

November-December, 2005 Newsletter

A THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle, or the ship; the axe had enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battlefield; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

President Abraham Lincoln

INSIDE: PEOPLE, NEWS, EVENTS, ANGELS

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* (548-7704 home, 494-1847
Stone Church, 548-2800 Byron Church)
[jrenfrew@rochester.rr.com]

Clerk of Session: *James Lundmark* (948-9336)
[lundmark@localnet.com]

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

Music Director: *Elizabeth Weber* (494-1545)

Youth Ministry: *Valerie Liles* (548-7163)
[cliles@rochester.rr.com]

Secretary+ *Janet Pike* (548-2800)
[byronfpc@localnet.com, janpike@hotmail.com]

Board of Trustees: *Ron Glazier* (548-2625)
Sexton: *Luan Riner* (548-2428)

The Best Time to Pray?

Some of us learned to pray before bedtime, some of us learned to pray before a family meal, some of us learned to pray in church on a Sunday. Is there a "best time" to pray? Of course not! All times of day on any day of the week are perfect for prayer ... first thing in the morning, in the middle of the night, or whenever the idea occurs to you. The best time to pray is whenever you remember to do it!

We're ready to pray for you, to pray with you, for your family, for our community, for whole world. Just let us know, and we'll all be praying with you. If something is happening in your life that would benefit from prayer, our folks are ready! You can initiate the Prayer Chain anytime by calling Laura Platt (548-2245) or Jean Roda (494-2417).

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"Let Heaven and Nature Sing"

Dear Friends,

These are the words in the refrain of a well-known Christmas Carol, and they will provide the theme for our Advent worship and praise in the coming weeks.

Each Sunday we will be asking worshipers to bring a picture to share with the church, to be added to a huge Advent mural in the sanctuary. Please look for a picture (your own art or something cut-out from a magazine), ornament or any other kind of image to represent the following:

NOV 27 -



Pictures of angels, to help us imagine the angels that appeared to Mary and Joseph.

DEC 4 -



Pictures of people, to help us imagine the people who lived in the town where Jesus was born.

DEC 11 -



Pictures of animals, to help us imagine the company Jesus had around the manger.

DEC 18 -



Pictures of a beautiful star, to help us imagine what the star over Bethlehem was like.

JAN 1 -



Pictures of gifts, like the ones brought to Jesus by the three kings.

Be creative and use your imagination as you prepare to share these things in worship!

Happy Thanksgiving & Joyful Advent,
Jim Renfrew, Pastor

Preaching Themes for November & December

NOV 6	II Cor. 9:6-15	"Your Second Chance"
NOV 13	Guest Preacher	Amanda Harvey
NOV 20	Psalms 150	"Destined & Appointed"
NOV 27	Matt 1:18-24	"Angels!"
DEC 4	Luke 1:57-79	"People!"
DEC 11	Isaiah 11:1-9	"Animals!"
DEC 18	Psalms 148	"Stars!"
DEC 25	Luke 2:22-40	Christmas Morning

Harvest Celebration

Our Stewardship Team invites you to a Harvest Celebration on **Sunday, November 6th** immediately following worship. **Please note that on this day only worship will begin at 11:15 AM.** We will celebrate God's blessings during the past year, and share our faithful commitment for the year to come.

Estimate of Giving Cards will be made available during the worship service, and we will place them on the Communion Table as we go out to the Dining Room for a potluck lunch. Please bring a dish to pass! Table settings and beverages will be provided. And, of course, there will be lots of enjoyable activities for all ages!

If you cannot be present on November 6th, please contact the church office (548-2800) to get an Estimate of Giving Card in advance of the service.



Thanksgiving

Wednesday, November 23, 7:30 PM, at Morganville UCC, with guests from St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Stafford United Methodist Church, Byron Presbyterian Church and South Byron Methodist Church.

Christmas Eve



We will celebrate the coming of Christ into the world with a Christmas Eve service of candles and carols on Saturday, December 24th, 7:30 PM. Since many have asked ... yes we will offer a Sunday worship service on Christmas morning, December 25th.

Poinsettia Sale

Once again, our Session is sponsoring a Holiday Poinsettia Sale. Orders for these beautiful holiday flowers can be placed through Session members. To phone in an order you can call Kim Dewey at 548-7363, Vicky Truax at 494-1242, or Mary Ann Blair at 548-2431. Poinsettias are offered in red, pink, white, or marble. The 6½" pots sell for \$7.50 each or 2 for \$14. The 10" hanging baskets are \$13.50 each or 2 for \$26. All orders must be in no later than November 19th. Flowers will be available for pick up at the church on Saturday, November 26th from 8AM to Noon.

www.byronfpc.org

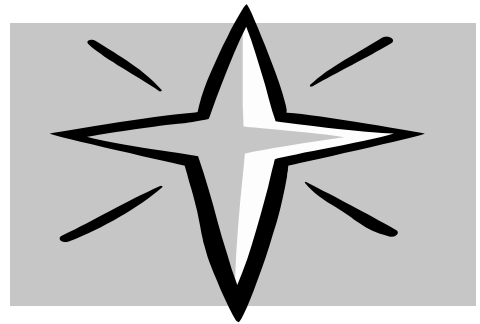
Find out the latest information about the Byron Presbyterian Church at our new web page. All you have to do is enter "www.byronfpc.org" in your computer and our church home page will appear.

The web page includes the latest news about church events and activities, photos, sermons, and historical items. There are e-mail links to the Pastor, Church Secretary and Youth Ministry Coordinator. There is also a place where anyone visiting the web page can leave prayer concerns and comments. The group photo taken on the steps of the church in Sunday, September 11 is now posted on the web site!

Church & Community News

We are praying for **Susie Blair** (now relocated to Ft. Meade, Maryland), **Jan Vanwyngaarden and George Toal** (at GCNH), **Shirley Mahon** (cancer treatment), **Sharon Keller** (Liz Weber's sister-in-law), **Jared Johnson** (has moved to Job Corps in Albany, Georgia), **Art & Erma Weldon, Doris Fuller, Bus Boldt** (Mary Ann Blair's father was in the hospital in October), **Jean Boshart** (Pam Lynch's mother), **Beverly Dusing** (Valerie Liles' mother), **Don Engle** (broken rib still healing), Helen Moore's daughter (recovering from surgery), Melissa Cleveland (will soon report to Illinois to serve in the US Navy), Beth Wilson's mother is preparing for surgery in November.

Welcome to recent visitors: **Brittni Hart, Paul, Linda, and Chelsea Bestehorn.**



The deadline for the January-February Newsletter is December 15. Please submit material to the office by that date. You can also send items via e-mail to byronfpc@localnet.com. Thank you.

Make a Joyful Noise!

We have enjoyed the music presented by the "Joyful Noise Choir" twice during October, and we look forward to their next worship participation on November 20th. On October 23rd we enjoyed a wind ensemble that included *Kylie Britt, Chelsea Bestehorn, Kennedy White*, and *Alexandra Walker*. Tamara Hillabush-Walker directed. We are looking for youth of all ages to participate with instruments and voices. Please contact Tamara if interested. Practices are for 15 minutes after Sunday worship and at 9:00 AM on Sundays when music is to be presented during worship.

Sunday School

Our Sunday School year consists of the following age groups: **4 years old to 1st grade, 2nd & 4th grade, 5th to 6th grade, and 7th and up.** We are pleased to have a fine group of adults and teens involved as teachers and assistants for three classes, but ***we are always looking for new volunteers.*** The requirement? A heart for children and love of the Gospel! Teachers and assistants are generally able to choose the Sundays that they are available to teach. Our "*Hands On Bible Curriculum*" has been in use since the spring with a lot of positive feedback from children and teachers. For information, please contact **Tracy & Jim Lundmark** at 948-9336.

Deacons

The deacons encourage you to contribute food items to Salvation Army Emergency Food Pantry in Batavia when you attend Sunday worship. November: Oatmeal packets and canned juice; December: Canned meats and canned beans. The following contributions are welcomed at any time: grocery bags, canned vegetables, canned fruit, and crackers.

Or, for fun, follow the **Emergency Food Alphabet** suggested by **Sharon Buczek** on the dates shown bring in a food item that begins with the letter show! NOV 6 "D", NOV 13 "E", NOV 20 "F", NOV 27 "G", DEC 4 "H", DEC 11 "I", DEC 18 "J", and DEC 25 "K".

If you know of someone who would benefit from having a card sent, please fill out the form located on the back table in the sanctuary and give it to a deacon. We are always in need of volunteers to bring in flowers on Sundays, to serve as greeters, and to assist with nursery care. . **[Tracine Lundmark, Deacons]**

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Birthdays!!!

November

- 3 Audrey Blount, Nelson Stamp
- 5 Sonja Gonyea
- 8 Lindsay Moore, Richard Johnson
- 9 Pam Lynch
- 11 Roy Lane
- 14 Sean Holly
- 16 Vicky Truax
- 18 Debbie Johnson
- 19 Jennifer Liles
- 21 David Kenward
- 23 Jerry McCracken
- 25 Sara George, George Toal
- 27 Ronald Toal
- 28 Judy Holly
- 29 Joseph Schelemanow, Bryn Luckey
Keenan Hughes
- 30 Luan Riner, Marc Kenward, Jason Liles

December

- 8 Connor Stefaniak
- 9 James Boorum
- 10 Lee Shuknecht, Dida Shepard
- 11 Tammy Prevost
- 14 Trevor Holly
- 20 Evelyn Scheiber
- 21 Beth Luckey
- 26 Meghan Dewey
- 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
- 9 Christopher and Valerie Liles
- 11 Frank and Connie Swanson
- 27 John and Jackie Johnson

Is your Birthday or Anniversary date missing from this list? Please inform the office (548-7704) and we will make the correction for you.

Report from South Louisiana

*"We have truly witnessed
the love of Christ made real"*

To our sister churches in the PC(USA):

This letter is a summary of the situation in the Presbytery of South Louisiana in the wake of two severe hurricanes that have caused long-term devastation in our region. Flooding in New Orleans and in St. Bernard Parish, and wind and water damage in many other parishes, have created a dispersion or "diaspora" of Louisianans across the country. Some have become permanently settled in new homes elsewhere. This is good news for the evacuees.

However, it will complicate the economic recovery of South Louisiana. A Tulane University economist estimates that as many as 60,000 businesses in New Orleans may not reopen. Largely because of a diminished tax base, the city of New Orleans believes it will be forced to eliminate about 3,000 jobs; state government expects to lose about 18,000. In some cases, just one-third of members have returned to New Orleans-area congregations. This puts enormous stress on pastors and sessions to keep the churches functioning and bills paid.

On Sept. 4, our presbytery established a special administrative commission to help the churches stay open; its chair is Rev. Ted Roeling. The commission was granted extraordinary powers to encumber church property and take out bank loans on behalf of the churches to maintain their financial viability.

The Board of Pensions approved an emergency grant of \$50,000 to pay the salaries of pastors and other church professionals whose congregations couldn't gather for worship or to meet their needs from their own offerings. All that money has been spent. We are a presbytery of small churches. Over the long term, other commissions will be formed to decide whether mergers, closures or other such measures must be taken in some cases.

The Presbytery and its 67 congregations would like to thank our sister presbyteries in the Synod of the Sun - Arkansas, Grace and New Covenant in particular - for their immediate, generous response to our need. The synod as a whole, including our executive, the Rev. Judy R. Fletcher, have been wonderfully supportive. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance teams have helped us process the emotional trauma. The Rev. Michael Mann, our interim general presbyter, has worked tirelessly throughout the crisis. The generosity of congregations

and individuals across the country and throughout this great church has been incredible. We cannot possibly thank you enough. In your compassion, we have truly witnessed the love of Christ made real. It is a demonstration of the Church of Jesus Christ as it is meant to be.

One congregation sent out 142 letters of thanks for gifts of money and supplies. University Presbyterian Church in Baton Rouge received families with newborns from a local women's hospital and converted a classroom into a nursery and neonatal unit; at one point, 17 people were living at the church. Another Baton Rouge congregation, First Presbyterian, provided emergency housing for out-of-state law-enforcement officers called in to help maintain order and electric utility workers helping to restore power. In Thibodeaux, LA, our presbytery's emergency coordinator, the Rev. Bill Crawford, is managing distributions of food, clothing, water, toiletries, and supplies by truck to remote homes and neighborhoods in the bayou country. Covington (LA) Presbyterian Church aided in several Habitat for Humanity "builds" on the northern shore of Lake Pontchartrain. My own church, Broadmoor Presbyterian of Baton Rouge, made its gymnasium available for emergency shelter for 200 evacuees over a two-week period after Hurricane Katrina. Every church has responded. Countless families are still hosting evacuees in their homes.

Many churches have sustained serious damage: Lakeview Presbyterian Church in New Orleans had floodwater seven feet deep - to the top of the pulpit. Pews floated through the sanctuary. Black sludge and algae thickly covered the parking lot and church buildings' floors and walls. St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church was not flooded, but shingles were blown off the sanctuary roof, allowing rain to get in and ruin the carpet. Winds damaged the Gothic tower of New Orleans' First Presbyterian Church, knocking down several finials. The sanctuary filled up with 32 inches of water; only the top four inches of the pews stayed dry. A tree in front of Parkway Presbyterian Church of Metairie, LA, was uprooted and broke a water main in front of the church. Canal Street Presbyterian Church in New Orleans had one foot of water in its sanctuary and fellowship hall. Peace Presbyterian Church in New Orleans filled with water five feet deep. None of the sanctuary furnishings was salvageable, except the Bible, paraments and a wooden seal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). John Calvin Presbyterian Church of Metairie had several inches of floodwater in the office area and had to replace its carpet. Korean Presbyterian Church in New Orleans had eight feet of floodwater. A car floated

Southern Louisiana (continued) - with a fallen tree on top of it. Carolyn Park and Creedmore Presbyterian churches in St. Bernard Parish had severe flood damage. The basement of Esplanade Presbyterian Church (formerly Third PC) was flooded, as was the first floor of the manse. Also, the pews were covered with mold. North shore churches (in Bogalusa, Slidell, Pearl River, Mandeville and Covington) all had varying degrees of storm damage. (The Covington church had several fallen trees, but, miraculously, every one fell AWAY from the church building.) When First Presbyterian Church of DeRidder, LA, was hit by Hurricane Rita, a falling tree damaged the church roof. Churches in Sulfur and Lake Charles had roof and window damage and floodwater seepage.

What can you do?

Pray. Please ask God to direct us and help us. We believe prayer is the foundation of everything we do here. Without God we cannot do anything. We know that the storms have opened hearts and given us an unprecedented chance to minister to the unreached people of our communities. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and empower us to do that in Jesus' name.

Write. Letters of encouragement to individual churches would mean a lot to us.

Give. The financial need will be constant throughout the recovery process. Don't forget us. Send contributions to the Disaster Operations Fund of the Presbytery of South Louisiana, 928 Rodin Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

Volunteer. Many people have asked about sending groups to help with recovery work. We do need that kind of aid, but flooded buildings are full of mold, and masks must be worn. Anyone with health complications, especially respiratory problems or allergies, would be well-advised not to come for a while. Mounds of unremoved trash still line the streets. Licensed contractors must have tetanus and hepatitis shots before coming to the New Orleans area.

For more information, call the presbytery office at (225) 926-4562 or (toll-free) (877) 366-7675.

"Behold, I make all things new," the Lord Jesus affirms. This promise came to one of our pastors in the middle of the night after he'd surveyed the damage to our New Orleans churches. It reflects our hope in Jesus Christ for the renewal of our presbytery. We ask you to continue to partner with us in the great new work that God is doing in South Louisiana.

[*Rev. Hawley L. Wolfe, Moderator, Presbytery of South Louisiana, via PCUSANEWS, OCT 24 2005*]

Banquet in a Box

We are again participating in this annual event of giving, with a number of food items needed to supply three families with a Thanksgiving dinner in Genesee County. All items should be at the church by Nov. 12th. There is a sign up list at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you! [*Sharon Buczek, Deacons*]

Tables and 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 \$2 per table plus \$2 for each set of five chairs. Those wishing to borrow these must make arrangements well in advance with the Church Secretary, 548-2800. Please note: only the older tables may be borrowed from the church. Borrowed items must be returned within 24 hours. [*Janet Pike, Church Secretary*]

Church Secretary Retires

Our office secretary, Janet Pike, will be retiring on December 31, 2005. Janet will be truly missed. Her pleasant personality and efficient manner have been a blessing to our congregation. On behalf of the personnel committee and congregation, we wish Janet all the best as she retires and hope that she enjoys this new chapter in her life. [*Kim Dewey, Personnel Committee*]

Thank You! To all who helped with the Turkey Dinner in October! \$1,600 was raised.
