



The Spirit

Byron Presbyterian Church Nov.- Dec., 2009

The Basics

- Sunday Worship happens at 9:45 AM
- Christian Education for K-6th on Sunday mornings.
- Nursery Care is available for young children
- Church office phone is 548-2800
- Contact Pastor James Renfrew at 548-2800 or 638-6679.

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

[Micah 6:8]



Thanksgiving Sharing

We will join friends from South Byron Methodist Church, Morganville United Church of Christ and Stafford United Methodist Church for a Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 22, 2:00 PM at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Stafford. Please bring food items to contribute to the emergency food shelf of Genesee County Churches United.

The Byron Presbyterian Church has two other important Thanksgiving projects going on in November. We are collecting items for Christmas care packages for US soldiers serving in Afghanistan. Sgt. Susie Blair, from this congregation, is currently serving there, and she is pleased to distribute all of the items she receives to others in her unit. A list of suggested items is found inside this newsletter. We will be packing these items following worship on Sunday, November 15th.

We are also collecting items to be used in a Thanksgiving basket to be shared with a local family. These items are being assembled on Sunday, November 15th as well. There is a sign-up list posted in the sanctuary for the different items that are needed.

We're Still Going Green!

Last month we sent out our newsletter to some of our readers as an e-mail attachment. The experiment worked, and so many of you will be receiving your newsletter that way from now on.

If you are receiving this in your postal mailbox, it means that we do not have your e-mail address yet. You can help us "Go Green" by sending your e-mail address to our secretary at office@byronfpc.org, or call 548-2800. Those without e-mail capability, of course, will continue to receive their newsletters by first class mail. "Going green" will mean less use of paper, reduced use of copier toner, and savings of hundreds of dollars on postage.

By the way, you can provide multiple addresses so different family members can each receive their own copy! We will treat your e-address as confidential information, not to be published or given out to others unless we have your permission.

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)
[pastor@byronfpc.org]

Clerk of Session: *Mary Ann Blair* (548-2431)
[mablair@rochester.rr.com]

Treasurer: *Robin Glazier* (548-2625)
[rglazier@brockport.edu]

Organist: *Elizabeth Weber* (494-1545)

Board of Trustees: *Marc Kenward* (548-7746)
[mkenward@rocdhester.rr.com]

Sexton: *Rhonda Hickey* (548-7024)

Secretary: *Janet Pike* (548-7132)
[jpike2@rochester.rr.com]



Prayer Packages

Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read about Christmas care packages being sent to Afghanistan. Wouldn't it be nice to send packages like that to everyone in our church? Well, actually we can! We can easily send you a "Prayer Package", filled with the prayers of many people. Relating to your special need. Our prayer chain is ready to help you, so give us a call and we'll get to work with lots of prayers, maybe in package form!

Please contact Laura Platt (548-2245) or Jean Roda (548-2417).



Mission Opportunities

Cameron Community Ministry: We will be traveling to Cameron Community Ministries on Sunday, December 6 to offer a warm, filling meal and a Sunday Celebration Service to the residents of the Cameron area in Rochester. Please save the date in join us! It is always a fun, rewarding experience when we go to Cameron. Great chance for community service hours, high school students! If you have questions or already know you are interested in joining us, please talk to Pam Kenward.

Military Care Packages: One of our church members, Sgt. Susan Blair Wilt, is currently serving with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan through June, 2010. Once again, we would like to send care packages during the Christmas season to Susie's unit. We will package all donations on Sunday, November 15th, following worship. Contributions may be brought to the church in the weeks leading up to that date. Financial contributions to cover the cost of shipping will also be welcomed. Please make checks out the Byron Presbyterian Church.

Suggestions for care packages for soldiers:

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|
| Cookies | Hard candy | Chocolate | Tea | Soap |
| Deodorant/anti-perspirant | Tooth paste/brushes | Body wash | Gloves | Books |
| Shower poofs | Shampoo | Conditioner | Body lotion | Magazines |
| Hand lotion | Hand/foot warmers | Sweatshirts | Playing Cards | |
| Stationery/envelopes | Drink mixes for water bottles | | | |

Please note that Afghanistan is expected to be much colder than Susie's previous deployment in Iraq. We are NOT seeking donation of children's books this time. If you have any questions, please speak to Susie's parents Lee or Mary Ann Blair. Thank you!

Thanksgiving Baskets: please refer to the article on the next page.



From the Pastor

"The Message [of Jesus Christ] is as true among you today as when you first heard it. It doesn't diminish or weaken over time. It's the same all over the world. The Message bears fruit and gets larger and stronger, just as it has in you. From the very first day you heard and recognized the truth of what God is doing, you've been hungry for more." [Letter to the Colossians]

Dear Friends,

Are you hungry for more? After the Thanksgiving dinner is over, the food's been put away and the dishes washed, are you still hungry for more? Many of us are already making plans for serious exercise when the day is over! Who could be hungry for more?

I've misled you by talking about food, because "*Hungry for More*" is actually concerned with being hungry for more of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Most of you have been here on a Sunday mornings beyond count, because one worship service is not enough, and you're always ready - even eager - to hear more about the hope and joy of the Gospel. The fullness of the Gospel can take a lifetime to absorb.

The fullness of the Gospel is more than the first

sweet taste of something. We have tasted this Gospel in many, many ways, but not the fullness of it.



What was the first item of food served at your Thanksgiving meal? Was it good? But you didn't stop there, did you? Because the fullness of the meal, not just the first taste, is what we hunger for. Do you take one bite of pumpkin pie and then put it away? No, you finish it to the last crunchy bite of the piecrust. Is one sip of the first glass of cider of the season the place to stop? No, you drink that glass, and hope for another. The fullness of the Gospel is more than the first taste.

The apostle praises the Colossians for what they have tasted in the love, hope, and peace of Jesus. The apostle offers thanksgiving for how the Gospel is bearing fruit in them. But then the author apostle urges us onward. "*You've been hungry for more!*" Not just the taste of the Gospel, but the fullness! Happy Thanksgiving!

James R. Renfrew, Pastor

Deacons In Action

The Deacons continue to meet monthly. The collection of food items and grocery bags for the emergency food program through the Salvation Army is ongoing. Any and all nonperishable food items are welcome.

We also have a sign up sheet in the back of the church for donations of food to provide Thanksgiving dinner for 3 families. If you sign up to bring a turkey, a gift card is an easy way to donate that. The donated items need to be into the church by Sunday November 15, 2009.

There has been new neighbor information packets delivered to several new families in Byron (this is a joint effort with our church, South Byron United Methodist and Kiwanis Club). We have good information available about new homeowners in the area, but we need your tips about people who may have moved into rental property. Please share your tips with Faline Tyler.

Please visit our book shelf in the back lobby by the restrooms. There are many interesting books and magazines for all ages.

With the H1N1 virus recently confirmed in our area, and expected to return in the fall, please make use of hand sanitizers in the sanctuary provided by the Deacons. Thank you! [Pam Boshart Lynch, Deacons]

**"Blessed are the
pure in heart,
for they
will see God."
[Matthew 5:8]**



Session Notes

Many thanks to all who helped with the Turkey Dinner in October! Three hundred meals were served, and we raised \$2100. In fact, the church has had a very successful year with fundraising and this has been very helpful in reducing the deficit we faced at the start of 2009.

The 2010 Stewardship appeal is based on the theme "New Love, New Mercy", found in Lamentations 3:22. A 2010 Narrative Budget has been prepared (available for viewing on the church web site). Commitment letters and cards will be distributed during worship on November 1st (or sent through the mail the following day), to be returned on November 8th.

Many have submitted e-mail addresses to the church office, which will allow us to reduce our postage costs.

Wayne Marion, an elder at the Honeoye Falls Presbyterian Church, will be serving an internship at our church this fall, as a participant in the Certified Lay Pastor training program of Genesee Valley Presbytery. Wayne lives with his family in Lima, and owns his own kitchen installation business.

The Memorial Committee is searching for some comfortable chairs to locate in the front entryway of the church.

As of October 23rd, the church has received \$648 for the Peacemaking Offering of the Presbyterian Church USA. Twenty five percent of this will be used to support our Backpack Project.

Natural Church Development

I recently ran across this compelling quotation in the "Implementation Guide to Natural Church Development":

**"If you want to build a ship,
don't summon people to buy
wood, prepare tools,
distribute jobs, and organize
the work, rather teach
people the yearning for the
wide, boundless ocean".**

[*Antoine de Saint-Exupery*]

This captures the essence of Natural Church Development, not so much a "how-to" process to grow a church, but an unleashing of that yearning to experience God in Jesus Christ more fully.

Question: what is that wide, boundless spiritual ocean that you yearn for? [*Jim Renfrew, Pastor*]



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.

Tables & 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, 548-7132 (home) or 548-2800 (office).

Nooma

On the fourth Sunday of most months after worship we've been viewing Nooma DVDs. "Nooma" is the Greek word for Spirit, "Pneuma". It's always a lively conversation. On November 22nd, Wayne Marion will bring a different kind of program, please watch for details.

Resource Saturday

At the Presbytery Resource Center,
1190 Winton Road South

Saturday, November 14th Courses

Registration deadline Thursday, November 12,
telephone 242-0099

Mental Aerobics—Maintaining Your Brain's Fitness!

Leader: Barbara Bruce, Educator, Speaker & Author
Do you want to: create sharper thinking skills? develop better memory? create life long habits to keep your brain fit? learn behavioral modification tools to increase cognitive functioning? learn about your brain's plasticity? If you answered YES to any of these questions, come and join us for a discussion and presentation about maintaining brain fitness.

Pastoral Evaluations—An exploration of the spiritual dimensions of work evaluation

Leader: Rev. Dr. Val Fowler, Pastor First Presbyterian Church of Honeye Falls. What is the purpose of performance evaluation in the Church? Particularly evaluation of a pastor? What are the hoped-for outcomes, and how can they be achieved? What does our shared faith bring to that exercise? The course will be informed, in part, by Jill Hudson's book, *When Better Isn't Enough: Evaluation Tools for the 21st Century Church*.

All courses are FREE! Pre-registration requested for all courses. Contact Susan Orr, 242-0099.

Choir News

The choir received an anonymous donation of 20 copies of the new Presbyterian Hymnal during the summer months. We used the books to convey a group thank you during the worship service on October 11th. The choir is grateful for the donation and we will incorporate them into our musical selections for many years to come.

The holiday season will soon be upon us. If you would like to join the choir for the Thanksgiving/Christmas season we would be happy to have the extra voices!! No long term commitments required!! The practice and singing schedule is printed below.

Practice - Thursday evenings

Nov 5th - 7PM
Nov 12th - 7PM
Nov 19th - 7 PM
Dec 3rd - 6:30 PM (Session meets after)
Dec 10th - 7PM
Dec 17th - 7PM
Dec 23rd - If necessary

Sunday/Holiday Service Singing Dates (we ask choir members to be here at 9AM)

Nov 1st - 9 AM
Nov 22nd - 9AM
Nov 22nd - Ecumenical Choir at St. Paul's Episcopal in Stafford - 2:00 PM
(rehearse at 1:00 PM)
Dec 6th - 9AM
Dec 13th - 9AM
Dec 20th - 9AM
Dec 24th - Christmas Eve Service - 6:30 PM

Preaching Themes for November & December

| | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| NOV 1 | Micah 6:6-8 "Download & Execute" |
| NOV 8 | Mark 12:38-44 "What Did He See?" |
| NOV 15 | Mark 13:1-8 Wayne preaching |
| NOV 22 | John 18:33-37 Wayne preaching |
| NOV 29 | Luke 21:25-36 "Power and Glory" |
| DEC 6 | Luke 3:1-6 "Every Valley Filled" |
| DEC 13 | Luke 3:7-18 "Your Christmas List" |
| DEC 20 | Luke 1:39-55 "Season's Greetings" |
| DEC 27 | Luke 2:41-52 "Teenagers!" |



Church and Community News

We're praying for **Sharon Brackenbury** who is continuing a course of treatment for cancer, **James Slane** (at LeRoy Village Green for rehab after a bad fall), for **Ruth and Jerry McCracken** (ongoing medical care), **Paul Riner** (medical care), **Nelson and Carol Stamp** (medical care), for **Jan Van-Wyngaarden** (at GCNH), **Jean and Everett Roda** (at home), **Marian Shepherd** (doctor's care) and **Evie Scheiber** (in Maryland).

Ellieana Renfrew made her first appearances in church this fall with her father Roberto. She is now up to about eight pounds, mostly happy, and usually hungry if she's not sleeping!

We're praying for **Wayne Marion** and his family upon the sudden death of his sister in October.

Alex Walker was told that she

had a 5% chance of avoiding surgery after a soccer injury. Well the 5% chance worked and she's ready to get back into the game!



Our condolences to the family of **Richard Hancock**, whose memorial service was held at our church. He had retired to Florida from Byron.

Prayers for **Sgt. Susie Wilt**, currently serving in Afghanistan, and **Jason Tomlin** (Jan Kent's son-in-law, about to be de-

ployed in Afghanistan), and our governmental leaders who will be making critical decisions about the level of troop commitment in that country.

Brian Hickey's birthday gift from his family was a parachute jump.

Mike Nick, Melanie Nesbitt's brother, died suddenly in California. Our prayers go out to Melanie and her family.

Janie Donahue sent an e-mail from Florida that her son Francis is now engaged to be married.

Our condolences to **Don Britt**, whose brother Jerry passed away at the end of October. And to **Jim and Helen Moore** - Jim's sister Betty passed away in October.

Please pray for Jay Sackett, in Arizona. He is in very poor health.

Special Fall-Winter Events

Sunday, November 1- please return UNICEF coin banks

Sunday, November 8 - Stewardship Dedication

Sunday, November 15 - Soup and Salad Lunch, packing Care Packages and Thanksgiving Baskets.

Sunday, November 22, 2 pm—Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's Episcopal in Stafford.

Sunday, November 29—First Sunday in Advent, Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 13—Visit to Ronald McDonald House

Sunday, December 20 - Christmas Caroling

Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:30 PM

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity of Genesee County invites you to grand opening of the "ReStore" on Saturday, November 7th, 8:00 AM-1:00 PM, where we sell new and used construction and household goods, priced drastically below retail. Funds raised through sales are used to build houses in Genesee County. "ReStore" is located at the Batavia First United Methodist Church, 8221 Lewsiton Road (345-1656). We are actively seeking donations of quality construction materials, hardware, furniture, appliances and other household items.

All items donated are tax-deductible and can be brought in on Saturdays, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM, or call to arrange pick-up.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays!!!

November

- 3** Audrey Blount, Nelson Stamp
5 Sonja Gonyea
6 Janet Pike
8 Lindsay Moore, Richard Johnson
9 Pam Lynch, Jan Kent
11 Roy Lane
16 Vicky Truax
18 Debbie Johnson
21 David Kenward
23 Jerry McCracken
25 Sara George
27 Ronald Toal
29 Keenan Hughes
30 Luan Riner, Marc Kenward,

December

- 8** Wendy Hilbert, Connor Stefaniak
9 James Boorum
10 Lee Shuknecht, Dida Shepard
13 Rodney Walker
15 Richard Walker

- 20** Christopher Hilbert, Evelyn Scheiber
26 Meghan Dewey
27 Darby and Colleen Carr
30 Kim Dewey

Anniversaries!!!

November

- 12** Everett and Jean Roda
17 Don and Linda Engle
24 Lee and MaryAnn Blair
27 Lois and Jim Boorum

December

- 9** George and Anita Hillabush
11 Frank and Connie Swanson
27 John and Jackie Johnson

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

We've added a new feature to our church web page. Our pastor's sermons are posted each week, and there is now an interactive feature that invites you to add a comment or ask a question about the message. All you have to do is enter "www.byronfpc.org" in your computer and our church home page will appear. There are also some recent photos posted on the web page.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl knitters/crocheters will start to meet again! The Prayer Shawl group has been on a bit of a break, but it's time to break out the needles and yarn! We would like to start meeting the 3rd Wednesday of the month. If you do not know how to knit or crochet but would like to learn we have many willing teachers! If you would just like to come and join in the group for conversation and a cup of tea come on ahead! Meeting dates:

Wednesday - Nov 18th - 7PM at church
 Wednesday - Dec 16th - 7PM at church

We will try to meet in people's homes during the winter months to save fuel heating the church. We'll have a schedule in the January newsletter. We will try to meet in people's homes during the

Stone Soup Dinner

The Byron Youth Group is hosting a Stone Soup Dinner fundraiser, Sunday, November 15, 2009, to raise money for its mission projects, and to help a family in need this holiday season. Tickets will be \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. Diners will choose from a variety of homemade soups, salad, breads, and cookies. Containers of soup can also be purchased for those who want to take home their favorites. Our Stone Soup Dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We hope you'll join us, and support the mission projects of our youth! If you'd like to help, please see the sign-up sheets in the back hallway (behind the sanctuary), or contact Tamara Hillabush Walker at tamarahw@rochester.rr.com or 548-7303. Thank you!



Faith Journaling: Thanksgiving and Peace

"Clothe yourselves in compassion and kindness". These were a few of Paul's instructions to the Colossians, for living a Christian life. Colossians 3:12-17 is the focus of our faith journaling program for youth and adults. We meet once a month, to focus on one of Paul's Christian characteristics, and share our stories with one another. Our next meeting is November 8, 2009, 5:00-7:00 p.m., and we will explore "Thankfulness"--what it means to be thankful and to give or show thanks. On December 6, 2009, we will explore the meaning of "Peace." We hope you'll join us, as we continue to Grow in Faith, and bring a friend! Dinner is provided. Thank you Marilyn Britt, Kim Dewey, and Anita Hillabush for providing wonderful meals in September and October! So far, we've had about 20 participants (youth and students) for each of our faith journaling meetings. If you'd like to help, or would like more information about this program, please contact Tamara Hillabush Walker at tamarahw@rochester.rr.com or 548-7303.

Youth Corner

The Byron Youth Group continues to meet once a month to plan its upcoming events, fundraisers, and explore the Bible through a variety of games and activities. At September's meeting, youth explored the things in their lives that distract them from their faith and God. They also brainstormed a list of activities they'd like to do this year, and began planning a Stone Soup Dinner fundraiser for November. In October, youth talked about dealing with change and God's constant love. Additionally, youth explored the joy Jesus has for us--that what he wants for us isn't all about rules and restrictions, but making choices for a truly joyful life, full of treats instead of tricks.

Our next meeting is Sunday, November 22, 2009, 5:00-7:00 p.m. At this meeting, we will explore dealing with hard times and loss (loss of loved ones, things, health, etc.). We will also finalize all of our holiday plans, which will include shopping for a family in need, Christmas caroling at the Veteran's home, preparing a meal at the Ronald McDonald House, and helping out at Cameron Community Ministries.

Additionally, youth will begin planning their winter retreat. The Youth Group will not have a regular meeting in December in lieu of the many holiday activities they'll be doing. Their regular meetings will resume in January. For more information, contact Tamara Hillabush Walker at tamarahw@rochester.rr.com or 548-7303.

Christian Education Calendar

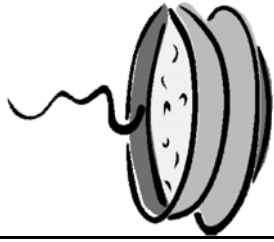
NOV 8 Return UNICEF boxes
 NOV 8 Faith Journaling: Thankfulness
 NOV 15 Stone Soup Youth fundraising dinner
 NOV 22 Nooma
 NOV 22 Youth Meeting: Hard Times
 NOV 24 Adult Bible Study
 NOV 28 Youth shopping for a local family
 DEC 6 Cameron Community Ministries
 DEC 6 Faith Journaling: Peace
 DEC 13 Ronald McDonald House
 DEC 20 Nooma
 DEC 27 Christmas Caroling

Stone Soup Dinner Youth Group Fundraiser

**Sunday, November 15,
11:00 AM—1:00 PM**

Adults \$6, Children \$4

Four varieties of home-made soup,
salad, bread and cookies



"We're raising funds to provide a Christmas Basket for area families, and to support our summer mission plans"

Community Thanksgiving Service Sunday, November 22, 2:00 PM

At St. Pauls' Episcopal Church in Stafford

A collaboration of the South Byron United Methodist Church, Morganville United Church of Christ, Stafford United Methodist Church, the Byron Presbyterian Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Featuring a combined choir. Please bring food items for the Emergency Food Shelf.



1st Presbyterian Church
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