



The Spirit

Byron Presbyterian Church Jan– Feb. 2009

The Basics

- Sunday Worship happens at 9:45 AM
- Christian Education for all ages on the 2nd Sunday of the month.
- Nursery Care is available for young children
- Church office phone is 548-2800
- Contact Pastor James Renfrew at 548-2800 or 638-6679.

Genesis 9:12-13

"This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you, for all future generations. I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth"



Backpack Program Begins

The Mission Committee of the church is organizing a Backpack Program in our local school district. The program was presented to the Byron-Bergen School Board at the end of September and they overwhelmingly approved it. With current economic conditions as they stand, it will be a welcome addition to helping those in need in the community. Seven families have been identified within the district that might benefit from the program.

Basically, the program will involve providing a

limited number of backpacks filled each week with nutritious food items to children identified by the school district. A list of food items will be developed and distributed for those interested in contributing items. The children will be able to take the backpack home, share the food with their families, and return it at the end of the weekend to the school so we can refill it.

Inside this newsletter you will see details about how the Backpacks will be prepared,

who will be packing them, when and where it will be done.

Many thanks to local organizations that have already made contributions to the project; their names are inside these pages!



2008 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the congregation and corporation will take place following worship on Sunday, January 25th. The 2008 Financial Statement and 2009 Budget will be reviewed, reports from board and committees will be heard, elders, deacons and

trustees will be elected, and congregational members of the 2009 Nominating Committee will be elected.

[James Lundmark, Clerk of Session]

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* (638-6679 home,
548-2800 office, 813-2934 cell)

Clerk of Session: *James Lundmark* (948-9336)

Treasurer: *Robin Glazier* (548-2625)

Organist: *Elizabeth Weber* (494-1545)

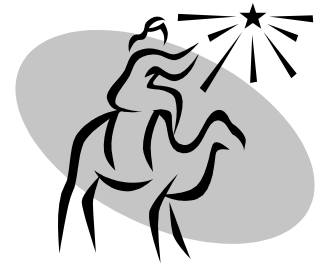
Board of Trustees: *Tom Nesbitt* (548-7430)

Sexton: *Rhonda Hickey* (548-7024)

Secretary: *Janet Pike* (548-7132)

One Hump or Two?

Did the wise men ride into Bethlehem on camels with one or two humps? Sadly, there are no photographs from that time so we can't give an answer. But let's translate humps into prayers. When you contact the Prayer Chain with a prayer can you add a second one? Of course you can! Whether your camel - er, prayer - has one, two or even three humps, our Prayer Chain team is ready to help you! Please contact Laura Platt (548-2245) or Jean Roda (548-2417), and we'll get you saddled up!



Pancake Breakfast

*Benefit for the
Byron Presbyterian Church
Sunday, February 8th*

Byron Fire Hall, 9:00 am - Noon

\$6 adults, \$3 Children

Great Gift Baskets raffled at Noon.



Preaching Themes for January & February

Prepare for Sunday worship by reading the Bible story for the day!

JAN 4	John 1:1-18 "The Word"	FEB 1	Mark 1:21-28 "Fame!, part 1"
JAN 11	Genesis 4:1-10 "Cain and Abel"	FEB 8	Genesis 6-7 "Noah and the Ark"
JAN 18	John 1:43-51 "Searching, Part 1"	FEB 15	Mark 1:29-45 "Fame!, Part 2"
JAN 25	Mark 1:14-20 "Searching, Part 2"	FEB 22	Mark 9 "The Miracle Season Begins"

From the Pastor "The Gospel of Prosperity?"

Dear Friends,

I am a part of a post-World War II generation that sincerely believed everything would get better and better. It was assumed that I would receive better education, find a better job, earn more money, and afford more things than my parents. And I equally assumed that my children would do even better than I as they grew up.

The current economic crisis turns this assumption on its head. I actually think we've known for quite some time now that things will not be easier for my generation and our children. There have been many hints and clues along the way: rising energy prices, the rising cost of health care, large companies exporting jobs abroad and laying off at home, the decline of manufacturing in the northeast, for example. But the current crisis is now causing some to compare it to the conditions that prevailed during the Great Depression of 1929. Our church investments have lost at least 40% of their value in the last year, reflecting the same kind of losses in personal investments.

All of this has a profound effect upon churches, and I'm not talking about devalued in-

vestments here. In many ways, we have lived according to a "Gospel of Prosperity", in which our generous and loving involvement with the surrounding community and world was based upon our having been blessed with an abundance of wealth and resources that we could easily share. That kind of theology may no longer work so well for us, but this does not mean we are losing our spiritual direction! We need to experiment with a new form of the Gospel, one that does not begin with assumptions about our prosperity, but with a different assumption concerning God's incredible commitment to justice, healing and peace.

This is not a new theology. In fact, most of the world's Christians practice it—because they have never experienced the kind of prosperity that we have long enjoyed.

Maybe the economy will recover more quickly than expected. I hope so, but let's not lose this opportunity to re-examine who we are, and what God is calling us to be. What do you think?

Always in the Hope of Christ,

Jim Renfrew



Deacons In Action

The Deacons collected food items for 3 families for Thanksgiving Dinner. We also collected and delivered to the Salvation Army gifts for a family of six and six stockings. The Salvation Army is very appreciative of all the donations; the need is overwhelming this year and our congregation really stepped up to help the needy. Thanks!

Also to those who signed up during our stewardship drive to greet, help with flowers, nursery, visiting, and other duties, thank you very much. I will be in touch as we have several Deacons who

go south for the winter and really appreciate the assistance!

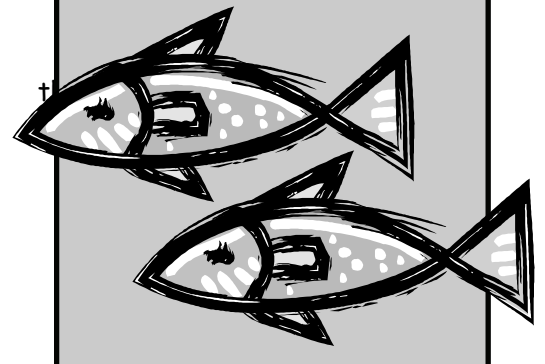
How about signing out a book to pass the cold winter nights? Our library in the church has many books and it is always free.

We continue to collect non-perishable food items all year round for the local food pantry, thanks for all the donations and keep them coming!

Deacons are also working with other churches and community organizations to develop a welcome packet for all new residents of our town.

[Pam Lynch]

**"Come with me.
I'll make a new kind of
fisherman out of you.
I'll show you how to
catch men and women
instead of perch and
bass" Mark 1:17**



Session Notes

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place following worship on Sunday, January 25th. Those submitting reports to the church office are asked to please do so by January 13th.

Session reviewed the membership rolls at year-end. Per Capita, due in January, will be the same as last year: \$25.29 for each member. Per Capita envelopes are included in each set of 2009 offering envelopes.

The Byron Presbyterian Church has received a "Small Ministry Grant" from the Presbytery of Genesee Valley in the amount of \$710 to cover the cost of a year of advertising in the Gillam Grant Community Center Newsletter.

An orientation meeting for all in-coming and out-going elders, deacons and trustees is scheduled for Thursday, January 29th, 7:00 PM. Ordination and Installation of new church officers will take place on Sunday, February 1. A training event for church officers will take place on Saturday, February 7th at GCC, 9:00 AM until Noon, the \$5 registration cost will be covered for those who attend.

Trustees have arranged for our church to join a consortium of churches that purchase energy in bulk. During the first year we will be purchasing gas in this way.

Natural Church Development

Abitibi Paper

Retriever Program

We want everyone's newspapers, magazines, office and school papers, shopping catalogs, mail, envelopes, folders, fax and copy paper, colored paper! Bring it to the bins behind the church - it's that easy! No cardboard, please. We earn \$5 per ton.

From Trustees

Many thanks for snow shoveling volunteers. If you haven't signed up, look for the list at the rear of the sanctuary.

The Nursery School will be closing at the end of May. Trustees are looking for your ideas about how to use this space in the future. [*Tom Nesbitt*]

Hospital Protocol

If you wish to have our pastor visit you during a hospital stay, please notify the church office. Due to privacy guidelines, hospitals no longer contact churches with information about hospitalized church members.

The recent NCD Survey at Byron Presbyterian Church showed "*Passionate Spirituality*" as our "minimum factor" in ministry. We're working on raising this minimum factor!

"Growing in Faith", our 2nd Sunday educational program, is one outgrowth of this process. We are encouraging a passion for spiritual learning and discovery among all ages, and arranging for participation to be as easy as possible.

We are approaching Communion in a different way to generate anticipation and celebration for the Lord's presence in our lives.

We plan to continue the practice of inviting church participants to share the stories of their lives during worship in relation to music, mission, scripture and healing. On Sunday, January 18th we will hearing stories from three church participants about their Bibles—where they got them from and how they use them.

What else can we do to raise "passionate spirituality"? Our Membership Committee welcomes your ideas!

Backpack Program Launched

As this newsletter goes to print, the Backpack Program that was suggested in our community many months ago is finally a reality. Many thanks to those who have so far fully supported the effort to provide backpacks for children through the Byron-Bergen Central School District. These backpacks will bring some relief to families diligently trying to make ends meet but that are having difficulty doing so with the tough economy. The school identified 7 families to date; the families are not identified—the program is completely anonymous. But we do know that we are helping ease the way for **18 children in our own community.**

What items are in the backpacks? The items may include individual soups or meals (microwaveable), granola bars, cereal bars (such as Nutri-grain Bars and Oatmeal Bars), crackers with peanut butter, individual applesauce and fruit bits, raisins, peanut butter, apples or oranges, juice boxes, animal crackers, hot cocoa, oatmeal and various other items.

How are we paying for these items? We dedicated our portion of the Peacemaking Offering to be seed money for this program. We also used our \$100 mission budget to add to that money. We have solicited help from area churches, civic organizations, and retail and other businesses in the hopes of helping to fund this effort. At this point, we have had a positive reaction from many and have started receiving some funds in. Tops in Batavia, the local Grange, Bergen Rod & Gun Club and the Bergen Legion have contributed funding. We are hoping for more as we continue with the program.

What else is needed? VOLUNTEERS! We will be packing the bags each week either Thursday late afternoons or Friday mornings. We need young, old and in between aged people to help! Clear directions will be provided. It is not extremely time consuming. It took 4 people 30 minutes to pack the bags for the first time! Volunteers willing to transport the bags to the school and pick the empties up are also needed. **Is this only our church?** I certainly hope not! In LeRoy, where this program is already in motion, they have so many volunteers that most people pack the bags once or twice each school year.

SPREAD THE WORD! We need help! You are welcome to give out my home phone (548-7746) for those interested in helping.

Gillam-Grant has generously offered to provide us with some space to pack the bags, making it very convenient to transport the bags over the Elementary School Office and to pick the empty bags back up and drop them off. As well, we will be storing items at the Center for packing. This central location will also make it easy for students interested in collecting some community service hours.

In these trying times, and indeed at any time, it is wonderful to have an opportunity to help those in our community and to ease their burdens a bit. If you are interested in helping with the Backpack Program in any way, feel free to contact Pam Kenward at any time (548-7746).



Thank You!

Many thanks to those who took time from busy schedules to help out with Salvation Army Bell-ringing on Thursday, December 4, from 9 am to 9 pm at Tops in LeRoy. The Red Kettle Campaign is an important part of the mission of the Salvation Army in Genesee County which reaches many less fortunate in our area for many needs throughout the year.

Those who rang the bell were Audrey Blount, Gwen & Harley George, Laura Platt, Marilyn Britt, George Hillabush, Pam Lynch, Helen Hulburt, the Sloat Family, the Hickey Family, Kylie Britt & friends, Kate George, and Alex Dutton. Thank you one and all! *[Pam Kenward, Mission Committee]*

Church and Community News

!

Many thanks to our regular newsletter party volunteers: **Bill and Barb Emerson, Harley and Gwen George, and Ruth McCracken!**

There are some changes in the neighborhood: **Rev. Mary Jane Saunders** is leaving after many years of ministry at the North Bergen Presbyterian Church to serve a church in Bowling Green, Ohio, with her husband Gary who had been serving the church in Albion, **Rev. Kavin Rossman** has left his position at the First Presbyterian Church of Bergen, and will be moving to Perry where his wife works for the library.

We received a nice note from friends at **Project Life**. Deborah Wilson says that two other Presbyterian churches in Batavia and Wyoming have expressed interested in helping with the project after hearing

about our positive experience there last summer.

Many thanks to **Pam and Micky Truax** for donating a large supply of hats and gloves. They were gratefully received by our friends at Cameron Community Ministries in Rochester.

Volunteer Night!

The Byron Kiwanis Club and the Byron Fire Department Auxiliary invite all community organizations to an open house on Saturday, February 28 at the Byron Fire Hall. The purpose is to acquaint residents of Byron with the wonderful voluntary organizations that exist in our community. A meal will be served, too. Organizations are asked to arrange table space with Laura Platt (548-2245).

Tables & Chairs

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 \$5 per table plus \$5 for each set of five chairs. Those wishing to borrow these must make arrangements well in advance with the Church Secretary, 548-2800. Borrowed items must be returned within 24 hours.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays!!!

January

3	Amanda Dodson
4	Whitley Stefaniak, Roberto Renfrew-Marquez
4	Sandy Johnson
6	Katiann Fisher
8	Lynn George
10	Jan VanWyngaarden, Rhonda Hickey
11	Darlene Koubek
13	Amanda McLaughlin
16	Kylie Britt, Stanley Truax
17	Billy Tyler
18	Maryann Blair, Samantha Walker
20	Don Engle
21	Alaura Rehwaldt
23	Matthew Glazier
24	Nicole Stanton
28	Don C. Britt
31	Everett Roda

February

1	Frank Swanson
5	Faline Tyler



7	Melanie Nesbitt, Michaela Kenward
9	Dave Liles, Joan Carr, Tiffany Platt
11	Rachel White
12	Mallory Lynch
20	George Hillabush, Brenden Fuller
25	Gwendolen Shepard
26	Doug Platt
27	Rebecca Gouger, Matt White

Anniversaries!!!

January 31:	Gene & Vicki Austin
February 4:	Paul & Luan Riner
February 26:	Don & Marilyn Britt

If your birthday or anniversary date needs correction, or if we don't have you or someone in your family on our list ... please notify the church office!

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.

You can see sermons that you missed, address your prayer concerns to the church, search important documents and budgets, and enjoy photos of recent church activities.



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. Let us know if you know of someone who might enjoy receiving a prayer shawl.



Resource Saturdays

Saturday January 17, 9:30-11:00 am
Registration Deadline: Thursday January 15

Spirit Filled, Spirit Led Meetings

Leaders: Tedd Pullano, Pastor, New Life Presbyterian Church; and Bill Ellis, Elder, First Presbyterian Church of Wyoming. When we gather as a group for a meeting, be it for Session, Deacons or other group, we are first and foremost about the Spirit of God. All that we talk about and all that we decide needs to come out of this Holy Spirit. Come to this workshop and find out about powerful opening devotions, staying prayerful throughout a meeting.

I've Taken My Pictures... Now What?

Leader: Linda Badger Becker, General Presbyter, Presbytery of Genesee Valley. Have your digital pictures taken up permanent residence inside your camera? Do you long for the days when you could just drop off a roll of film? Is your camera software a mystery to you? This hands-on seminar will explore the wonderful world of digital photo editing, printing, storage and presentation. Bring your camera (with fully charged battery) and your camera software disk. If you have a laptop, bring it along too.

All courses take place at the Presbytery Resource Center, 1190 Winton Road South, Rochester, and are FREE! Pre-registration requested for all courses. Contact Susan Boyle Orr, 242-0099

Church Leadership Development Day

For new and experienced church leaders

Saturday, February 7, 2009 (Snow Date FEB 14)
 8:30am-Noon; *plus* optional "Working Lunch"
 courses 12:15-1:45. At the Genesee Community College. For Deacons, Clerks of Session, Treasurers, Trustees, Educators, Choir Directors and Pastors. The church will pay your \$5 registration fee, a boxed lunch is available for \$8. Look for registration forms in the church office. For more details about the courses offered, please take a look at the Presbytery of Genesee Valley's web site www.pbygenval.org

2009 Offering Envelopes

We thank all who have made a financial commitment to the church for 2009. Please note that there is an envelope marked "*Per Capita*". Per Capita, set at \$25.29 in 2008, represents each church member's fair share of the administrative expenses of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, Synod of the Northeast, and the Presbyterian Church (USA). Members typically contribute this amount during January, but any other time during 2009 would be fine.

A box of offering envelopes, and periodic financial statements, are made available to all who submitted an "Estimate of Giving" card during our Stewardship effort.

We are happy to provide a box of offering envelopes to any other adults or youth who wish them. Please note that if you did not submit an Estimate of Giving card, an annual financial statement (especially useful for tax purposes) can be provided only if you notify the church office during January that you would like us to keep track of these contributions.

Church Financial Picture

So where do we stand as we wrap up the 4th Quarter of 2008? The November Financial Statement includes the following information about the status of the 2008 Budget:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Pledges	\$65,790	54,185.73
Youth Offerings	300	206.78
Per Capita	1,000	1,449.06
Loose Offering	1,600	1,981.27
Fundraising	5,000	3,407.80
Investment Interest	10,000	4,287.80
Manse Sale Interest	5,400	2,700.00

Pledges and estimates of giving are falling behind as we enter the 4th quarter. The overall budget is approximately \$14,000 behind in receipts when compared to expenses. Please do your best to keep up to date before we finish the year. Thank You! [*Stewardship Committee*]

Byron Youth Group

We're finishing out 2008 with a lot of wonderful activities: serving a meal at Ronald McDonald House, Christmas Caroling in the community, decorating at the NYS Vets Home in Batavia, and a fantastic Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 14th, "A Not So Silent Night". Many thanks to Sydney Moore who directed the Pageant, Todd Sloat who handled sound and lights, lots of parents, and, of course, all the angels, shepherds, sheep and other actors.

We have a sledding Party planned for Saturday, January 17th, beginning at 10:00 AM. Watch for more details! On Sunday, February 15th, we are planning a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. There will be a Lock-In that evening. Yes, you guessed it, more details to follow.

Christian Education

The CE Committee continues to build our "Growing in Faith" program. We've received many comments regarding the new program: some are enthusiastic about the opportunity to share ideas and thoughts with each other in a way we haven't done before, and others have offered suggestions to improve upon what we're doing. PLEASE keep the comments coming! We want to develop a format that provides an enriching experience for as many people as possible, and that's easily accessible to as many people as possible. Let us know what you think so we can make the program .

Our next "Growing in Faith" program is Sunday, January 11th. The Bible message for the day comes from Genesis: the story of Cain and Abel. Lara Ezard is hard at work planning January's program. We're looking for volunteers interested in helping lead our "Growing in Faith" activities February 8th, and March 8th. This is your chance to help us shape this program into something great! If you're interested, please contact Tamara.

1988 Christmas Pageant

Thanks to the efforts of Tamara Hillabush-Walker and Don B. Britt we presented a DVD recording of the 1988 Children's Christmas Pageant during Advent. If you missed the show, copies of the DVD are available from Don. He transferred Tamara's videotape to DVD format.

New Year's Resolution

Our Pastor is challenging children (and adults, too!) to bring their Bible to church each Sunday for worship. And, yes, he is subject to the same challenge. We'll be keeping track with a show of hands each Sunday. How long will it take for us to reach 30 people with their Bibles at worship? 40? 50?

Of course, the point of this is not just to perform a task, but to become increasingly aware of what the message is between the covers. We invite you to bring your Bibles, because we are going to use them!

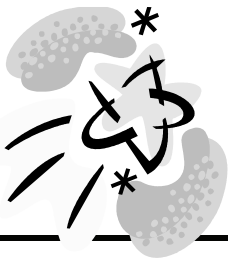
Confirmation Class

We are excited to be offering a Confirmation Class beginning at the end of January. Please reserve the followign dates for your 7th and 8th graders: Saturdays, 12:30-1:30 PM, JAN 31, FEB 7, FEB 21, MAR 7, MAR 28, and APR 4. We realize that we will probably be going head-to-head with school sports and musical schedules, so if we need to adjust the schedule we will do so as needed. We are very excited to see a large number of potential participants. Rev. Jim Renfrew and Elder Eric George will coordinate the class.

Robin & Jim's Party

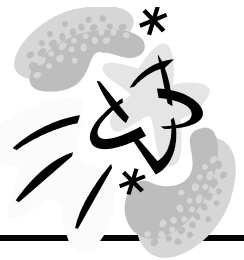
Robin Dunnington and Rev. Jim Renfrew invite you to their Open House, at 17065 Howard Road, Holley, on Sunday afternoon, January 4th, 2-5 pm. If you've visited Robin and me before, please stop in again. And if you haven't been here yet, please make this your first time! January 4th is the "10th Day of Christmas", and while we can't promise to have "Ten Drummers Drumming" on hand, we do plan to have a lot of fun with our church friends. No need to bring anything! Just come!






Byron Presbyterian Church

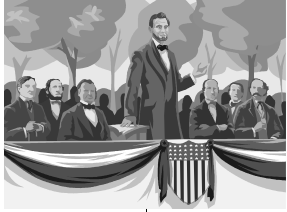

January 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Per Capita is \$25.29		<i>T.O.P.S</i> Tuesdays at 6:15 PM		1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2 	3
4 <i>9:45 - Worship</i> <i>10:45 Coffee Hour</i> <i>10:45 Deacons</i> <i>2-5 Robin & Jim's Party</i>	5	6	7 <i>8:30 - AA</i>	8	9	10
11 <i>9:45 - Worship</i> <i>10:30 Growing In Faith</i>	12	13	14 <i>7:PM Welcome Packet meeting</i> <i>At S. Byron UMC</i> <i>8:30 - AA</i>	15 <i>No Session meeting tonight</i>	16 <i>Presbytery Resource Saturday on JAN 17th</i>	17 <i>10:00 AM Youth Group Sledding Party</i>
18 <i>9:45 - Worship & Communion</i>	19 <i>Dr. Martin Luther King Birthday</i>	20 	21 <i>7:30- Trustees</i> <i>8:30 - AA</i>	22	23	24 <i>9:30 AM Presbytery meets at Perinton P.C.</i>
25 <i>9:45 - Worship</i> <i>10:45 - Annual Meeting</i>	26 	27	28 <i>8:30 - AA</i>	29 <i>7:00 PM Elders, Deacons, Trustees meet</i>	30	31 <i>12:30-1:30 Confirmation Class</i>

Byron Presbyterian Church

February, 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45 - <i>Worship & Installation</i> 10:45 <i>Coffee Hour</i> 10:45 <i>Deacons</i>	2	3	4 8:30 - AA	5	6	7 9:00-Noon <i>Church Leadership Development at GCC</i> 12:30-1:30 <i>Confirmation Class</i>
8 9-Noon <i>Pancake Breakfast at Fire Hall</i> 9:45 - <i>Worship</i> 10:30 <i>Growing in Faith</i>	9	10	11 6:30 PM <i>Nursery School Board</i> 8:30 - AA	12 <i>Abraham Lincoln 200th Birthrhday</i>		14
15 9:45 - <i>Worship & Communion</i> Youth Group <i>Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser And Lock-In</i>	16 	17	18 7:30 PM <i>Trustees</i> 8:30 - AA	19	20 7:00 PM <i>Session meets</i>	21 12:30-1:30 pm <i>Confirmation Class</i>
22 9:45 - <i>Worship</i> 10:45 AM - <i>NOOMA</i>	23	24 	25 11:00 AM <i>Newsletter Party</i> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 8:30 - AA	26	27	28 5:00 PM <i>Celebration of Community Volunteering at Byron Fire Hall Sponsored by Kiwanis Club</i>

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 25th
following Worship

A light lunch will also be served

All church members are encouraged to attend for the purpose of electing new officers, reviewing budgets, and hearing reports on the ministry of the church during the past year and plans for the new year.



1st Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 206
Byron NY 14422-0206

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