

# *The Spirit*

*Byron Presbyterian Church Jan - Feb, 2012*

*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.* " Mark 1:14

## *The Basics*

Sunday Worship begins at 9:45 AM,

Sunday School and Christian Education for young children during the worship hour.

Nursery Care during the worship hour.

Contact Pastor Jim Renfrew at 638-6679 (home), 813-2934 (cell) or at [pastor@byronfpc.org](mailto:pastor@byronfpc.org)

## *Church Information*

Sunday Worship & Sunday School: 9:45 AM

Church Office: 548-2800 [[office@byronfpc.org](mailto:office@byronfpc.org)]

**Church Web Page:** [www.byronfpc.org](http://www.byronfpc.org)

Pastor: James Renfrew (548-2800 office) [[pastor@byronfpc.org](mailto:pastor@byronfpc.org)]

Clerk of Session: Mary Ann Blair

Treasurer: Robin Glazier

Organist: Elizabeth Weber

Board of Trustees: Marc Kenward

Sexton: Rhonda Hickey

Secretary: Janet Pike [[jpike2@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jpike2@rochester.rr.com)]

## *The Mark Quiz*

*During the coming year many of our Sunday Bible readings will be from the Gospel of Mark. To get ourselves prepared, let's have a brief quiz to measure your knowledge of this important Gospel!*

Which of the four Gospels is the shortest in length?

*(a) Matthew (b) Mark (c) Luke (d) John*

Which of the four Gospels does not include the Christmas story?

*Choose Two: (a) Matthew (b) Mark (c) Luke (d) John*

The Gospel of Mark shares much of its material with two other

Gospels. Which ones? *(a) Matthew (b) Luke (c) John*

Who is "Mark" believed to be?

- (a) John Mark (b) One of the Twelve disciples (c) Peter's brother (d) A friend of Thomas

What is remarkable about Mark's version of the resurrection?

- (a) Much more detail about it than the other three Gospels  
(b) Only 8 verses, little more than a report of an empty tomb  
(c) Includes a lengthy speech by Jesus in the Garden  
(d) Completely at odds with the stories in the other Gospels

When do most scholars believe the Gospel of Mark was written?

- (a) Shortly after the resurrection, around 33 AD  
(b) Probably around 70 AD  
(c) No earlier than 100 AD  
(d) Not until 200 AD

Which verse is found only in the Gospel of Mark?

- (a) "God helps those who help themselves"  
(b) "God never gives us more than we can handle"  
(c) "The time is fulfilled, the Kingdom of God has come near."  
(d) "I am the way, the truth and the life"

Answers below

## ***Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 29, 2012***

Session has scheduled the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation to take place on Sunday, January 29, in the Dining Room, following worship. All members of the church are encouraged to attend. The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

Hear the report of the 2011 Nominating Committee, Elect new classes of Elders, Trustees and Deacons, and elect congregational representatives on the 2012 Nominating Committee.

Review the 2011 Financial Statements and the 2012 Proposed Budget

Hear reports from the various boards and committees of the church.

Approve rules proposed by Session with regard to congregational meetings. The adoption of a new Form of Government by the Presbyterian Church USA earlier in the year requires the congregation to codify certain rules. With one exception, these rules maintain previous practices. See the column to the right for a list of these proposed rules.

### ***Proposed Rules for Congregation Meetings***

The quorum for congregational meetings shall be one fifth (20%) of the active members of the church. (Note: we previously followed a 10% quorum requirement)

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for congregation meetings.

Adequate public notice of congregational meetings shall be accomplished by announcements during two Sunday services previous to the meeting (which can include the service prior to the meeting). Additional notice may be offered in worship bulletins, church newsletters, church web-site, telephone, or by electronic mail.

The Nominating Committee shall be composed of the following persons: two elders from session (one of whom shall serve as chair), three people elected by the congregation (who are not serving as elders), one person named by Deacons, and one person named by Trustees.

### ***Now What?***

I used to live near the corner of a one-way street and a dead-end. Invariably drivers would get stuck - with a "No Outlet" sign summing up their sorry state.

Sometimes there are life circumstances that leave us feeling the same way - no outlet! Our Prayer Chain may not solve all your problems, but it can't hurt, and it might even help - knowing lots of people are praying for God to help you find your way forward.

If a "No Outlet" sign appears in front of you our Prayer Chain is ready to help. Please contact Laura Platt (548-2245) to get the chain started.

## ***From the Pastor***

Dear Friends,

Here are the three questions that we gave our attention to at our Christmas Sunday service:

***Tell us about a Christmas activity or tradition from your past that continues to delight and inspire you in the present day.***

***Tell us about something you or your family did this Christmas that you would love to tell others about.***

***What will you not put away when Christmas celebrations are over?***

This third question has been much on my mind in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Like many of you, my hopes rise with the coming of Christ, and we all commit ourselves to work with him to make these hopes real. But too soon these hopes and commitments are put away like decorations and life goes back to the way it was.

And the same cycle is repeated in the following year.

So that third question is the important one. What will we NOT put away after Christmas? OK, you can leave your Christmas lights along the eaves at the roof line, saving you the trouble of putting them up next year, but I'm not talking about decorations! It's the spiritual treasure of Christmas that I'm talking about! What has your heart risen to discover and experience this Christmas, and how will you sustain that long after the formal Christmas celebrations are over? What will you NOT put away?

Or think of it this way: how can the rest of us help you hold on to what you discovered or experienced this Christmas? How can we encourage you, pray with you, sing with you, and roll up our sleeves with you, so that what you found is not lost or put away?

Our granddaughter Ellienna, now nearly two and half years old, experienced Christmas for the first time this year. For her Christmas has been an unexpected joy that has come out of the blue. She is aware of it for the first time. She loved decorating the tree in our sanctuary, but, later, she was astounded that we would have a Christmas Tree in our home, too! And how much she enjoyed seeing the lights in the neighborhood! The wonder and joy she has experienced is amazing, especially when compared to those of us who have celebrated Christmas so many times that we find few surprises in it any more.

I think Ellieana has also grasped the idea of "time" in all of this. As teens were climbing the tall step ladder to put the decorations on the higher branches I'm pretty sure I saw in her face the understanding that some day, down the road, she will get her turn to climb the ladder, too ... but not yet! She seems to know she will be growing up.

So as she grows up, how will we help her hold on to that joy and wonder and generosity she experienced this Christmas. The worst thing we can do is to teach her to put it away! And not just younger children like Ellieana, Austin or Annabelle, but all of us! Let's encourage one another in every way that we can to not put Christmas away until another year!

Always in the Hope and Peace of Christ,  
Jim Renfrew, Pastor

## ***Choir & Music***

A big thank you to all the choir members and accompanists for their participation in our services during the Christmas season.

We had a great turn out and we really appreciate all the time and effort put forth. Special thanks to Larry Tallman, Sydney Moore, Mary Ann Blair, Rev. Jim Renfrew, and high school band members, for their Christmas Eve and Christmas day performances, and Matthew Hilbert on piano the week before, and to Gail Radley and Mary Ann Blair for playing the organ while Liz is away on family business in Tucson.

Thanks and Happy New Year to all!

[Kim Dewey]

## ***Session Notes***

A new Form of Government has been approved by the Presbyterian Church (USA). Session is working on a smooth transition from policies and procedures in the previous Form of Government to the new version. The Annual Meeting on January 29th will include proposed actions related to the transition.

The Lord's Supper was rescheduled from Sunday December 18th to Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day.

The Nominating Committee has been working diligently to fill positions on the three church Boards. Thanks to all whose term of service is ending, and to those who are hearing the call to serve as church leaders.

A team is continuing to work on a Sexual Misconduct Policy for our church. The Presbytery now requires each congregation to do this. We expect to present a proposed policy to the congregation in the Fall.

The Natural Church Development survey, on the recommendation of the Membership Committee, will be taken following worship on January 8th and January 15th. This will be the third NCD survey. The previous two surveys have been an invaluable help to Session and the congregation in improving the health of our church.

[Mary Ann Blair, Session Clerk]

## ***Deacons in Action***

Please support our ***emergency food donation*** box each week! Peanut butter, crackers, juice boxes, canned fruits and vegetables are always needed, as well as grocery bags. Food items are sent to the Emergency Food Shelf of Genesee County Churches United at the Salvation Army in Batavia. You may put items in the box at the back of the sanctuary, or in the cart at the side entrance.

We have an active Nursery on Sunday mornings, and Deacons are providing an adult presence and a simple lesson, with teens assisting.

And be sure to check out our library in the back hallway. Lots of very interesting books and magazines for all ages!

Thanks to all for participating in the Christmas Angel Tree and for bell-ringing for Salvation Army.

[Doris Hillabush]

## ***Preaching Themes for January-February***

JAN 1	Marsha Wenhold, CLP - guest preacher	
JAN 8	Mark 1:4-11	"The Mark Quiz"
JAN 15	John 1:43-51	"I Saw You"
JAN 22	Mark 1:14-20	"Time's Up!"
JAN 29	Mark 1:21-28	"Send Them Packing"
FEB 5	Mark 1:29-39	"Lining Up"
FEB 12	Mark 1:40-45	"The Secret Jesus"
FEB 19	Romans 12:1-2	"Abracadabra"
FEB 26	Mark 1:9-15	"Your Wilderness"

## ***How To Defeat the Winter Blues?***

With snow drifts up to the second floor windows, temperatures well below zero, and every morning dominated by ice and salt, who wouldn't get the blues? OK, we're exaggerating a bit (there's no snow on the ground at all as we write this, and the temperature has been above forty), but you get the point, I hope, that we need to do something to liven up things this time of year.

So we're going to have a family night potluck meal on Friday, February 10th, from 6-8 PM. We invite you to bring a board or card game from home that others would enjoy. Please bring a salad or main dish to share, your own table settings to reduce the clean-up time, and a game to play with others.

## ***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.

## ***Thank You!***

We have received many positive comments from our newsletter 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.

## ***Pasta for Peace***

A third "Pasta for Peace" Free Spaghetti Dinner, will be held Thursday, January 12th, at 6:30 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church, 300 East Main St., in Batavia. Former Sheriff Doug Call will be the featured speaker. The event is offered by Pax Christi.

Mr. Call will be drawing upon many years in Criminal Justice including 7 years Air Force Judge Advocate; 4 years as Assistant County Attorney prosecuting cases in Family Court (400 appearances per year); 7 years as County Sheriff; 2 years as Director of Public Safety in Rochester; many years in the private practice of Law; and his 12 years as Town Justice adjudicating criminal cases. He was a recognized innovator and demonstrated his concern for all parties.

Mr. Call says that the principal step to peace is "To Walk in the Other's Moccasins". "The promotion of peace among peoples, in my experience, requires a level of understanding and empathy for one another (the golden rule in action)." Known and respected by many in Genesee County for years, Doug accepts Ralph Waldo Emerson's summary as the path to peace, "Peace cannot be achieved through violence. It can only be gained through understanding."

The event is sponsored by Pax Christi Genesee County. Pax Christi is part of the International and National Catholic Peace Movement, but operates on an interfaith basis locally. Pax Christi hopes that increased local understanding will reduce violence.

## ***Presbytery Events***

**Resource Saturday:** Introducing TCC's Triple Play Grant Process, January 14, 2012, 9:30-11:30 am, South Church. Leaders: Rev. Jim Renfrew, Rev. Laurel Nelson, Rev. Carson Mouser, Elder Lynne Peffley, and Elder Susan Orr. Triple Play Grant applications will not be due until April 30, 2012; but we want to encourage churches to begin collaborating with potential partners now. Members of Three Committees Collaborating will explain the application process and answer questions. An application and additional information are available on the Presbytery website at <http://www.pbygenva.org/grants/>.

### **2012 Movie Madness** (for youth in grades 6-12)

When: January 15-16, 11:30 pm-7:30 am

Where: Regal Cinema 12, Greece Ridge Center

Cost: \$25 per person, payable in advance

Deadline: January 9

For more information, a flyer, and registration forms, go to <http://www.pbygenva.org/youth.shtml#moviemadness>.

**Church Leadership Development Day** (For New and Experienced Church Leaders), February 11, 2012; (Morning Session: 9 am-Noon; Working Lunch Session: 12:15-1:45 pm), at Perinton Presbyterian Church. Courses of interest to elders, deacons, clerks of session, treasurers, trustees, and other church leaders will be offered. A Clergy/CLP Roundtable on will also be offered in the morning. Go to <http://www.pbygenva.org/committees/resedu/cld.shtml> for details and a registration form.

## ***Byron-Bergen Community Relief Team***

A number of community churches have come together to form the Byron-Bergen Community Relief Team to respond when crises occur in the community and surrounding areas.

The first focus was a response to the flood in Binghamton. Bergen Presbyterian organized a work team to go there in October, and Bergen United Methodist is planning to send a team in January. "Handy Tote" emergency kits were delivered to the First Presbyterian Church of Johnson City in November.

When there is a need like this, people are there to respond in any way they can. It has been proven over and over in our various churches. It is exciting to see what one church can do, and then add six more churches. Wow! The possibilities are so powerful to aid those in our community when the need arises. Let's never forget to praise God for this wonderful opportunity to work together! The next meeting of the group will be Tuesday, January 10, 6:30 PM, at the North Bergen Presbyterian Church. Any questions? Please call Diane Strock at 548-7753.

## ***A Note from Trustees***

Please be mindful of building security. Please ask for help in locking the front door if the latch won't turn easily. If you open a window, make sure it is closed and locked afterwards. The side door to the church needs special attention - even though only the right side of the double-door is used, the left side often comes ajar, so when locking the glass door please make sure both left and right sides latch. Thank you!

## ***Mark Quiz Answers:***

1 - B, 2 - B & D, 3 - A & B (in fact, most scholars believe that Mark was the source material used by Matthew and Luke when they wrote their Gospels), 4 - A (John Mark is mentioned in Acts 15:37, but no real proof of his authorship exists other than tradition), 5 - B (the most original scroll ends at verse 8; later versions include 12

additional verses), 6 - B (about 35-40 years after the resurrection), 7 - C (choices A & B are not in the Bible at all, and choice D is from John).

## **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 lots of photos, and links to other interesting web sites.

### ***Prayer Shawl Ministry***

The prayer shawls have been "leaving the building" fast and furious. 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! The group usually meets one evening each month.

### ***Cardboard Box Sleep-Out***

Friday, December 30 through Saturday, December 31, we joined with youth and adults from the Albion Presbyterian Church to host a Cardboard Box Sleep-Out in our church yard. The intent of the activity was to raise awareness of poverty and homelessness in our area - to both the community and ourselves.

Lisa Wittmeyer, Emergency Services Coordinator from Community Action in Batavia came and shared information about the things in our area that leave people on the financial edge, and possible homelessness. Lisa shared a lot of information with us about their programs and many of her interesting experiences. She was very informative and we learned that Community Action offers a lot of service within the communities of both Orleans and Genesee Counties. They depend on donations and fundraisers to develop their funding, without support from county government. She encouraged anyone interested in learning more about their programs to stop in at their office on Clinton Street Road in Batavia any time.

Two young adults who had been living in a tent in Albion along the canal this fall visited us and shared their story (they now have shelter in Albion through the work of Community Action). Their story was very compelling - and we learned that though we may not NOTICE them, there are more homeless people in the area than we realize.

Steady rain in the early evening left most everyone with a wet cardboard box having to sleep in a pool of water, so we sent nearly everyone into the church for sleeping. Jim slept out on the lawn, but in a tent.

We had the participation of Michaela and Pam Kenward, and Jim Renfrew from our church, plus we enjoyed visits from George and Anita Hillabush, their granddaughter Ellie, Tamara Hillabush Walker with Samantha and Alex, and Linda Johnson. We also appreciated logistical support from Marc Kenward. There were about eight from Albion (including Bill and Barb Emerson's granddaughter, Jessica Grimes).

We were raising funds in support of Community Action and our own mission plans in the coming year. If you would like to support what we did on Friday night you may place a donation in the offering plate (but please mark that it is for the Cardboard Box Sleep-Out) or send it by mail it to church.

### ***Stewardship Report***

We thank all who have made a financial commitment to the church for 2012. We have received forty five Estimate of Giving cards for a total of \$71,111.

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.

Please note that in each box of envelopes there is an envelope marked "*Per Capita*". Per Capita, set at \$27.43, 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 2012 would be fine, too. [*Stewardship Committee*]