for helping me to learn and grow in God’s love.

Blessings and Peace,
Bill Ellis, CLP Intern



Camp Whitman

Information about summer programs at the Presbytery’s Camp Whitman will soon be available on the table outside of the church office. You can also see the summer schedule on the Camp Whitman web site, campwhitman.org. There are programs for 3rd grade through high school, including hiking, canoeing, sailing, music, biking, and more! Several families sent children to Camp Whitman last summer and we would be glad to put you in touch with them so you can hear more about it!

Easter Week at Our Church

Palm Sunday, March 16th,
9:45 AM - Shout “Hosanna!”
as we wave the palms!



Maundy Thursday, March 20th,
6:00 PM - Celebrate the Lord’s Supper with the whole family of Christ. Please bring a dish to share, and your own table settings. We will celebrate Communion in the church Dining Room.

Easter Sunrise Service,

7:30 AM at the Byron Presbyterian Church, with Pastor Linda Haight from the South Byron United Methodist Church preaching. Breakfast will be served following.



Easter Celebration, 9:45 AM, a celebration of the resurrection!

Easter Flowers - please bring flowers to the church on Easter Sunday morning. To be included on the memorial list in the bulletin, please submit this information to the church office no later than Tuesday, March 18th.



Silver & Gold Gospel Concert

A benefit for the Trinity Emmanuel Presbyterian Church building campaign, with the Murrell Sisters, the St. John Fisher College Gospel Choir and the Trinity Emmanuel Choir. Saturday, March 29, 5:00 PM, at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 141 Adams Street, Rochester. Admission is \$10.00. Call Sarah at 235-1463 to reserve tickets. Jim Renfrew and Robin Dunnington are planning to go, let them know if you want car pool.

Resource Saturday Saturday March 8th

Come early, stay late! Coffee & goodies provided. All courses are free! Pre-registration requested, contact sorr@pbygenval.org, or 242-0099.

“*Even More Passionate Spirituality*”, 9:30-11:00 AM, With Linda Badger Becker and a panel of congregational leaders. In natural Church Development, one of the eight essential quality characteristics of a healthy congregation is “passionate spirituality”. Using the NCD survey tool, this is the most common “minimum factor” for Presbyterians in the northeast. So what exactly is it and how do we improve it? Registration deadline is Thursday, March 6th.

Spring Craft Sharing, 9:30 – 11:00 AM. Great ideas for Christian educators. Registration deadline is Thursday, March 6th.

Resource Saturday Sat., March 29th & April 5th

“Who, Me?? Preach?? An Elder’s Guide to Preaching for the Non-Preacher, 9:30 AM – Noon, with Rev. Lynn Nelson. Elders, have you ever been asked to preach on a Sunday morning while your pastor is on vacation? Were you approached to “tell your faith story” during a minute for mission? Do you have a passion to share your faith, but are terrified to approach the pulpit? Then this class might be for you. Please contact Susan if you are interested, because there are a few preliminaries to be covered before the class meets on March 29th and April 5th. Registration deadline is March 14th.

“Finding the Right Match: A Curriculum Resources Workshop,” 9:00 – Noon, with Jane Carden, Susan Orr, and Linda Badger-Becker. We’ll share tools on how to select curriculum resources, and give presentations on We Believe, Power Express, Bible Zone and Faith Alive. Registration deadline is April 3rd. The class meets on April 5th.

Thanks to all who helped with the Nursery School's Pancake Breakfast - over \$500 was raised.
[*Laura Platt*, President, Nursery School Board]

Community Easter Egg Hunt

The Byron Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, March 22nd, 2:00 PM, at the Byron Fire Hall on Route 262. Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club and the Fire Department Auxiliary.

Memorial Day Fun!

Memorial Day festivities in Byron will be on Monday, May 26th. Country classics will be performed by Dennis Dennehy, “The Country Crooner”, sponsored by the Byron-Bergen Library.

Understanding Islam

Our friends at the Holley Presbyterian Church invite us to a discussion, “*Understanding Islam*”, on Monday, April 7th, 6:00 pm. The idea for the event began with conversations between church members and a local merchant who is a practicing Muslim. On April 7th there will also be a representative from the Islamic Center in Rochester. Guests are asked to bring a dish to pass.

Do You Sing in Your Shower?

Please join our choir for the Easter season. Even if you've never been in a choir before - we would love to have you there. If you don't read music - just sing the melody! Practices will be held every Sunday



at 9:00 AM starting March 2nd. We will have additional weeknight practices which will be announced. If you can't make all the practices that's okay too. Do what you can!

We will sing every Sunday starting March 2nd through Easter on March 23rd. Please consider giving us a try. If you're at all interested come on Sunday the 2nd and join in. Or if you want to talk to Kim Dewey - Choir Director, you can contact her at 548-7407 or via email at dew99@juno.com. Hope to see you there!

Byron Nursery School

The Byron Nursery School will hold an Open House on Monday, March 31, 6:30 - 7:30 PM. Come meet our teacher, Kelly Fancher, and register for the upcoming year. There are classes for three and four-year-olds. For more information, please call Laura Platt at 548-2245.

One Great Hour of Sharing

*Sharing Resources,
Saving Lives
Since 1949*



Your One Great Hour offering envelope
is enclosed with this newsletter.



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