



The Spirit

Byron Presbyterian Church July-August, 2010

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

Worship in the Park Sunday, August 1st

9:45 AM, in the park next to the church.

A great way to conclude the Heritage Festival weekend. Please bring your own lawn chairs and blankets. Refreshments on the front steps follow.

"Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful, because I come to you for safety. In the shadow of your wings I find protection until the raging storms are over ... Your constant love reaches the heavens, your faithfulness touches the skies."

[Psalm 57]

Not Your Typical Tuesday Special Summer Program for Kids in Byron Every Tuesday in July, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Tuesday, July 6

Tuesday, July 13

Tuesday, July 20

Tuesday, July 27

**At the Byron Presbyterian Church
6293 West Main (Rt. 262), Byron**

Children entering 1st grade and up are welcome to attend this free program! Each evening we're going to have fun with hands-on community help projects.



*For more information, or to register,
please call 548-2800.*

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 (638-6679 home,
548-2800 office, 813-2934 cell)
[pastor@byronfpc.org]

Clerk of Session: Mary Ann Blair (548-2431)
[mablair@rochester.rr.com]

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

Organist: Elizabeth Weber (494-1545)

Board of Trustees: Ron Glazier (548-2625)
[rrglazier@aol.com]

Sexton: Rhonda Hickey (548-7024)

Secretary: Janet Pike (548-7132)
[jpike2@rochester.rr.com]

Round and Round!

"The wheels on the bus go round and round" are the words of an old nursery school song. If you substitute "prayers" for "wheels" and "church" for "bus" you've got a good jingle for our Prayer Chain. All these prayers making the rounds from one home to another throughout the community! So, get on board the Prayer Chain! We are ready to help you, so give us a call and we'll get your prayer moving around! Please contact Laura Platt (548-2245) or Jean Roda (548-2417).

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.



New Church Directories Now Available

Our Secretary Janet Pike has produced an updated Church Directory. Please pick up your copy, with the Green cover, any Sunday morning, or contact the church office to receive a copy in the mail.

Thanks to all who have been sending us e-mail addresses for newsletter distribution. We have reduced the number of newsletters sent through the US Mail to seventy newsletters, while 130 others receive theirs by e-mail. We are glad to be going green - less paper, less copying, less postage. Plus you get your newsletter more quickly than before!

Trustees Report

A contract has been signed with Stafford Painters for work on the back end of the church building. Thanks to Harold Nesbitt for preparing flashing to stop bat infiltration; this will be installed when the painting work is being done.

Many thanks to our lawn-mowing volunteers who are doing a great job keeping the church grounds looking very nice!



From the Pastor



"What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like?" asked Jesus. "What parable shall we use to explain it? It is like this. A man takes a mustard seed, the smallest seed in the world, and plants it in the ground. After a while it grows up and becomes the biggest of all plants. It puts out such large branches that the birds come and make their nests in its shade." [Mark 4:30-32]

Dear Friends,

Jesus' "Parable of the Mustard Seed" encourages us to see how small things can grow and multiply.

For a small congregation such as ours, it reflects our aspiration to be much more than we are!

Every dream we have for our ministry, for a lively, Christ-inspired, mission committed congregation begins with the small steps we take this very day ... a smile, a hug, a kind word, a phone call, a visit, a promise, a risk, a prayer.

I am grateful for our Prayer Chain, which reveals

that a simple phone call can bring the healing, loving power of God into any situation. There is an old story about snow flakes weighing nothing, yet one snow flake when added to many others causes a mighty tree branch to break. May your prayer be the one that makes the difference!

Always in the Hope and Peace of Christ,

Jim Renfrew

PS - thank you for your many prayers at the time of my father's recent hospitalization in Raleigh NC. He is 87 years old and in frail health. He has returned to the Assisted Living Center after being treated for pneumonia.

Many of Jim's sermons are available on the www.byronfpc.org web site.

Rev. Renfrew can be reached at the church office (548-2800), at home (638-6679), by cell phone (813-2934) or by e-mail at pastor@byronfpc.org.

Deacons In Action

The Deacons hope that you are enjoying your summer but keep in mind that we are always here to help. We continue to welcome your donations to the Salvation Army food pantry. How many times have you gone to the grocery store thinking, I should pick up something extra and then forgotten? I'm guilty myself. This summer, let's see if we can fill that basket to the brim. Peanut butter, crackers, canned goods are always in demand. We are hoping to have a visit from Captain Bob from the Salvation Army early this fall.

Speaking of visits, do you know of someone who would benefit from visitation? Just let us know. We are a group ready and eager to serve our congregation, friends and community.

Don't forget to stop by the Deacon's library and pick out a book to read on a nice summer night. There is something for everyone.

[Kathy George, Deacons]

To the Deacons

To the Byron Presbyterian Church Deacons and friends of Evelyn I. Scheiber - It is with great appreciation and affection that I write this short, inadequate note of thanks.

Thank you for providing the helping hands and coordinating the beautiful luncheon following my Mom's memorial service.

The food was delicious - definitely comfort food! Thank you, again. God's blessings to you - the family of Evelyn I. Scheiber.

Session Notes

Presbytery Leader Linda Badger Becker is leaving her position in July, after 17 years with the Presbytery. Elder Karen Pryor of Third Presbyterian Church has been appointed Acting Presbytery Leader during the transition time. Elder Susan Orr, Director of the Presbytery Resource Center will take on a newly expanded position as Presbyter for Mission and Education.

Session continues to discuss the importance of doing outreach to build up the younger ages in our Sunday School.

The Mission Committee reported that the Backpack Program will continue on a smaller scale during the summer months.

A sign-up list for hosting Porch Fellowship during July and August has been posted at the rear of the sanctuary.

Membership Committee welcomes Barb Emerson as a new member of the Committee. Her fresh thoughts and ideas are most appreciated. The committee has been working on solidifying our Active and Inactive Membership lists to make them more accurate. We are awaiting a response to letters that we recently sent out. The first Small Group meeting took place on June 15th. Another will be taking place on August 10th. Everyone is welcome to participate, no matter if you signed up or not.

[Mary Ann Blair, Clerk of Session]

Your Small Group Invitation

We had our first Small Group gathering at Don and Marilyn's home on June 15th. The eight people there enjoyed the opportunity to get to know one another better ... as well as to enjoy ice cream sundaes!

We plan to do this again on **Tuesday, August 10th, 7:00 PM,** at Luan Riner's home.

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

Preaching Themes for July and August

JULY 4	Luke 10:1-11	"Two by Two"
JULY 11	Luke 10:25-37	"Good Reception"
JULY 18	Luke 10:38-42	"An 'M&M' Story"
JULY 25	Luke 12:13-21	"Foolishness"
AUGUST 1	Luke 11:1-13	"Three Ways to God"
AUGUST 8	Luke 12:32-40	"Trimmed and Burning"
AUGUST 15	Luke 12:49-56	"Cloud in the West"
AUGUST 22	Luke 13:10-17	"Seventh Day"
AUGUST 29	14:1,7-14	"RSVP"

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, please. We earn \$5 per ton.

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, 548-7132 (home) or 548-2800 (office).

Nooma

Nooma will return in September! Watch for information in the September newsletter. We are also considering the use of a DVD series, "Questions of Faith", from the Presbytery Resource Center.

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Church and Community News

We're praying for **James Slane**, a US marine veteran now living at the NYS Veterans Home in Batavia, **Lynne George** (doctor's care), **Warren Leaton** (at home), **Mike Simmons** (doctor's care), **Nelson Stamp** (medical care), for **Jan VanWyn-gaarden** (at GCNH), **Marian Shepherd** (at home), **Sharon Bracken-bury** (making good progress), **Scott Hartman** (Chelsea and Sarah's father, doctor's care), and **Robert Renfrew** (Jim's father in North Carolina), and **Robin Glazier** (post-surgical). **Brian Hickey** was in a serious auto accident in June, but, fortunately, nothing was broken.

We've been praying with Ruth McCracken for her daughter **Darlene Koubek's** recent surgery in Texas; it appears that the best outcome was achieved.

Marsha Wenhold, our former CLP Intern is recovering from re-

cent surgery. Marsha preached here in May and June.

Alex Sandra Morgan, a recent Elba High School graduate was a participant in the America's Junior Miss event in Mobile, Alabama, representing New York State. The program, which has now been re-named "Distinguished Young Women", focuses on leadership, teamwork and community service, with scholarship awards.



Welcome home, **SSgt Susie Blair Wilt**, returned from a tour in Afghanistan. Her husband **SSgt**

Jim Wilt continues his tour in Iraq until the end of the year.

Byron Bergen High School **Academic Awards Night**: Triple "C" Award (shared by David Kenward), American History Award (shared by David Kenward), President's Award for Academic Excellence (included Allayna DeHond, Benjamin Haywood, David Kenward), President's Volunteer Service Award (Benjamin Haywood), Prudential Spirit of Community Award for Merit (shared by Nicholas Haywood).

Renaissance Scholars: include Kylie Britt, Benjamin Haywood, Erica Hickey, Alexandra Walker, and Lacey Sloat. Finally, Connor Nesbitt received the prestigious Robert Fowler Award!

Congratulations, Graduates!

On Baccalaureate Sunday we honored nine recent graduates: **Sarah Shuknecht** (from Elba High School to GCC to study business administration), **David Kenward** (from Byron-Bergen to Lycoming College to study physics), **Nate Beglinger** (from BOCES to the world of work), **Justin Radley** (from Byron-Bergen to SUNY Fredonia to study criminal justice), **Ben Haywood** from Byron-Bergen to St. John Fisher to study chemistry education), **Nick Haywood** (from Byron-Bergen to MCC to study construction), Allayna DeHond (from Byron-Bergen to the University of Rochester to study biomedical technology), **Mallory Lynch** (from SUNY Brockport to a nursing career and further studies), and **Alex Sandra Morgan** (from Notre Dame to Harvard University, Alex was unable to attend due to her participation in the national Junior Miss event in Mobile, Alabama, where she represented New York). Well done, graduates, and well-done families!

Byron Summer Rec Program

The program will run from July 5th until August 13th, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM each day. .

Tuesdays - craft days with Faline Tyler, .
Wednesdays - Tennis days with Mark Fanto. **Thursdays** - field trips, including a summer carnival in Batavia with other rec groups (lunch provided, carnival games are 10 for a dollar), Bergen Swamp, Byron Dig, and the "geo-caching" at the Genesee County Park. Make sure you have a hat and SHOES; no sandals. Thanks to the Byron Kiwanis and the 2nd Sat. of the month euchre group at the hotel and 5 cent bottle and cans we have enough to go to the Genesee Country Village with a tour guide for only \$2.00 a person. Scholarships will be available so all may attend. All our out of town field trips will be from 10-3 to get the most out of them. All park activities are free and children 5 - 18 may attend, starting each day at the Byron Park behind the Byron fire hall. For more info please call Laura Platt, 548-2245.



BYRON YOUTH GROUP

Kids Helping Others

Not Your Typical Tuesdays

The Byron Youth Group is spending the summer helping others, and would like to invite your family to join the fun. Every Tuesday evening in July, youth members have organized a variety of games and activities related to helping a non-profit organization. Children of all ages are welcome! The first Tuesday (July 6th), youth will be helping people in Haiti. Children will be packing personal hygiene kits, and hearing from a local nurse who traveled to Haiti. They will also play some Haitian games, make some Haitian crafts, read some Haitian stories, try some Haitian food, and learn a little French, the official language of Haiti.

Other Tuesdays, children will learn about sustainability and saving the environment, and gathering school supplies for local children in need. On the last Tuesday in July, the Byron Youth Group will hold a family picnic, and help Heifer International, an organization that provides livestock and seeds to impoverished communities around the world, and teaches communities agricultural skills to help them grow their own food.

For more information or to register (appreciated but not required), please contact the Byron Youth Group Coordinator, Tamara Hillabush Walker, at 548-7303 or tamarahw@rochester.rr.com. We hope you and your family will join us for *Not Your Typical Tuesdays* this summer!



When Tuesdays in July
(July 6, 13, 20, & 27)

Time 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Place Byron Presbyterian Church
6293 West Main St., Byron

Hygiene kit donations are welcome: toothbrushes (individually wrapped), wide tooth combs, nail clippers, bars of soap (bath size, in wrapper), standard size Band-Aids, washcloths, hand towels (16x28), and 1 gal. zip-loc bags.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

July Birthdays!!!

- 1 Tom Nesbitt, Sheri Gouger
- 2 Robin Dunnington
- 3 Jeanie Sloat, Sydney Moore,
Nate Beglinger
- 9 Anita Hillabush
- 14 Karen Wilson
- 17 Aimee Hoover
- 20 Marilyn Liles, Eric George
- 22 Doris Hillabush
- 23 Helen Hulburt
- 28 Melinda Rehwaldt
- 30 Bret Rehwaldt

August Birthdays!!!

- 5 Stephen White
- 9 Jim Lundmark
- 10 Sarah Dewey
- 12 Lee Fuller III
- 14 Douglas Platt II
- 17 Todd Sloat
- 24 Ron Glazier

Anniversaries

- JULY 3 Jim & Debbie Stanton
- JULY 7 Bill & Faline Tyler
- JULY 11 Les & Mary Barnard
- JULY 12 Ron & Robin Glazier
- AUG. 11 Chrystal & Don Britt
- AUG. 13 Harlan & Gwen George
- AUG. 18 Warren & Norine Leaton
- AUG. 19 Mark & Kim Dewey
- AUG. 22 Kathy & Eric George
- AUG. 27 David & Marilyn Liles

If you have names to be added or deleted from the birthday/ anniversary list, please call the church office.



We Get Letters

"Thanks to the Byron Presbyterian Church for sending me your attractive "The Spirit" which is full of very interesting news and notices." [Mary Lou Butler, Silver Spring MD]

"Your card brought a smile to my face and joy to my heart. And, yes, God has been working each day to my recovery." [Clare Sloat]

"I do appreciate that beautiful prayer shawl. God bless the prayer shawl group. Gratitude is the hardest of all emotion to express. There is no word capable of conveying all that one feels. A 'Thank You' will have to do. Love and Prayers." [Rose]

"The two beautiful shawls you knitted that were given to Bob and me are just a wonderful gift. Bob especially enjoys the dark green one and I love the fuschia/pink and white one. The patterns are so perfect and they are so cozy warm around our shoulders. Thank you do much for thinking of us in this way." [Barbara Renfrew, Raleigh NC]

Thank You!

We have been blessed to have **Lauren Paluta** playing the piano so skillfully during worship during the past year. Lauren has been in town for a year as an AmeriCorps worker with the Genesee County Youth Bureau. In July her year will be completed and she will return to her home in Ohio to prepare for medical boards and graduate school.

Lauren was honored for her music during worship on June 20th, when her parents were visiting. Thank you, Lauren, and God Bless you in your future adventures!



"The Big Give" Stewardship Project

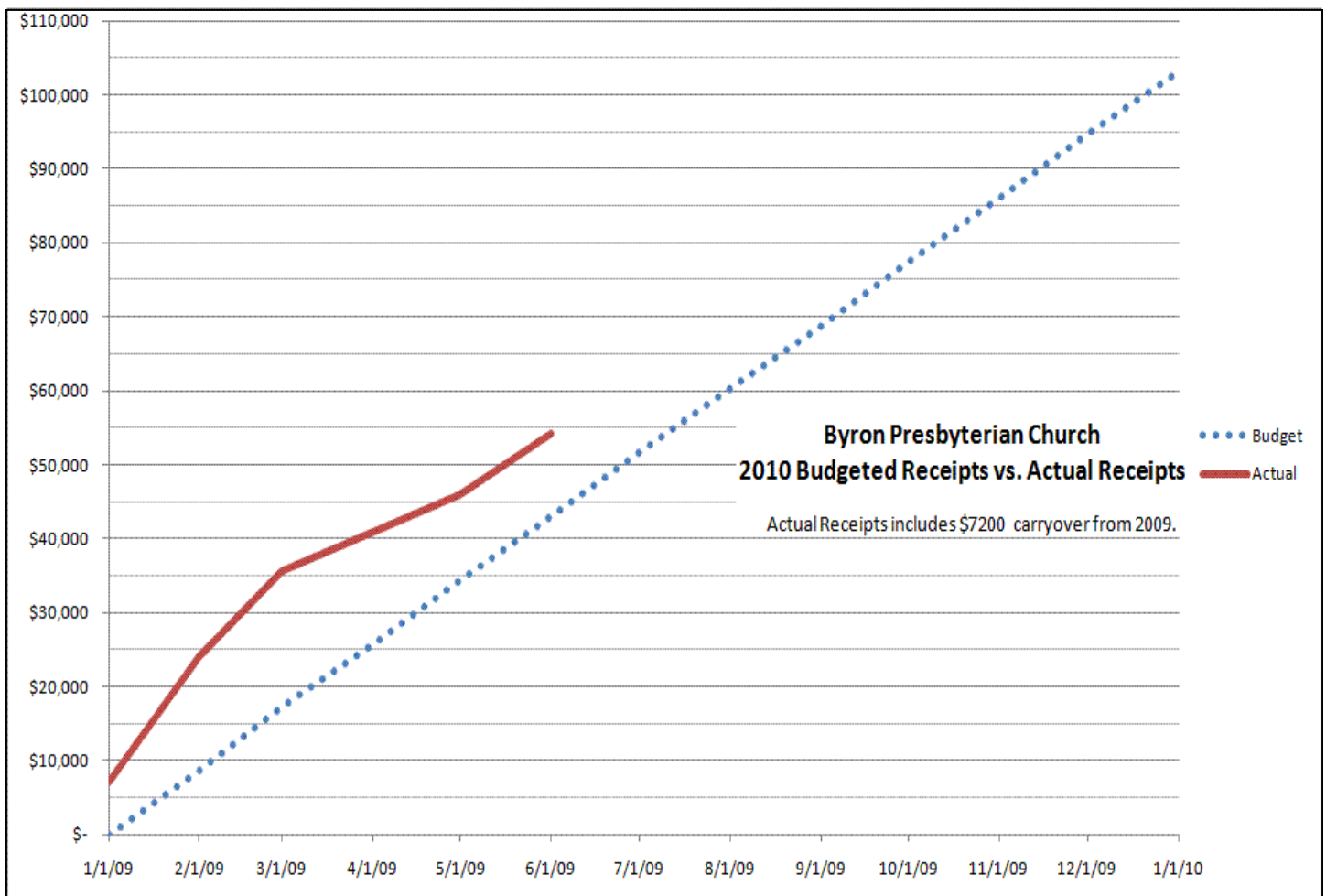
"God can bless you with everything you need, and will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others." [2 Corinthians 9:6-9]

The Stewardship and Finance Committees are looking for about five volunteers to participate for the next several months in a special project involving multiplication of gifts. This is an exciting opportunity to benefit a worthy mission cause in our community!

During June each volunteer (just you, you and your family, or you and a partner) will receive from the church \$20, \$50 or \$100 cash.

Three things will be required of each volunteer:

1. Think of a way to multiply that money, by doubling or tripling it. For example, buy fabric and make a stuffed animal, and then raffle it. Or purchase baking ingredients and have a small bake goods sale. Or purchase soap and towels and line up people who will pay you to wash their car. Be creative!
2. Think of a special mission project to which you will donate the multiplied money. Something like Habitat for Humanity, Grace's Place, the Genesee County Jail Ministry, Crossroads House, or anything else you can think of that stirs your heart and would attract support from others. By the way, all of the money you multiply will go to the special cause you name. None of it is returned to the church! This is an exercise in generosity!



Mission News

BACKPACK UPDATE: We decided to extend the opportunity to our backpack families to receive backpacks for the summer. The backpacks will be delivered to their houses on a weekly basis. This does take the anonymous factor out of it for those that are interested in receiving the backpacks, but we thought it may be a good idea for several reasons. First, we have a lot of continuity with several of the families. Each week, the students remember to bring the backpacks back. So, they are definitely in need of and using the items sent home. Secondly, the school is not offering summer school (at least that was the plan in the budget process) so those children that at least receive some breakfast items at the school would not have had that food supply either. Also, we had one particular mission committee member who thought it would be an opportunity to share the wealth of the produce she gets from her garden (thank you Luan for the suggestion!).

We have had a response from 2 families via the note the school sent home. Both families are in the Byron area. If you are interested in learning more about the backpacks and would like to be involved, talk to Pam Kenward. The food items will be stored at the church for the summer and backpacks will be packed there. Additionally, if you would like to contribute food items we can use individual items of the following: 100% fruit juice boxes, applesauce or fruit cups, easy to prepare lunch items (such as individual micro cups of chef-boy-ar-dee, soup, easy mac, etc). For further details, feel free to contact Pam Kenward.

Thank you to all who supported the backpack program this past year, either through monetary contributions, food items, packing backpacks, or delivering or picking up backpacks. We appreciate Gillam Grant for hosting the program in the kitchen. We also appreciate the support we have received from Bergen Presbyterian Church, North Bergen Presbyterian Church, Byron-Bergen Teacher's Association, and the Stone Church Presbyterian Church.

THANK YOU: In May, we learned that one of our backpack families had further need of some summer clothing for 2 girls. The following note was received from Maureen Calmes, School Social Worker, "Pam,

Please share this thank you note with those who donated clothes. This thank you was unsolicited by me. She really was very grateful. Maureen.

Church people, I appreciate everything you have donated for me and my sister. I wrote this letter personally to show how grateful I am. Thank you so much, from me and my sister."

So many thanks to those of you who shopped for items for these two girls or who generously gave of gently used clothing. Your generosity and thoughtfulness was completely appreciated and you should be proud of yourselves for making 2 young girls realize they were cared for! [*Pam Kenward, Mission Committee*]

Presbytery Leadership Changes



Elder Karen Pryor has been appointed Acting Presbytery Leader, beginning August 1st. She will work 3/4's time. Karen has been serving as the Presbytery Treasurer, and will take a leave of absence from that position. During this time, Craig Bolesky will become Treasurer Pro-Tem. Karen is an elder at Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester. This appointment follows the conclusion of Linda Badger Becker's service as Presbytery Leader.

Elder Susan Orr, currently Coordinator for Educational Resources, has been appointed to an expanded full-time position as "Presbyter for Mission and Education". The new position will begin September 1st. Susan has been best known as the friendly face at the Presbytery Resource Center since 2001. Her new work will include promoting mission initiatives within the presbytery and congregations and coordinating workshops and training events for the Presbytery. .

Congratulations to Karen and Susan!

Byron Heritage Festival Calendar of Events

July 31, 2010

Fishing Derby (Sponsored by Byron Kiwanis)	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. (Ages 12 and under) (sign-in begins at 7:30 a.m.)
5K Run (Sponsored by Boy Scout Troop #13)	7:00 a.m. Registration 8:00 a.m. Race Begins 9:30 a.m. Race Results
Craft and Food Vendors	9:00 a.m. - ?
Garage Sales	9:00 a.m. - ?
Bounce House (Sponsored by Fullerenos)	10:00 a.m. - ?
Parade	11:00 a.m.
Cruise In	11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Raffles	Winners announced starting at 3:00 p.m.
Horseshoe Tournament (Sponsored by Sue Fuller)	4:00 p.m.
Hot Dog Eating Contest	2:30 p.m. (Small Pavilion)
Ghostriders	12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Brick Band <i>(This free program is made possible with funds from the Decentralization program, a regrant program of the New York State Council of the Arts, administered by the Genesee-Orleans Arts Council through the Byron Bergen Public Library)</i>	3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Chicken BBQ (Sponsored by Byron Kiwanis)	5:00 p.m. - Sold Out
Stolen Gnome	5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Savage Cabbage	8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Fireworks	9:30 p.m.

Worship in the Park next to the Byron Presbyterian Church, Sunday August 1st 9:45 a.m. A great way to conclude the Heritage Festival weekend. Refreshments on the front steps to follow.

Byron Heritage Festival

Come One, Come All!

June 2010						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

August 2010						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Byron Presbyterian Church - July 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 9:45 AM Worship 10:45 AM Porch Fellowship	5	6 6-8 PM Not Your Typical Tuesday 6:15 PM TOPS	7 7 PM Park Comm. 7:30 PM Mission Committee 8:30 PM AA	8 2:00 PM Youth Camp Out begins	9	10 1:00 PM Youth Camp Out ends
11 9:45 AM Worship 10:45 AM Porch Fellowship	12	13 6-8 PM Not Your Typical Tuesday 6:15 PM TOPS	14 8:30 PM AA	15	16	17
18 9:45 AM Worship 10:45 AM Porch Fellowship	19	20 6-8 PM Not Your Typical Tuesday 6:15 PM TOPS	21 8:30 PM AA	22 7 PM Byron Heritage Fest Planning at the Town Park	23	24
25 9:45 AM Worship 10:45 AM Porch Fellowship	26	27 6-8 PM Not Your Typical Tuesday 6:15 PM TOPS	28 8:30 PM AA	29 7:00 PM Session	30	31 Byron Heritage Festival All Day

July 2010

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2010

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Byron Presbyterian Church - August 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:45 AM Outdoor Worship 10:45 AM Porch Fellowship	2	3	4 8:30 PM AA	5	6 Elba Onion Fest	7 Elba Onion Fest
8 9:45 AM Worship 10:45 AM Porch Fellowship	9	10 6:15 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Small Group at Riner's	11	12	13	14
15 9:45 AM Worship 10:45 AM Porch Fellowship	16 7:00 PM Membership Comm	17 6:15 PM TOPS	18 7:00 PM Trustees 8:30 PM AA	19	20 4:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal	21 3:00 PM Liles/Paine Wedding
22 9:45 AM Worship 10:45 AM Porch Fellowship	23	24 6:15 PM TOPS	25 8:30 PM AA	26	27	28
29 9:45 AM Worship 10:45 AM Porch Fellowship	30	31 6:15 PM TOPS	8:30 PM AA			

Bible Study

Year One

Our first year of Bible study was a success. Six to twelve folks showed up each month from last fall until this spring to commune with the Lord and each other. In keeping with Matthew 22:34, I am confident that our love for the Lord our God and our neighbors grew through this experience.

I want to especially thank those who were "regulars" and could be counted on to be there each time for their support and wonderful contributions to our experience.

Our study was topical in nature in that we focused on one particular topic each month, exploring related material throughout the Bible to grow our understanding of the subject. While the Bible was our ultimate authority, we nonetheless profited greatly from the personal insights, questions, and stories of all those who joined us.

Our topics included prayer, love, proverbs, parables, fear, and caring, among others. Frequently secondary topics were brought up by members of the group which we discussed and profited from. The primary purpose of our gathering was not to become Bible scholars but to come closer to God and each other in a simple way that would make us more pleasing in His sight.

Year Two

So what's in store for the coming year? Last year we examined some pretty lofty ideals. The attainment of some of these things, total agape love for instance, are probably not attainable in this life but rather represent a perfection we try to move toward. This year I would like to shift our focus slightly to what I call "where the rubber meets the road". We will start by looking at the Book of James. While this is a departure of our purely topical format of last season, it will surely be just as fascinating, easy to relate to, and pertinent to our day-to-day lives in today's world.

James is both one of the most controversial and one of the most practical books of the New Testament. Please join us in September to learn from this simple, homespun preacher through his very direct and easy to understand commands to people who are not living quite right. I double dare you!

As always we will be totally receptive to exploring any ideas, questions, or other issues that attendees would like to explore. Our only real goal is to help and strengthen each other in our Christian walk with God's word as our guide. Please join us this fall if you can.

Yours in Christ
Jim Moore

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

Please note that we do not circulate or publish e-mail addresses.

Writing Award

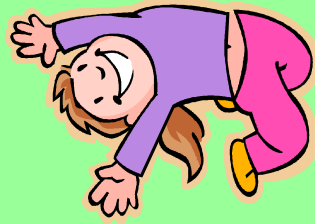
The WNY Arts and Writing Contest, sponsored by The Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo, recently awarded **Michael Simmons**, a freshman at Byron-Bergen, a second place in writing. Michael was awarded \$50.00 for his successful entry. He competed against students from a multitude of school districts. Students were given the task of writing, "from the Holocaust to Darfur. . ." What is your response? What you would have done then and what you can do now? Writing a fictitious letter to the United Nations, Michael wrote a compelling letter addressing these issues. One of his most compelling statements was, "If you convince enough people to help, then the world would get more involved in stopping genocide." [excerpted from Byron-Bergen School Focal Point]

**Not Your Typical
Tuesday**

*Special Program for
Children in our Community*

*Each Tuesday Evening
during July
6:00—8:00 PM*

*July 6 July 13
July 20 July 27*



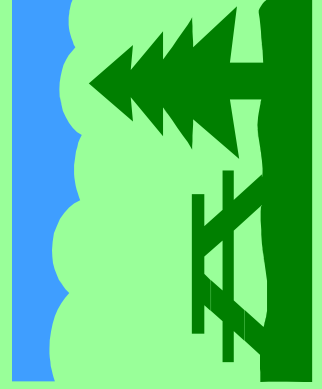
*Meet each night at the
Byron Presbyterian Church*

Worship in Park
Sunday, August 1,
9:45 AM

A nice way to conclude
this year's Byron
Heritage Festival!

Please bring your own
chairs a blanket.

Refreshments will be
served on the front
porch of the church
after the service.



1st Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 206
Byron, NY 14420-0206

