The Spirit

Byron Presbyterian Church May-June, 2011

The Basics

- Sunday Worship happens at 9:45 AM
- Christian Education for K-6th and Middle/High School 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, or at pastor@byronfpc.org.

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 [pastor@byronfpc.org]
Clerk of Session: Mary Ann Blair
Treasurer: Robin Glazier
Organist: Elizabeth Weber
Board of Trustees: Mark Kenward
Sexton: Rhonda Hickey
Secretary: Janet Pike

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age." **Matthew 28:19-20**

Memorial Day in the Park
Monday, May 30th

9:00 AM - Plant Sale, Vendors & Crafts
11:00 AM - Parade & Ceremony
All Day - Hot Dogs & More
12 Noon - Free Games for Children
1:00 PM - Music
2:30 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.

Stop!

Is your day filled with busyness upon busyness? Finding it hard to find a moment to catch your breath, or think or pray? If so, our Prayer Chain is ready to help you "STOP" so that you can "GO" with God for a few moments in the day. It's the spiritual treasure of our congregation that you are willing to pray for others, and that we're ready to pray with you and for you! Please contact the church office (548-2800) to get on the chain.

Trustees Report

The Trustees would like to thank EVERYONE who participated and helped out on the annual Church yard clean-up on Sunday, April 3rd. Even the church building received some loving....getting some windows washed and other light cleaning. Many hands made a big job small and the work was pretty much completed by 1:30 pm. (about 2-1/2 hours!). Special thanks Ron Glazier and Connor Nesbitt for the loader, tractor and truck to take all the debris away. Thank-yous are also extended to the volunteers who shoveled and cleared our entryways over the past winter.

We are finally nearing the end of a process to bring the church building into compliance with current building codes. Trustee George Hillabush has been working with the Town's Code enforcement officer on this for over a year now. This has resulted in new fire extinguishers in the kitchen, fellowship hall and sanctuary; exit signs and 'emergency lighting' in the entry ways, and other miscellaneous work. A thank you goes out to Chip Blair, our "resident" electrician.

The fellowship hall attic (or rather the second floor ceiling) is now fully and completely insulated. With this work complete, we can now focus our efforts on getting the blower fan for the organ moved (its in the attic) into its own enclosed room in the attic. Moving the blower will take a considerable amount of planning and effort, which we hope to either complete (optimistically?) this spring or later this fall.

Our biggest project under consideration right now is the parking lot and driveway. We are very concerned that the current deteriorated conditions may pose a safety hazard to those who use our church facility. Trustees are gathering estimates for replacement (likely with new asphalt) and we have formally asked the finance committee to meet and develop options or alternatives available to finance such a project. At this time it appears the cost could be as much as $20,000. If the project proves too costly for the church to undertake at this time, we are still going to have to spend some money on interim repairs. There will be more information on this in the next few months. [**Marc Kenward, Trustees' Chair**]

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

One of the things I really enjoy in my ministry as a pastor is working with youth towards their confirmation. We usually take this on every other year, and 2011 is one of those years.

We are very blessed as a church to have a large group of confirmation youth this spring. As part of their preparation, these youth have attended a Presbytery meeting, have been working to prepare a personal expression of faith to be shared with the congregation in June, and have participated in Mission Madness, a day for hands-on mission in Rochester. Each one is working with a mentor.

One part that I especially enjoy is encouraging each of these youth to find a Scripture reading that somehow captures their experience of the Christian faith journey. Having been exposed to a wide variety of Bible stories in their childhood, it is fascinating to see how they choose one of them to help illustrate their expression of faith.

We are planning to welcome these young people as members on Sunday, June 12th. I'm looking forward to it! In the meantime, please keep praying for all who are involved!

Blessings and peace,

Jim Renfrew, Pastor

Deacons in Action

We thank all the people of the congregation who supplied goodies for our Easter baskets. Deacons enjoy this special outreach to our good friends who are not able to get out of their homes so easily.

We also thank all of our delivery volunteers who made sure that each basket arrived at the proper place.

We received a nice note from Jean Roda, thanking the Deacons and the church for thinking of her during Easter.

Deacons continue to encourage food donations each Sunday. There is a box at the back of the sanctuary for this purpose, as well as a grocery cart at the side entrance.

Please visit our Church Library in the back hallway. There are lots of interesting books to borrow!
[Doris Hillabush, Deacons Moderator]

Session Notes

Session met on March 17th.

The worship schedule for Lent and Holy Week was reviewed, which includes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday (an ecumenical prayer service at the Morganville United Church of Christ), and an Easter Sunrise service at South Byron United Methodist Church, and an Easter Egg Hunt at our church following the 9:45 AM Easter service.

Session heard news of the following making preparations to join the church in the spring: Katie Simmons, Ben Ezard, Bethany Ezard, Samantha Walker, Jordan Sloat, Mark Lancaster, and Matthew Hilbert by confirmation. Tiffanie Platt will also join the church at the same time as this younger group. We are still waiting for Nick Quilliam to get a Sunday free from work to become a church member.

Session is forming a team of elders and other key persons to create a Sexual Misconduct Policy for the church. It is now Presbytery requirement to have such a policy, and Session agrees that it is an important process to undertake for the safety of children.

Session is continuing to focus on "Passionate Spirituality" (a Natural Church Development characteristic of church health) as a leadership quality in church life.

Luan Riner has arranged for our church to sell soft ice cream cones at the Byron Heritage Fest on Saturday, July 30th. Sounds like a fun fundraiser! ***Mary Ann Blair, Clerk of Session***

"Growing in Faith" Small Group Invitation

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. Having met each month since September, we are taking a break until the Fall.

Preaching Themes for May and June

MAY 1	John 20:19-31	*"Belief"*
MAY 8	Acts 2:36-42	*"The Promise"*
MAY 15	Acts 2:41-47	*"Wonders & Signs"*
MAY 22	Acts 6:1-15	*"Stephen, Full of Grace"*
MAY 29	Acts 9:1-31	*"Paul, Breathing Threats"*
JUN 5	Acts 10	*"Peter & Cornelius"*
JUN 12	Acts 2:1-21	**Youth Sunday**
JUN 19	Matt. 28:16-20	*"The Great Commission"*
JUN 26	Romans 6:1-12	*"Grace Abounds"*

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 eight chairs. Those wishing to borrow these must make arrangements well in advance with the Church Secretary, 548-7132 (home) or 548-2800 (office). New chairs are not available for borrowing.

Hymn Sing

There will be a community Hymn Sing benefit for Crossroads House at the Morganville United Church of Christ in Stafford on Sunday, June 12th, 3:00 PM. Crossroads House is a hospice program located in Batavia that a number of families in Byron speak highly about. For more information, please contact Pastor Tom Burns at 343-6019.

Can You Hear God?

The Bible records God speaking audibly to people many times (Exodus 3:14; Joshua 1:1; Judges 6:18; I Samuel 3:11; 2 Samuel 2:1; Job 40:1; Isaiah 7:3; Jeremiah 1:7; Acts 8:26; Acts 9:15 – this is just a small sampling). There is no biblical reason why God could not or would not speak to a person audibly today. With the hundreds of times the Bible records God speaking, we have to remember that they occur over the course of 4,000 years of human history. God speaking audibly is the exception, not the rule. Even in the biblically recorded instances of God speaking, it is not always clear whether it was an audible voice, an inner voice, or a mental impression.

God does speak to people today. First, God speaks to us through His Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Isaiah 55:11 tells us, "*So is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it*."

So while He speaks to us in many ways, the most common and reliable way of hearing God is by studying His word.

The Bible records God's words, everything we need to know in order to be saved and live the Christian life. 2 Peter 1:3 declares, "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by his own glory and goodness."

The early church met in small groups to pray, study, and support each other. Our Bible Study group continues this ancient practice of shared Christian community and fellowship. This is the number one reason for joining our Bible study - You get to learn vital and practical truths from God's Word that really do help you live every day with a little more victory, a lot more joy, and the assurance that you are growing up in Christ! And as you grow in His Word, you also grow more and more in love with the God of the Word.

This year we have studied James, Philemon, and Jude. We have learned some of the history of the writers, discussed the meaning of what they wrote, and talked about how it applied to our own lives. We have heard God!

Please join our loving and supportive group as we learn more. We meet the 4th Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm at the church and we would so blessed to have you join us. ***[Jim Moore]***

Mission Committee News

Cameron Community Ministries Sunday Celebration — Mark the Date!!! We will be hosting a Sunday Celebration at Cameron Community Ministries in the Lyell Ave. neighborhood in Rochester on Sunday, August 14. If you have never had an opportunity to enjoy this activity, please plan to join us (and all past participants most definitely welcome too!). It takes about 10 of us to host the dinner and informal worship service. If you are interested, please let Pam Kenward know. We may need items prepared or purchased for the meal if you are unable to attend but would like to contribute something to the dinner. Please mark the date and save the afternoon.

Looking for more information about Cameron? Look here: www.cameronministries.org.

Undie Sunday — If you were in church a few Sundays ago, I mentioned an upcoming "Undie Sunday" as a "teaser". I heard lots of people talking about it --thinking maybe we were going to wear our undies outside our clothes at church some Sunday. Not to disappoint you, BUT....we are actually going to be collecting new undergarments (undies, long johns, socks, bras, under t-shirts, camies). They need to be newly purchased please--not previously worn undergarments. The youth are planning to do some volunteer work at Cameron Community Ministries over the summer, and we will bring those items to Cameron at that time to add to their "store" that serves neighbors in their area. The items will be collected Sunday, May 22. Please watch the sales and pick things up between now and then and we will collect them and "dedicate" them that day!

International Mission Trip — Our youth have begun to explore an international trip in 2013. This opportunity is also open to interested adults. We have already "skyped" with a pair of missionaries who have been on location in Peru and gotten some interesting information from them and opportunities that may be available in that area. Feel free to check out their website at: www.puentesperuanos.org. We are working to collect information and will keep the congregation updated. If you have an interesting idea for fundraising, pass the idea on to us! Our youth are available for "special" work projects for a donation to our youth mission budget, which will help with local mission projects AND towards the international trip. Contact Michaela Kenward to book a date! ***[Pam Kenward, Mission Comm]***

Sudan Update

Back in the fall we enjoyed the visit of the Rev. John Tubuwa, a Presbyterian pastor serving in southern Sudan. He told us about a long-term civil war, and he invited us to pray for peace in Sudan. A referendum has since been held, in January, with international support, in which South Sudan's people have overwhelmingly voted for independence from the north. Independence is scheduled to take place in July. Here is a message from the Rev. Linda Valentine, a PC(USA) leader, who visited there recently:

I've just returned from several days visiting our mission co-workers and church partners in South Sudan. Over and over again, we heard from our Sudanese colleagues how Presbyterian missionaries first brought the gospel to people there, and how vital and critical the partnership and support of the PC(USA) is to the church in Sudan. Over and over again, we heard of the impact our shared mission work is having on the whole of Sudan's society, from evangelism and peacemaking to education and health care.

I couldn't help but think, *"if only the Presbyterians in the United States knew what an important role we played and continue to play, and how much the people of the church in Sudan count on our prayer and solidarity."*

Presbyterians have been engaged in mission and building relationships in Sudan for over 100 years. Here as in so many other places in the world, we are so much in the forefront of their thoughts and prayers. This is a sacred trust we cannot forget.

Your support for Presbyterian World Mission is making a difference in Sudan and other countries around the world. Thank you! ***[Linda Valentine, Executive Director of the General Assembly Mission Council]***

The Byron Dig

One of North America's most important archaeology sites is right in Byron. Through 27 years of digging by volunteers, including your friends and neighbors, fossils and artifacts have been wrested from the ground to tell the story of Byron from the Ice Age to the present.

Th**e Byron Dig needs** support from people like you. Please consider a donation in any amount, payable to "Buffalo Museum of Science - Byron Dig." Mail it to: Buffalo Museum of Science, c/o Michelle Rudnicki, 1020 Humboldt Parkway, Buffalo, NY 14211.

There will be a board displayed at the Byron Dig listing corporate and organizational donors in categories for contributions of $150 or more. [***Richard Laub, Buffalo Museum***]

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.

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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawls have been "leaving the building" fast and furious since Christmas. If you enjoy knitting and would like to join us we would love to have you. If you want to learn we would love to have you. If you want to sit and chat we would love to have you!

We will meet one last time for the Spring, on Wednesday, May 11th, location to be announced.

Presbytery of Genesee Valley

Visioning Our Missional Future: Living Into a Narrative Budget

Money—yikes! No one likes to talk about it. And yet the Presbytery has a team of people tasked with just that.

Talking dollars & cents isn't very compelling, but when we talk about the ways our budget supports the mission and vision of the Presbytery to *Know Christ, Live Christ, Share Christ*, then we're on to something.

But the Financial Visioning Team can't do this alone. Everyone has a voice in how the Presbytery spends its funds and it's important we hear from you!

You are invited to attend any one of these four opportunities for conversation. Just let us know which one you'll be attending so there will be enough chairs (and food!) at the table.

To register, contact Janice Bilohlavek, 242-0080.

Tuesday May 3, Noon
Lunch at Lyndonville Presbyterian Church

Wednesday May 11, 9am, Breakfast at
First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford

Tuesday May 17, Noon

Lunch at Calvary St. Andrews Parish

Thursday May 19, 10am
Morning Coffee Break at
Central Presbyterian Church in Avon

Youth Sunday, June 12th

Fasten your seatbelts, secure your crash helmets, tighten the shutters, and dust off your spirits! Youth Sunday is June 12th, and adding to the fun is the fact that June 12th is also Pentecost! ***Expect the unexpected!***

Youth are planning the service from start to finish, with message, music and more! This is also the occasion in which the members of our Confirmation Class will be joining the church as members.

Got an Old Bike?

Stone Church Presbyterian Church and R Community Bikes Inc. will be collecting your old bikes, parts, frames, tires (if useable), or bikes in need of repair, every two weeks, on Thursdays, beginning April 28th. For more information, please call 409-3551. Leave items behind church building if no one is there to receive the.

Rummage & Baked Food Sale

Stone Church Presbyterian Church Annual Rummage and Bake Food Sale, Thursday, May 12, 5-7 pm, Friday, May 13, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Bag Sale on Friday beginning at 11:00 AM. The Church is located on Rt. 19 between Bergen and LeRoy.

Choir News

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who sang with our spring Choir! A big thank you to all the accompanists, as well: Liz Weber, Rev. Jim Renfrew, Gail Radley, and Sydney Moore! A special shout-out to Larry Tallman for composing the beautiful Easter Prelude. Thank you all!

The Choir will take a break for summer, but we will meet to practice a couple of times in June in preparation for Baccalaureate Sunday. See you then! [Kim Dewey, Choir Director]