

## January - February 2008 Newsletter

# *Every Sunday, 9:45 AM*

Wonderful things happen every Sunday at the Byron Presbyterian Church, and we invite you to stop in and see for yourself!

- 9:00 AM      Choir Practice – whether you sing high or low, fast or slow, we would love to hear you.
- 9:45 AM      Sunday Worship & Sunday School – music, a message, for all ages! The Lord's Supper on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.
- 10:45 AM     Joyful Noise Youth Choir & Ensemble – trumpets, clarinets, trombones, let's sing, let's make music, giving glory to God!
- 10:45 AM     Adult groups

## Church Information

Sunday Worship & Sunday School: 9:45 AM

Church Office: 548-2800

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

Pastor: James Renfrew 548-2800

Clerk of Session: James Lundmark

Treasurer: Robin Glazier

Organist: Elizabeth Weber

Board of Trustees: Ron Glazier

Sexton: Rhonda Hickey

Secretary: Janet Pike

JAN 20 John 1:29-42 "Take Away"

JAN 27 Marsha Wenhold preaching

FEB 3 II Peter 1:16-21 "Morning Star"

FEB 10 Matthew 4:1-11 "Rocks!"

FEB 17 John 3:1-17 "What God Gives"

FEB 24 John 4:5-42 "Living Water"

## Prayer Shawl Ministry



Please contact the church office if you would like to participate in or support this ministry of love. There is no charge for a shawl - they are a labor of love - except that we welcome donations of 3 skeins (same color) of yarn for each prayer shawl. More than 40 shawls have been offered to people in the church and community.

## [www.byronfpc.org](http://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.



Did you miss Sunday's service? Look for the sermon here!



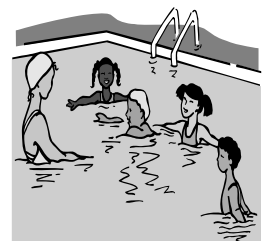
## Deacons

Please continue your contributions using the Emergency Food Alphabet! On the dates shown bring in a food item that begins with the letter shown! JAN 6 "N", JAN 13 "O", JAN 20 "P", JAN 27 "Q", FEB 3 "R", FEB 10 "S", FEB 17 "T", FEB 24 "U". Contributed food items are delivered to the emergency food program of Genesee County Churches United at Salvation Army in Batavia.

Many thanks to all that contributed to our special Thanksgiving and Christmas projects.

## Byron Youth Group

Lock-In / Swim Party - On January 5<sup>th</sup> we have an awesome event for children planned: From 2:30-4:30 PM we'll be at



## Clank! Clank!



Don't worry, that's not the heating system breaking down, it's the sound of the links of a lively Prayer Chain at work! We are always ready to pray for you, to pray with you, for your family, for our community, and for the whole world. You can initiate the Prayer Chain anytime by calling Laura Platt or Jean Roda.

We are updating our Prayer Chain list. If you have not been receiving calls, please contact the church office (548-2800). If you would like to be a link in the chain, we'd be glad to include you.

## Annual Meeting Sunday, January 27th

The Annual Meeting of the congregation and corporation will take place following worship on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. The 2007 Financial Statement and 2008 Budget will be reviewed, reports from board and committees will be heard, elders, deacons and trustees will be elected, and congregational members of the 2008 Nominating Committee will be elected. [James Lundmark, Clerk of Session]

## Preaching Themes for September & October

JAN 6 Matthew 2:1-12 "Astrology or Astronomy?"

JAN 13 Matthew 3:13-17 "Memorization"

the Batavia YMCA for the pool party, followed by an overnight lock-in at the church, that will end following

breakfast at 10:45 AM. Want to join us? Make your reservation with **Lacey Sloat**. We are also looking for adults willing to serve as chaperones for portions of the night, if you can help please contact **Erica Hickey**. To contribute goodies, call **Chelsea Hartman**. This entire event has been planned by church youth with the help of the Christian Education Committee.

**Movie Madness** - A big event during January is Movie Madness, offered by the Presbytery of Genesee Valley on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at Regal Cinema 12 at Greece Ridge Center by 11:30 PM, and then watch three movies in current release until 7:30 AM. The cost is \$25, and includes popcorn, drink and candy. The strict deadline for sign-up is Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. The event is open to youth 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. For more information, please contact Rev. Renfrew.



**Joyful Noise** - Practices are for 15 minutes after Sunday worship and at 9:00 AM on the third Sunday of the month when music is to be presented during worship. Please contact **Tamara Hillabush-Walker** if interested.

**Paper Retriever Program** - We want everyone's newspaper, magazines, office and school papers, shopping catalogs, mail, envelopes, folders, fax and copy paper, colored paper!!!! Can we collect 4 tons or more per month???? We (the youth group) get paid \$15 per ton - it's FREE MONEY! Ask your family and friends for ALL OF THEIR PAPER! Bring it to the bins behind the church - it's that easy!!!!



## From the Pastor



(The service on December 16<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to poor weather - here's part of the sermon I had planned to offer that day! - Jim Renfrew)

Every year I receive at least one Christmas card showing Mary riding a donkey, Joseph leading the donkey, traveling peacefully to Bethlehem.

Actually this scene of the two travelers represents a dangerous detour in the Christmas story. It comes after the angels visited them. The angel told them that Jesus was going to be born, God's own child, whose birth would change the world. The angel hadn't said anything about having to make a dangerous journey to Bethlehem! Travel in those days was on foot over many long, dusty miles. There were no rest stops, motels, or restaurants, and it was always dangerous.

The picture on the Christmas card is beautiful, but it's largely inaccurate. Not many people would ride a donkey a 100 miles in the last stages of pregnancy, so they didn't go to Bethlehem by choice. It was because the Roman emperor needed money to fight his wars, and the best way to get that money was to raise taxes, and the best way to collect taxes was to make sure that the tax agents knew exactly where everyone lived. So Mary and Joseph had to make that journey to Bethlehem, the hometown of Joseph's ancestors.

"A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way..." [Isaiah 35:8] Isaiah shares a vision of people on a journey that had been impossible because of the dangerous desert, no road, no food or water, and the weakness of the travelers. Then Isaiah sees that what was once impossible has become possible! There is a highway that the faithful can travel to reach the land of promise.

Just imagine, a highway that will carry us safely through all the obstacles and dangers of this world to reach everything that God has promised. I can't wait! So let's build that highway today! We need surveyors, truck drivers, and pavement experts. We need people to build rest stops. What a lot of work to do, we'll NEVER get it done! But here's the Good News - God has already taken care of the construction of that highway - and all we have to do is step onto it and begin that journey ourselves.

Mary and Joseph walked a dangerous road, under very difficult circumstances, but I think what gave them hope was a vision like Isaiah's vision. They were on a dangerous road, but with the angel's promise in their hearts, that road became God's highway, and we're invited to take our first steps on it!

- Rev. Jim Renfrew

Rev. Renfrew's office hours are normally Tuesday 3-6 pm and Wednesday 10 am to 1 pm.

**Church Leadership  
Development Day  
Sat., Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> at GCC**

For new or experienced leaders in Presbyterian Churches! Courses for Elders, Deacons, Clerks, Treasurers, Christian Educators, and Pastors are offered in this annual program of the Presbytery, which is being held at nearby Genesee Community College. The courses run from 8:30 AM until 12:00 PM, plus nine special working lunch courses from 12:15-1:45 PM. \$8 box lunches may be pre-ordered and paid for in advance through the Presbytery Office (242-0080). Our church will cover the \$5 registration fee, so please register through the church office. A detailed brochure is available from the church office. Snow Date is Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

church office during January that you would like us to keep track of these contributions.

## Community Blood Drive

A blood drive will be held at the South Byron Fire Department on Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Please call the American Red Cross to schedule your appointment at 800-448-3543.



## Bring a Friend Sunday, February 3rd

The name of "Bring a Friend Sunday" says it all! Invite a friend! We'll have some special mementos to offer your guests, and we'll enjoy refreshments after the service. Bring a Friend ... younger, older and in-between!

## Stewardship Committee

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.

We have had an excellent response to our 2008 stewardship appeal, with 53 estimates of giving received by the Stewardship Committee for a total of \$65,790.

Please note that in each box there is an envelope marked "*Per Capita*". Per Capita, set at \$25.29, 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

## Resource Saturdays

Saturday January 12<sup>th</sup>

Registration Deadline: Thursday January 10<sup>th</sup>

Come early, stay late! Coffee & goodies provided. All courses are free! Pre-registration requested, contact [sorr@pbygenval.org](mailto:sorr@pbygenval.org), or 242-0099.

**Introducing the Music Library!** *Music Directors Karen Bernhardt Kuntz (Bergen, First); Kathy Thomas (Irondequoit); Cary Ratcliff (Bethany); and Susan Orr (Laurelton), 9am-Noon.* Churches are invited to be part of the foundation of the newest "wing" of the Resource Center, a lending library that will provide a way for churches to borrow music from each other. Choir members and directors are invited to bring copies of several of their favorite pieces that we'll sing together. Informational moments on copyright and the church, sharing of resources (i.e. where do you get your music?) and an introduction of the Music Library concept will be included. Space will also be provided for a "Freebie" exchange.

**Triangular Teaching: A New Way of Teaching the Bible to Adults.** *Barbara Bruce, Co-Chair of the Western New York Christian Education Team, United Methodist Church, 9:30-11:30am.* Teaching adults can be a fascinating and faith building experience. Most adults are eager to learn and make discoveries about how the Bible speaks to them today! By incorporating all we know from brain research, multiple intelligence theory and creative and critical thinking, Bible study takes on a new and exciting depth of understanding and transformation. We will experience a lesson and then discuss the discoveries made in this new triangular approach to teaching/learning with adults.

## ***Session Notes***

The Personnel Committee has been working hard to find a new sexton ... and that person is Rhonda Hickey! Rhonda will begin her work with us in January.

Marsha Wenhold served as the moderator of the December meeting in order to give her an important experience in preparation for becoming a Certified Lay Pastor. Marsha will move on to another congregation at the end of January, and we expect that a second student will be assigned to our church through June. [*Jim Lundmark, Clerk of Session*]

## ***Many Thanks***

Many thanks to those that volunteered their time on Thursday, November 29 to help out with Salvation Army Red Kettle bell ringing at Tops in LeRoy. Our volunteers included *Audrey Blount, Don & Marilyn Britt, Luan Riner, Lacey & Larisa Sloat, Chelsea Hartman, Laura Bestehorn, Rhonda, Braydon, Erica & Jenica Hickey, Pam Lynch, Helen Hulburt, Laura Platt, Faline Tyler* and *Jim Renfrew*.

## ***Save the Date***

Please save SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2008! We will be taking a contingency of about 12-15 people to prepare and serve a Sunday Celebration meal at Cameron Community Ministries in Rochester. Along with serving the meal, we will run a short worship service for those attending the meal. Cameron runs various programs that support those within its neighborhood. Genesee Valley Presbytery and many other entities in the area help to support the many services they offer to their neighbors.

## ***Mission Committee Would Like Your Input***

Feel free to share with anyone from the Mission Committee at any time...we are always looking for fresh ideas and opportunities. Currently, the Mission Committee consists of *Don & Marilyn Britt, Luan Riner, David Franke, Jim Renfrew, and Marc & Pam Kenward*.

## ***Shopping Fun***

During late November, the youth participated in a shopping expedition in which they, in small groups, shopped for a family of five from the Byron/Bergen area. They shopped for a mom and dad and two children, along with a new baby that was due to arrive in December. They had a lot of time combing the store for the best way to spend their money, making the most of their purchase dollars. It was a great lesson in finances as well as providing a lot of satisfaction to them, knowing they were helping an area family to have a reason to celebrate Christmas. We have a great group of youth that we can all be proud of!

## ***Dulce Pia-Rose Update***

I have heard from Dulce and she had a smooth trip home to the Philippines. She enjoyed her time here in Western New York, but she was happy to return to her family and enjoyed a belated birthday celebration with her one daughter upon her return. If anyone would like to correspond with Dulce, her address is:

Bishop Dulce Pia-Rose  
UCCP - East Visaya Jurisdiction  
Bethany Hospital Compound  
Real Street, Tacloban City 6500  
Leyte, Philippines

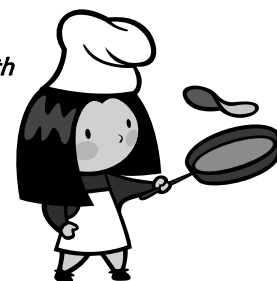
## ***Christmas Carolers***

On December 23<sup>rd</sup> *Chelsea Hartmen, Alex Walker, Samantha Walker, Jennica Hickey, Erica Hickey, Michaela Kenward, Tamara Hillabush-Walker, Laura Bestehorn, Pam Kenward and Jim Renfrew* went Christmas caroling at the Britt's, McCracken's, Roda's, Reiner's, Moore's, Doris Fuller and Ole Stewart. Lots of goodies were shared by grateful hosts.

## ***Pancake Breakfast!!!***

***Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>  
Byron Fire Hall  
9:00 am – Noon***

***Benefit for the Byron  
Nursery School***



***\$5 for adults,  
Under 12 \$3  
Pancakes, Sausage, Fruit,  
Juice, Chinese Auction***

***Please call 548-2800 for  
more information.***

Also, the Kiwanis Club has a Euchre Tournament on the second Saturday of the month, 7:30 PM, at the Byron Hotel that benefits the Nursery School.

## ***Angel Stories***

During Advent we enjoyed seeing Angel Story skits performed by the children of the church under the direction of *Kate George* and *Sydney Moore*. Here is one of the stories contributed by a church member that was shared on December 23<sup>rd</sup>:

### ***"Marc Almost Takes a Long Nap in a Ditch"***

Narrator: It's the first thing in the morning on a very cold, snowy and windy day. Marc is getting ready to drive to work.

Marc: Well, I'm off to work!

Pam: Are you crazy? School has already been canceled! Driving in this wind and snow is very dangerous. Do you want to end up off the road in a ditch somewhere?

Marc: I've been driving in the snow and wind like this my entire life. It won't be a problem.

Pam: Do they give out prizes at your job for stubbornness?

Marc: Don't worry. I've got to get going.

Narrator: Marc pulls his car out into the road. The wind is blowing. The tires spin a little bit in the snow, but he's underway. But less than a half mile from home something happens.

Marc: Hey, where's the road? I can hardly see it because of this big snow drift. Well, the road is straight, I'll just keep going. Hey, where did this pothole come from? It wasn't here yesterday!

Narrator: He doesn't know it yet, but Marc is in the ditch. The wheels are spinning, the car is stuck, and Marc suddenly realizes ...

Marc: I'm in a ditch. I'm stuck. And there's a lot of snow and wind.

Narrator: But his confidence is unshakeable.

Marc: Not a problem, I'll just make a call home on my cell phone.

Narrator: He reaches inside his pockets, with increasing panic, no cell phone! He left it at home.

Marc: Not a problem. I'll just walk home and get the other car.

Narrator: As he walks through the heavy snow breathing becomes a real struggle.

Marc: What a time for an asthma attack! But no problem, I'll just use my inhaler.

Narrator: He reaches into his pockets, with increasing panic, no inhaler! He left it at home. What looked like a short walk home has become a serious problem now. With the cold wind and snow, and a serious asthma attack Marc can hardly breathe, he's bent over trying to catch his breath. The snow is blowing hard, and he can hardly see where he is going in the deep snow.

Marc: I'm not going to make it! And I'm nearly within shouting distance of my home. I have two choices: lie down in the road and hope someone sees me before they run over me. Or lie down in the ditch; I won't be run over but they won't find my bones until spring.

Narrator: Meanwhile, a car is approaching the intersection of Cockram Road.

Stranger: What a terrible day for driving! (*a halo is placed on the head of the stranger*). I think I'll drive down Cockram Road for a change. Maybe the snow won't be so deep there. Look at that car in the ditch. No one in the car, though. But what's this? There's a man standing by the side of the road up ahead. He's almost covered with snow. Maybe he's in trouble?

Marc: Marc notices that a car coming down the road looks so rusty that a junk yard wouldn't accept it. The driver pulls up to Marc and rolls down his window. Even in the cold wind Marc catches a foul smell from the inside of the car. The man must raise pigs in the back, or haul manure. Yuck!

Stranger: Hey man, it looks like you could use a lift. OK, I know who you are. I know where you live, hop in and I'll get you there.

Marc: Thanks. My car got stuck back there.

Narrator: So Marc gets driven home.

Pam: What happened to you?

Marc: Remember that ditch you warned me about? I think I just learned a lesson.

Narrator: Telling the story years later, Marc says that he had never seen the driver or car before or since, but the stranger knew who Marc was and exactly where Marc lived. Sometimes the angels that help us are complete strangers. Not only that, they might look the exact opposite of what we think an angel should look like!

# *Annual Meeting*

## *Sunday, January*

### *27th*

The Annual Meeting of the congregation and corporation will take place following worship on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. The 2007 Financial Statement and 2008 Budget will be reviewed, reports from board and committees will be heard, elders, deacons and trustees will be elected, and congregational members of the 2008 Nominating Committee will be elected. A light lunch will be included.



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