

The Spirit

Byron Presbyterian Church January - February, 2011

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, February 6, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

At the Byron Fire Hall

Awesome Raffle Baskets - winners announced at 12:00 Noon

Adults \$6.00, Children \$3.00

A Benefit for the Byron Presbyterian Church

Spaghetti Dinner & Service Auction

Sunday, February 20, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

A Youth Group Fundraiser to Support Summer Mission Projects!

Adults \$6.00, Children \$3.00

*Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him ... He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth."
Isaiah 42*

Welcome!

Welcome to our church newsletter. Look inside for news, photos, activities, opportunities, and much more. Who knew that the little church in the center of town was doing so much to bring the joy of Jesus Christ to the world? Now you know! Come and See!

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.

Church Information

Sunday Worship & Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Church Office: 548-2800 [office@byronfpc.org]
Church Web Page: www.byronfpc.org
Pastor: James Renfrew (548-2800 office) [pastor@byronfpc.org]
Clerk of Session: Mary Ann Blair
Treasurer: Robin Glazier
Organist: Elizabeth Weber
Board of Trustees: Ron Glazier
Sexton: Rhonda Hickey
Secretary: Janet Pike

No Speed Limit!

The sign you see at the left is the symbol for "Autobahn", the name of the German highway system. There is a suggested speed limit, but drivers there are free to drive as fast as they wish. No tickets!

There is also no speed limit with our Prayer Chain. It actually moves very fast once your prayer concern is added. Within a short time, the phone calls begin and the prayer circulates all over town and beyond. Vroom-vroom!

Please contact Laura Platt or Jean Roda to get on the chain. Laura has set up a Prayer Chain e-mail alert to back up the phone calls. Contact her if you would like to be a part of that. Don't worry, we don't check your driving record!

Choir News

Thank you to all the choir members for all your hard work this fall and holiday season. It has been so much fun. Now, take a long winter's nap and we will gather again in the spring!

And a very sincere thank you for my birthday surprise last Sunday. I was speechless—and you know that doesn't happen very often!

Thank you again for all your time and dedication. *[Kim Dewey]*

Trustees Report

With the onset of winter weather, Trustees agreed to hire Jeff Thompson of Byron to plow the driveway. The plowing will be on an as needed schedule for Sunday morning for worship and midweek on Wednesday. If there is a scheduled event that would warrant an additional plowing, please contact Ron Glazier. A signup sheet for shoveling is on the back table of the sanctuary - please consider volunteering for a Sunday.

Other issues discussed in the last couple of months are updating policies for use of the church building and also for rental use of tables and chairs. Requests have been received for additional outlets in several areas and also adding an additional stove in the kitchen to help with church suppers. Work will resume on the blower room for the organ. *[Ron Glazier, Trustees]*

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

The first disciples, Andrew, Peter, Philip, and Nathanael, found what they were looking for when they met Jesus. How long had they been looking? Maybe a few weeks, maybe their whole lives. They were looking for something that had been missing in their lives, something that would answer their questions, something that would fill the gaps, something that would give meaning and purpose.

But here is something worth remembering about this story: as much as they were looking for someone like Jesus, Jesus was already looking for them. And this means, of course, that as much as we look for Jesus in

this world, he is already looking for you and me.

Philip told Nathanael about Jesus. When Nathanael came to see Jesus for himself, he was surprised that Jesus already knew who he was. "*I saw you studying and praying under the shade of the tree,*" Jesus told him. Jesus already knew that Nathanael was looking for something.

So before we consider how they were looking, and how Jesus found them, think for a moment about the places where Jesus has been looking for you - not where you would look for him, but where he's been looking for you ... in your living room, out in the barn, at your sister's house, at school, in the hospital, out in the field, on the beach, at the park ... anywhere and everywhere else. If Jesus was looking for you, and I believe he is, where would he be looking for you?

For some reason I always had the impression that a quest for religious truth is something like a narrow path up a steep mountain, with many pitfalls, dangers, and obstacles along the way. But that's not at all how John's gospel tells it: as much as we are looking for him, Jesus is looking even harder for you and me!

Blessings and Peace, Jim Renfrew, Pastor

Deacons in Action

The Deacons have been busy since our last update. Three Thanksgiving Banquets were donated to the Salvation Army and just recently, we sponsored a family for Christmas, supplying gifts to make their holiday a little brighter. What was the bright spot of your holiday? Was it spending time with family, making a special meal, Caroling? I can tell the bright spot was shining with the love of Jesus Christ in the many donations that the congregation has made to help us. We couldn't do it without you.

As the new year begins, we will continue our service to God, church and community. Donations for the food pantry will continue to be needed. Peanut butter, crackers, vegetables, you name it, it can be used. We are ready and able to help with anything you may need, be it prayer, visits or meals. No need is too big or too small.

If you have ever thought of serving on the Board of Deacons, talk to one of our current deacons. We are all inspired in different ways and would love to share our experiences with you. *[Kathy George, Deacons]*

Pure in Heart

What does it mean to be pure in heart? More than anything else it is attentiveness to the needs of others, for food, clothing, shelter, and love. So, yes, our deacons practice purity of heart in all that they do in the life of our church! "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God". (Matthew 5:8)

Session Notes

Session received the report of the Triennial Visit from representatives of Presbytery in November. One issue that needs to be addressed is the completion of a sexual misconduct policy for the church, now required of all congregations in the Presbytery.

The Presbytery will hold its annual Leadership Development training event on Saturday, February 12, 8:30 AM until Noon, at the Perinton Presbyterian Church. There are classes for elders, deacons, trustees, and pastors, with additional workshops during the noon hour. Please speak to Jim Renfrew if you would like to go. If you will be a newly elected member to any of the church boards, please consider this opportunity to learn more about the roles and responsibilities involved. If you are a current member of one of the church's boards, the workshops will provide valuable information to help you make the most of your leadership skills for our church.

Session has set Sunday, January 23rd as the date for the Annual Congregational Meeting. Each board and committee of the church is asked to prepare as soon as possible a written summary of activities for inclusion in the Annual Report.

Session received the annual review of the pastor from the Personnel Committee. Other church staff will be reviewed in the new year.

Rev. Jim Renfrew has requested volunteers from among the elders to serve as mentors for this spring's Confirmation Class. *[Mary Ann Blair, Clerk of Session]*

"Growing in Faith" Small Group Invitation

Join us. We've been meeting since the spring. Those in attendance have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know one another better ... as well as to enjoy delicious dessert!

We plan to do this again on **Tuesday, January 11th, 7:00 PM**, at Jim Renfrew and Robin Dunnington's home in Clarendon.

For the past three years we have been using Natural Church Development as a process for improving the spiritual health of our church. Small sharing groups like this are an opportunity for strengthening our ministry by getting to know one another better.

Preaching Themes for September October

JAN 2	John 1:1-18	"The Word, Your Word"
JAN 9	Isaiah 42:1-9	"He Will Not Grow Faint"
JAN 16	John 1:29-42	"Come and See"
JAN 23	Matthew 4:13-23	"Metanoia"
JAN 30	Matthew 5:1-12	"Great Adventure"
FEB 6	Matthew 5:13-20	"Salt and Light"
FEB 13	Matthew 5:21-26	"Reconciliation"
FEB 20	Matthew 5:38-48	"The Second Mile"
FEB 27	Matthew 6:24-34	"Striving"

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 or plastic bags, please. We earn \$5 per ton in support of our Youth Group..

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, 548-2800 (office). New chairs are not available for borrowing.

Nooma

Join us on the last Sunday of each month, following worship, for a thought-provoking conversation centered on the "Nooma" DVD series, or the "Questions of Faith" DVD series.

We Get Letters

Dear Friends, Thank you so much for providing dinner for our families at the Ronald McDonald House. The families who use our "Home Away From Home" really appreciate how thoughtfully generous people are in providing for their needs during such a difficult time. Sincerely, Cher Neidermaier, House Manager

Thank You!

We have received many positive comments from our readers, and we welcome your encouragement. We invite you to keep our Byron Presbyterian Church newsletter coming to you in months and years to come. If you are not already a church contributor, your contribution to help cover mailing and internet costs would be welcomed. Checks may be made out to "Byron Presbyterian Church". Thank you!

[] YES, I want to help support the cost of the Byron Presbyterian Church newsletter. I enclose \$_____.

[] I prefer to receive the newsletter as an e-mail attachment

[] I prefer to receive the newsletter through the US Mail

Name

Address

Town/City

State

Zip

Phone

E-mail

Note: we do not circulate or publish e-mail addresses.

Mission!!!

Red Kettle Campaign: Many thanks to all who helped the Red Kettle Campaign in Genesee County by ringing the bell at Tops in LeRoy! If you have never volunteered to ring the bell before, it is always a fun and interesting event to participate in. If you like to "people watch" there is never a better opportunity than ringing the bell! This year when I rang the bell for a couple of hours on a Thursday evening, I fully expected it to be a "little slow" but it actually was pretty steady all evening. Some people don't put any money in the kettle, but they smile and talk a bit. Others won't even look your way as you ring the bell. Several people inquired about how they could get involved in ringing the bell. There were people who put a quarter in and those who put \$5 or \$10 in. No matter what, ringing the bell helps many, many people in our Genesee County area. If you have never rang the bell, I hope you get a chance to do so in the future--it is an opportunity to see how many pulling together can make a difference!

Backpack Program news: As many of you know, we are serving 31 children in the Byron Bergen School District with nutritious food items each week in backpacks that go home on Friday and come back each week to be re-filled. We have been very lucky to have a recent donation of \$750 from the Teacher's Association at the school. I recently got a phone call from Stone Church and they will be doing a food drive in mid-March for the backpacks. Many have been involved within the community to keep this program going and growing! If you would like to make a monetary donation, please feel free to do so at any time, indicating that the donation is for the backpack program. If you would like to donate food items, we can always use individual containers of 100% juice boxes and cereal, microwave lunch meals/soups, individual containers of applesauce or fruit, or granola bars.

We owe a large thank you to Marie Andes who has been packing bags many of the weeks this fall and delivering them to the schools. Also thanks to Faline Tyler who helps coordinate them in the Middle/High School, making sure the kids pick them up and get them back on time and dropping them at Gillam Grant for us. Thanks also to Lara Ezard and Lori Simmons for making sure the elementary packs make it to Gillam Grant each week. [*Pam Kenward, Mission Comm.*]

Youth Group

As our youth group is becoming a bit older, youth are beginning to take on more responsibility in organizing their various events, mission projects, and fundraising efforts. Because this is a huge learning experience for them, we ask for your patience, understanding, and helpful encouragement as they begin to take on various leadership roles and tasks. Some of them may soon be approaching members of the congregation for help with their projects; any guidance you're willing to provide will be appreciated! The skills they develop will help them reach their future academic and career goals, and help them become engaged citizens as they grow into adults. We thank you for assisting them in becoming future leaders in our congregation and the wider community.

The Youth Group is planning its winter retreat for January 29th. This year, they hope to spend the afternoon bowling, and then head back to the church for an evening of food and other lock-in activities. If you're able or willing to drive, provide food, or take on a shift (as chaperone) throughout the evening, please contact Tamara Hillabush Walker.

On February 20 the Youth Group will hold its annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser to support its summer mission projects. As part of the dinner, youth are planning to hold a service auction. Could you use some help with projects

around your home? Perhaps you'd appreciate a helping hand with some spring cleaning? Babysitting? Or maybe you're planning on doing some entertaining and could use some help preparing/serving food, or cleaning up afterward? Maybe you're planning a trip and need someone to care for your plants and animals while you're away? If you have any other service ideas/needs, let us know! Last summer, youth organized an educational series of mission Tuesdays for children in the Byron-Bergen area. They invited guest speakers to discuss their work, and they organized games, meals, activities, and storytelling that coincided with each week's mission project. These projects included packing and sending care packages to Haiti, gathering school supplies and clothing for Cameron Community Ministries, planting wild flowers at Trestle Park as part of a sustainability program, and raising funds to purchase livestock for needy communities around the world through Heifer International. This year's summer mission projects are still in the planning stages, but we hope you'll support their fundraising efforts, and invite your friends and family, too!

Another topic of discussion for youth this year has been the possibility of an international mission trip. Youth are beginning to think about where they might go, how much this would cost, and how they would raise the money. Initial fundraising discussions have centered around a possible "lock-out" in March, in which youth would experience homelessness, and sleep outside in cardboard boxes. For more information, please contact Pam Kenward. Further details will be coming soon.

Stewardship

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

Please note that in each box there is an envelope marked "*Per Capita*". Per Capita, set at **\$26.72**, 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). You may put this envelope in the offering plate at any time during the coming year.

We are happy to provide a box of offering envelopes to any adults or youth who wish them. Please note that if you did not submit an Estimate of Giving card, an annual financial statement (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. [Stewardship Committee]

Bible Study

You are invited! Wednesdays Jan 5th, Jan 26th, Feb. 23rd, Mar. 23rd, Apr. 27th, and May 25th we will be meeting at 7:00 at the church and would love to have you join us.

Most Christians have read part, if not all of the Bible. Our problem is often not with knowing what God tells us we should do, but with actually doing it - 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year. In this crazy world we get so caught up in our day-to-day lives it's hard to remember every minute how He has told us to act. Bible study helps! We not only re-read His word but we discuss how we apply it and why we sometimes fail to. Some passages of course are not that easy to understand and we help each other to hear the meaning of those. We share, we learn, we encourage each other, and we confess our shortcomings together in Love. Please consider joining us! Yours in Christ, Jim Moore

Conflict & Stress

Do you experience conflict in your relationships? Does this conflict create stress in your life? On Sunday, January 9th, youth will begin a second video curriculum series ***Conflict: Overcoming Stress in Your Relationships***. This is the second part of the series adopted by the Christian Education Committee this year. This past fall, youth explored their faith, their relationships with Jesus, and took on tough questions about why we believe what we believe. Over the next few months we will be exploring our relationships and how our communication styles affect those relationships. I'm particularly excited about this next series, and am looking forward to bringing some of my background as a communications professor into our lessons. We will begin by examining conflict within our families, before moving onto how to handle conflict with our friends and conflict with authority. We will finish this series by

looking at conflict with God. These discussions with youth will continue to take place immediately following worship, each Sunday, in the Youth Room. Understanding that conflict is normal, and how to handle conflict with others in a respectful and understanding way is a life-changing experience that can strengthen your current and future relationships in amazing ways. We hope you'll join us! [*Tamara Hillabush-Walker, CE Committee*]

Presbytery of Genesee Valley Resource Saturdays

Saturday, January 15, 9:30—11:00 AM

I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church - One Year Later

Leaders: Rev. Catherine Benjamin, Lyndonville Presbyterian Church and Rev. Tedd Pullano, New Life Presbyterian Church. Last year several church leaders discovered Paul Nixon's book and engaged in conversation with The Six Choices of Mainline Congregations. Paul writes, "Any church can blossom and grow anywhere if it will become healthy enough spiritually and pay attention to the needs, experiences, and sensibilities of those it seeks to serve." In what ways has your church chosen "Life over Death", "Fun over Drudgery" or "Frontier over Fortress"? Come and share your church's experience with the book and how its engagement has changed your congregation for the better. This discussion will also be helpful for church leaders considering a future study of this book.

Church Newsletters: (How) To Be or Not To Be... On-line Leader: Tricia Monigle, Secretary and Newsletter Editor, Irondequoit Presbyterian Church. Would you like some new ideas to add spark to your church newsletter? Reaching your congregation is very important, but what about reaching people outside the congregation? Do you have your newsletter available on-line? Have you thought about distributing it electronically not only to your congregation but other churches? We will talk about the importance of making your newsletter available publicly. We will also take a look at some newsletters and discuss the use of graphics, content and overall presentation

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

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.

Look for sermons, the current Sunday bulletin, and other interesting news from the church. There are also some new photos posted from our Youth Group Christmas caroling.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you knit, crochet? Do you want to learn? Do you want to make friends and join in with other women for an evening of fun and fellowship? Then our Prayer Shawl Group is for you!! We meet on the second Wednesday of every month:

January 12th- home of Robin Glazier

February 9th - home of Kim Dewey

Bring your knitting needles, crochet hooks, yarn, and an open heart (and a good joke or two)!! Please join us, even if you just want to sit and chat. We would love to have you!