

The Spirit

Byron Presbyterian Church May-June, 2009

Memorial Day in the Park

9:00 AM - Plant Sale, Vendors & Crafts

11:00 AM - Parade & Ceremony

All Day - Hot Dogs & More

*12 Noon - Free Games for Children,
and Mr. Scribbles the Clown**

1:00 PM - AUCTION

3:00 PM - Park Committee Duck Race

A full day of activity is planned for Memorial Day, fun for the whole family.

Vendors and craft-makers, please call Laura at 548-2245 to arrange free table space.

At 1:00 PM we are featuring, for the first time, an AUCTION. If you have goods or services to contribute, or have a business that would enjoy some community exposure, please call the church office at 548-2800. We can arrange to pick up large items from your home.

** Mr. Scribbles is sponsored by the Byron-Bergen Library through a grant from the NYS Council on the Arts Decentralization Program.*

Trustees Tidbits

Our thanks to ALL who helped with the annual spring clean-up on Sunday, April 5th. Many hands make light work and we were done in what several veterans of such activities thought was record time!

Over the winter the church building suffered damage from high winds on several occasions, mainly with the roofing and siding. Our building's roof is less than three years old, and the Contractor had already returned at least two times since the initial installation to make repairs. However, we learned that the shingle manufacturer had a good reputation for customer service. Therefore, we filed a claim under the manufacturers' warranty for permanent repairs, the claim was accepted, and repairs were completed last week (April 23rd & 24th). Our roofing Contractor was also able to repair the damaged siding and trim at an incrementally nominal cost. Unfortunately, they damaged some sections of our sidewalk with their equipment, which they will also permanently repair.

The Town's Code Enforcement Officer has notified us of deficiencies with our facility. As a result, we are updating / adding new fire extinguishers throughout the building and we will be adding 'EXIT' signs over the doorways of the sanctuary and inside of the main front entrance. Our thanks to Chip Blair for his assistance in obtaining code compliant extinguishers and 'EXIT' signs.

Additional thanks to those who helped keep our sidewalks and entrances clear of snow on Sunday mornings this past winter. We noted that Harley George signed-up to shovel snow on July 4th....so don't disappoint us Harley! Also, thanks to those who have volunteered for lawn mowing.

Preaching Themes for May and June

MAY 3	I John 3:16-24	"Word, Speech, Deed"	JUN 7	Matthew 28:16-20	"Reunion"
MAY 10	Genesis 11:1-9	"The Tower"	JUN 14	Genesis 12:1-8	"Covenant"
MAY 17	I John 5:1-6	"Overcome the World"	JUN 21	Mark 4:35-41	"The Other Side"
MAY 24	I John 5:9-13	"Witnesses"	JUN 28	Mark 5:21-43	"Talitha Koum"
MAY 31	Acts 2:1-21	"Phrygia & Pamphilia"			

From the Pastor

I remember being a fan of the New York Mets in 1969, the year the worst team anyone had ever seen amazed the world by winning the World Series. Victory felt real good! But most years, the teams I've followed generally lose!

Is your life an experience of victory or defeat? 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.

Victory and defeat ... it's a topic in John's first letter: "*every child of God is able to defeat the world.*" At first, I'm confused by these words because I think of the world as a place of wonder and beauty. Why would God want us to defeat the world? The world, and all that is in it, was created by God and is filled with God's love and promise. How could defeating it be victory?

In John's day, to be a Christian was filled with risk and 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.

Victory for the small bands of Christians in those days seemed nearly impossible, there was too much authority and power set against them. They often had to live their faith in secret for fear of arrest. John knows all about the defeats they have experienced, but he won't give up on the hope of victory. He won't give up on the promise 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 World Series, not beating up an enemy. He means that God's love, hope and peace can never be defeated.

To tell you the truth, most 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 when peace talks fall 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.

Always in the Hope of Christ,

Jim Renfrew

Deacons In Action

The Deacon's assembled and delivered 16 Easter Baskets this year to members and friends of the church who we felt could use some cheering up. The Deacon's would like to thank Marilyn Britt for the donation of the baskets and the congregation for bringing in items for the Easter Baskets and food donations for the Salvation Army.

If you have an abundance of flowers in your garden, please feel free to bring a bouquet to decorate our church sanctuary on Sundays. We can never have too many flowers and I know we have many avid gardeners among our members.

Jane and Luan have written many cards to the ill, people in need and lonely of the church. If you know of someone who could use a card please let Jim or Jane know.

Don't forget to check out the library! We also continue to collect nonperishable food items for the Salvation Army.

Session Notes

In March and April we welcomed eleven people as new members of the church. Nine of these new members participated in a Confirmation Class with Rev. Renfrew and Eric George.

Trustees have arranged for warranty work to be done on the roof at the end of April, to replace defective shingles. The contractor also fixed loose vinyl siding on the steeple. Trustees have also filled out a volunteer list for summer lawn-mowing—thanks to all volunteers!

During April and May, the Pastor with assistance from elders, is celebrating home communion with older church members who are unable to attend services.

The Finance Committee reports that \$4,094 has been received in additional gifts and increased commitments for 2009 in response to our "Extra Mile Appeal". We need to cover a deficit of \$3,018 from 2008 and a shortfall in the 2009 budget of \$4,422.

The Byron Nursery School will be coming to an end - after many years of service to the community - with the final graduation ceremony on Wednesday, May 13th.

Natural Church Development

One year ago, thirty church leaders in our congregation participated in a Natural Church Development survey. Soon after, we received an analysis of the results that indicated our "minimum factor" is in "Passionate Spirituality". Since that time we have been taking a variety of initiatives to address this minimum factor, including opportunities for personal testimony during worship, a devotional book during Lent, and changes in the way we do worship, communion and Christian education.

On May 17th, the survey will be given a second time, following worship. For those unable to participate on that day, make-up dates will be Wednesday, May 20, 6:30 PM and Thursday, May 21, 6:30 PM.

Swine Flu

For helpful information about the Swine Flu, please check out the web page of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance at www.pcusa.org/pda/

Mission Committee News

Cameron Community Ministries: Plans are in the works for a fall visit back to Cameron Community Ministries for a Sunday Celebration. A date will be announced in the next newsletter. This has been a great opportunity in the past to prepare and serve a meal to the Cameron Street neighborhood in Rochester, and to offer a short worship service. Many times, this involves a skit or other non-traditional worship. It is always a very rewarding experience for those that participate.

Backpack Program Update: The Backpack Program has been consistently serving 8 families, and 18 children, in the Byron-Bergen area. If you are interested in participating in packing bags, delivering bags, or in learning more about the program, please talk to Pam. We welcome financial contributions at any time--just make sure you designate "backpack program" on your contribution. We have begun plans to hold a Monk's Bread sale in the fall, with proceeds to benefit the backpack program. Watch for more details!

One Great Hour of Sharing: Many thanks to adults and children who participated in this special offering. \$743 was received.

Angel Food Ministries: The Bergen United Methodist Church is a Host Site for Angel Food Ministries. This is a grocery relief program, offered monthly that allows for people to buy approximately \$60 worth of food for \$30 and pick it up at our church. It includes fresh and frozen foods-meats, vegetables, eggs, milk and dessert that will feed a family of 4 for a week and a single for a month. We accept cash, money orders and food stamps (EBT), or people can place on-line orders with debit/credit cards. This is non-denominational and there are no limits on what can be bought or any qualifications-"If you eat-you qualify!" For more information, please go to our church website at www.bergenumc.org and click on the Angel Food link. Here you will find links to the menu and order form (both can be printed out) and on-line ordering. The order form gives all information about times for ordering, days of delivery and location for pick-up. If anyone has any questions, please have them call the church office at 494-1312 .

The "Living Budget" Series

This is the first installment of a "Living Budget" Series. Each month we will highlight one section of our church budget. We hope this series will educate everyone about the actual dollars and cents it takes to "open the doors and see all the people". We hope that the information not only helps to guide you when making decisions about financial contributions to the church but also serves to inspire you to find a board or committee with which you could share your time and talent. We are a family - and as with any family- the more people work together - the stronger our family becomes!

Part I - Music

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!" [Psalm 100: 1-2]

2009 Expenses:

Organist	\$2,727.00
Choir Director	700.00
Music & Training	150.00
Piano Tuning & Maintnc.	120.00
<u>Organ Tuning & Maintnc.</u>	<u>650.00</u>
Totals	\$4,347.00

Music is an integral part of our worship experience. It can lift our hearts or touch something deep within us. Whether you are performing or listening, it involves everyone in the room.

For a small church, we have been richly blessed with our organist, Liz Weber, who has played for our congregation for 40+ years! Our pastor, Jim Renfrew shares his love of the violin. We have many, many youth that give of their talents through voice and instrumental music. Tamara Hillabush-Walker has generously donated her time through the Joyful Noise Youth Ensembles. We also want to give thanks for the many adults that give of their time and musical talent through the adult choir.

Our music program is a vital part of our ministry. Many people contribute time and talent to make it happen. If you would like to share your musical gift please feel free to let Rev. Renfrew, Liz, Kim, or Tamara know., and we will help your light shine!

Looking Ahead:

**Come to our Pork Roast at the Town Park on Byron Heritage Day,
Saturday, July 25th.**

Outdoor Worship, on Sunday, July 26th, in the Church Park

Choir News

Here's the choir schedule for the remainder of the spring: Practices are Sunday, May 3, 9:00 AM, Thursday June 11 and June 18th at 7:00 PM. The Choir will sing during worship on Sunday, May 3rd and Sunday, June 21st. Feel free to join us - if you can't make all the rehearsals and or Sundays don't worry about it. We're happy to have you join when you can. Youth in 7th grade and up are welcome to join as well!

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. Make your reservations early during the graduation season!

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 60 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.

Church Finances Update

The Finance Committee called a special Congregational meeting on Sunday, April 26th to update the congregation on where our income currently stands as well as the progress of our Extra Mile Campaign and to get congregational input in solving our financial shortfall for the 2009 budget.

The line chart (see picture) indicates that we are currently in good standing with almost 50% of 2009 commitments received. We have 55 giving units for 2009. To elaborate a bit further though, \$19,350 of the commitments are paid in full. (People that send in their money in one lump sum.) The commitments that come in on a weekly or monthly basis are at 29%. This is still good for the first quarter and we hope that everyone will continue to send in their commitments as the summer months approach.

Our Extra Mile Campaign goal was to raise \$7500. This goal was based on a 2008 budget shortfall of \$3,018 and a 2009 budget deficit of \$4,422. The committee is happy to report that to date \$4,094 has been committed. Thank you!!

Our Session's Fundraising Committee is hard at work to be sure we meet the budget for fundraising efforts. The church held a Pancake Breakfast last February and there is an Auction scheduled to be held at our Memorial Day Festival. There are also plans in the works to hold a Pig Roast at Byron Heritage Days on July 25th and of course our Annual Turkey Supper this fall.

As part of a continuing education plan, Finance Committee has started a "Living Budget Series". Each month we will highlight one section of our budget so that we can all get a better glimpse into what makes a church run. (see additional article)

Congregational input was welcomed at the meeting and we certainly continue to solicit your ideas. We will have another congregational meeting in September to bring everyone up to speed on our "state of the union".

Until then, we thank everyone that has made the Extra Mile Campaign a success and if you have not contributed simply because you haven't "gotten around to it" - here is your chance!!

Growing in Faith

FEELING STRESSED?

Do you find yourself running in different directions every day? Are you frazzled and have too much going on to keep track of everything? Do you feel as though you're losing touch with the important things in life?

Please join us after services, Sunday, May 10, for our last "Growing in Faith" program before summer? We will explore what's important, and letting go of what's not so important in our lives.

Please bring with you a few photos or drawings of people and things that are important to you (5x7 or smaller). These will be used as part of an activity, so please make sure these are images that are OK to cut and paste.

To prepare for our discussion, you may wish to read the following Bible passages, and think about how they relate to your life. Specifically, what do you put first, and how is that reflected in the choices you make?

If you forget to bring pictures or don't read the verses below, DON'T WORRY! Come anyways! You can still participate in the planned activities. We hope you'll join us!

The Bible verse we'll be discussing May 10th is about the Tower of Babel, Genesis 11:1-9, and our point is "We all need God." Other verses to reflect upon are listed below, or feel free to introduce us to a verse of your own choosing that expresses your ideas about what's important in your life!

Deuteronomy 6:5
2 Chronicles 14:11

Genesis 39:2-23
1 John 4:15-16

Deuteronomy 6:6-7
1 Chronicles 22:13

Job 5:8-12
2 Corinthians 1:9

Byron Presbyterian Church

Memorial Day Auction,

May 25th, 1 pm

Our Fundraising Committee is busily working on an auction that will take place during our Memorial Day festivities on May 25th, beginning at 1 PM. We need your help!

We welcome your contributions of goods and services to be added to the auction. Items can be left at the church in the storage area behind the kitchen, or we will come and get them from you!

Let us know what you can do! Leave this form in the offering plate, Put in the church office, or mail to us at POB 206, Byron NY 14422.

I have the following items to contribute:

Please contact me to arrange a pick-up of donated items.

I have the following services to contribute (such as baking a pie, leaf raking, tree-removal, etc.):

I would like to help the Fundraising Committee with the auction by making calls to area businesses, by working posting flyers, or by working on the day of the auction.

Name and Phone Number:

Thank you!