

The Spirit

Byron Presbyterian Church May - June, 2010

"Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, my soul! I will praise God as long as I live. I will sing to my God all of my life." [Psalm 146]

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.

Contact our office at office@byronfpc.org to receive this newsletter by e-mail delivery!

Memorial Day in the Park *Monday, May 31st*

9:00 AM - Plant Sale, Vendors & Crafts

11:00 AM - Parade & Ceremony

All Day - Hot Dogs & More

12 Noon - Free Games for Children

1:00 PM - Music

2:30 PM - Park Committee Duck Race

A full day of activity is planned for Memorial Day, fun for the whole family. Vendors and craft-makers, please call Laura at 548-2245 to arrange free table space.

Pop! Pop! Pop!

That's the sound of your popcorn popper as it prepares a bowl of popcorn to enjoy while you watch the movie. With all of the prayers generated by our Prayer Chain it's as busy as a popcorn popper,

Here's a prayer ... pop. Here's another prayer ... pop! We love the sound of all these prayers. Pop! Pop! Pop!

Our prayer chain is ready to help you rebound this spring, so give us a call and we'll get to work with lots of prayers. Please contact Laura (548-2245) or Jean (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.

Per Capita Reminder

Thanks to all who have sent in their Per Capita for 2010. The suggested amount for each member is \$25.82. Per Capita is each member's fair share of the administrative costs of the Presbyterian Church (USA) denomination.

It is important to note that our congregation receives many direct benefits in belonging to a healthy denomination. We benefit from having a pool of seminary-trained clergy available for our churches. Our own congregational leaders are offered a variety of training events through the year. We participate in area wide youth ministry events that we could never provide on our own. Our support for mission beyond our own congregation is maximized when we do it in concert with many other Presbyterians. We have borrowing privileges at the Presbytery Resource Center. When we need help, or when we run into problems, Presbytery staff and volunteers are available to us. When needed, we are eligible for denominational loans and grants. Thank you for your faithful commitment to the mission and ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA)!

Trustees Report

Work has begun on enclosing the organ blower up in the attic space. The first step was to install attic stairs for access. Marc Kenward and Lee Blair are working on wiring and lighting the space so Trustees can continue building the enclosure.

The Spring church yard cleanup was accomplished in record time due to many hands, rakes and motorized equipment.

Currently we have six volunteers for lawn mowing - anyone else interested in joining the rotation schedule, contact Ron Glazier. Upcoming warm weather projects include exterior painting, repair of gutters on the east side and installation of flashing over front entrance overhang. Anyone interested in helping with these projects, please contact a Trustee. [*Ron Glazier, Trustees*]

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

The end of March brought good news my way, when my doctor finally gave me permission to drive again. This allows me to catch up with many of the home and hospital visits I have been unable to do since my accident. The vertebra in my neck is almost completely healed, and I have made good progress. Thanks, again, for all of your prayers and encouragement. Jim Renfrew, Pastor

Christian Education

Children's Sunday will take place on Sunday, June 13. Youth involved in the Faith Journaling group will use their reflections from the past year to plan the service.

Baccalaureate Sunday will take place on Sunday, June 20th. We will honor recent high school and college graduates at this time.

Youth Ministry News

Our Presbytery's Mission Madness Day was an exciting time for our youth. From our church Kylie Britt, Alex Walker, Samantha Walker and Michaela Kenward were joined by Tamara Hillabush-Walker, Pam Kenward, and Jim Renfrew. At Mission Madness, youth are divided at random and sent to different mission sites around Rochester.

Michaela and Samantha with Pam went to East Rochester to volunteer at a community center. Alex and Kylie with Tamara went to Laurelton Presbyterian Church to help prepare the way for a new neighborhood ministry involving the performing arts. Jim went to the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network to work on building improvements at its day center for families who have lost their homes. It was very exciting to join with one hundred youth from other churches in our Presbytery for this day of mission involvement.

Next up: a Face-Painting table at Memorial Day (artistic volunteers needed!) and then a Youth Car Wash is planned for Saturday, June 5th, 9:00 AM - Noon, at the Byron Fire Hall, to benefit our youth group. Youth and adults are welcome to help. Bring your car, truck, motorcycle, combine or horse and we will wash it for you.

Deacons in Action

Deacons have been very busy during the Easter season, with baskets delivered and cards sent to various members and friends of the church.

Harley George continues to bring our food donations to the emergency food shelf at Salvation Army run by Genesee County Churches United.

Barb and Luan have been very active visiting members of the church in their homes.

Deacons provided the meal following the service for Everett Roda, and continue to bring Jean meals on weekends (she receives Meals-on-Wheels during the week).

Plans have been made to provide a reception following the service for Evie Scheiber on Saturday, May 15th. The service is at 11:00 AM, and the reception will take place in the church Dining Room. Evie was a long-time member of the church. Doris Hillabush is coordinating the meal.

As always, there are a variety of interesting books and magazines available from our library in the back hallway.

Many thanks to all who contributed items for Easter Baskets. With your help we were able to distribute ten baskets. We also sent out seven cards to some of our friends in nursing homes and even sent one to Afghanistan. Your support is always appreciated. -Kathy George, Deacons Moderator

Session Notes

Session met on April 5 and reviewed a number of important matters.

Trustees reported on progress with the attic construction project. A new attic "room" with a blower will help extend the life of our organ.

The Stewardship Committee has requested time during the first Sunday service of the month to offer a moment for stewardship education.

The CE Committee reported that five youth nominated by our church to attend the 2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium have been accepted: Larisa Sloat, Lacey Sloat, Chelsea Hartman, Kylie Britt and Alex Walker. It was also reported that many of our youth will be attending Camp Whitman this coming summer.

The Mission Committee reported that \$615 was raised in One Great Hour of Sharing, that Byron-Bergen teachers have contributed \$500 to the Backpack Project, and that \$730 was raised for Kaytee Ivison's medical expenses during the April "Mission Extravaganza".

The Membership Committee made a number of recommendations for moving names of church members to the Inactive Membership Roll.

Finally, Rev. Jim Renfrew reported that as of the end of March he is permitted by his doctor to drive again.

[Mary Ann Blair, Clerk of Session]

Your Small Group Invitation

For the past two and a half years we have been using Natural Church Development as a process for improving the spiritual health of our church.

To build on our progress, we are initiating "small groups" as a new opportunity for strengthening our ministry. We are inviting you to our first Small Group meeting on **Tuesday, June 15th, 7:00 PM**, at the home of Don and Marilyn Britt.

The purpose of Small Group is to get to know one another better. After this first meeting we will make some decisions about how we can proceed, and hopefully expand to a second group.

Preaching Themes for May and June

MAY 2 Rev. 21:1-6 "All Things New"
MAY 9 Rev. Aaron Doll preaching
MAY 16 Marsha Wenhold, CLP, preaching
MAY 23 Acts 2:1-21 "Pentecost"
MAY 30 Romans 5:1-5 "Putting it Right"
JUN 6 Psalm 146 "Who to Trust?"
JUN 13 Luke 7:36-8:3 "The One Forgiven More"
JUN 20 Luke 8:1-3 "Jesus' Entourage"
JUN 27 Luke 9:51-62 "Fire From Heaven"

Abitibi Paper Retrieval 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, 548-2800.

Nooma

On the fourth Sunday of most months after worship we've been viewing Nooma DVDs. "Nooma" is the Greek word for Spirit, "Pneuma". It's always a lively conversation.

Byron Dig- Pancake Breakfast Sunday, May 23rd 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM \$6.00 per ticket

Help support the "Byron Dig" by coming to a Pancake Breakfast at the Byron Fire Hall. Tickets are \$6. There will also be a "ticket auction", with winners announced at 1:00 PM. As a special treat at noon, Dr. Richard Laub from the Museum will give a brief talk about the progress of the Dig over the past 27 years.

Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing A Benefit for Crossroads House Sunday, June 7th, 7:00 PM Morganville United Church of Christ in Stafford

There will be a free-will offering for Crossroads House during the program, a highly regarded hospice program located in Batavia. Refreshments will follow.

Mission Update

One Great Hour of Sharing: We did a great job and raised \$615 from our congregation for One Great Hour of Sharing. We hope you enjoyed the minutes for mission presented in church. You can always go the Presbyterian Church, USA for more information about the collections we participate in, but I always find this one in particular interesting because of the appeal to churches of all faiths.

Mission Extravaganza: We successfully hosted a Mission Extravaganza on April 10 at our church from 11-4. We raised \$730 for the Ivison Family, specifically to benefit Kaytee Ivison, undergoing treatment for leukemia. This portion of the event was made possible by Jolie Yauchzee, Director at Continental School of Beauty in Batavia and Jillian Coles, Stylist at JC Penney Salon in Batavia. They brought in other stylists and offered hand dips, hair cuts, nail art and braiding. They also coordinated raffle baskets which were very popular! The Ivisons were happy to receive the money and will be holding it in a medical account for Kaytee. Kaytee was home when we delivered the money, and though she had just finished another stint of chemo, she was doing well and in great spirits. She will be hopefully undergoing bone marrow transplant very soon.

We also had lots of help from Luan Riner, Marilyn Britt, Anita Hillabush, Audrey Blount, and Liz Weber along with several of our youth (Connor Nesbitt, Kylie Britt, Elizabeth Ezard, Sam Walker, Alex Walker and Michaela Kenward). We raised money for the Women's Organization, the Youth Group, for Crossroads House, and sales of cosmetics (thank you Cindy Eibl) benefited Genesee Orleans Ministry of Concern. Valerie Liles offered Uppercase Living (if you haven't seen the lovely wall decor, check in with her!). We are thankful for all those who made the day turn out well!

We also had the Care-A-Van from Batavia on hand to show interested people their ministry and talk about it. It was exciting! And check out "The Batavian" at thebatavian.com for photos from the day. [*Pam Kenward, Mission Committee*]

Stewardship Thoughts

Last fall, we invited you to support our ministry in 2010. Here are some of the things that have been happening because of your generous stewardship:

- **Trustees have undertaken a long-needed construction project in the attic to extend the life of our organ.
- **We have recruited five youth excited about attending the 2010 Youth Triennium in Indiana this summer.
- **Deacons have been undertaking a wonderful ministry of care among our friends and neighbors, especially during Easter.
- **The Backpack Project has generated lots of volunteer and financial support as we provide nutritious food to twenty children at Byron-Bergen each weekend.
- **Youth of the church are engaged in monthly Faith Journaling, a spiritual exploration of Christian values in action.
- **Prayer Shawls continue to be made and shared far and wide, offering a tangible experience of God's love and care.
- **Our monthly Bible Study on the 4th Tuesday is a well-attended and enthusiastic exploration of Bible themes.
- **We have been experiencing wonderful worship each Sunday, in music, prayer and preaching. The Word of God is coming alive!

Thank you, from the Stewardship Committee (Eric George, Marilyn Britt, Harley George)

"God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others."

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Book Review by Kathy George

Have you stopped by the church library lately? I invite you to read the latest addition, "Same Kind of Different as Me", by Ron Hall and Denver Moore, with Lynn Vincent.

This is the story of two men with two very different lives, yet with something very much in common.

Denver Moore grew up in Red River Parish, Louisiana, working cotton fields without pay. When the train whistle blew, he imagined places he could go where a black man could be paid for his work and where there were more opportunities for him. That is how he ended up in Fort Worth, Texas. Unfortunately, Denver did not know how to read or write and opportunities did not come his way. He ended up on the streets, homeless and in trouble with the law.

Ron Hall married his college sweetheart, Debbie in 1969. She worked as an elementary school teacher, he in the world of investment banking. Within a few years, they were the parents of two children. As Ron describes them, they were "just your basic Sunday, go-to-meeting Methodists". There is a lot more to their story that you will have to read for yourself but they soon dedicated their lives to serving the Lord. Debbie first. She was drawn to Union Gospel Mission where she volunteered to help the homeless and she took Ron with her. He was less enthusiastic than she was. She told him that she had a dream about this place, that one day it would be beautiful with flowers, no trash; no vagrants. It would be a place where the homeless could come and know that God loved them just as much as those who had more than they did.

Ron's first encounter at the shelter depressed him. I can relate with him, having gone with our mission committee to Cameron to serve a meal. I don't know the circumstances that bring them to the mission, some having waited outside for hours for a hot meal. Debbie made it a point to get to know the people who frequented this mission. One in particular she had dreamed about; had seen his face in this dream. He stormed into the mission one day threatening to kill whoever had stolen his shoes. It was Denver. She wanted Ron to make friends with this man. Was she nuts?! Denver was skeptical at first. What did these volunteers want? He tried to make it through the dinner line each day without talking to anyone. Debbie had said to him, "Denver, God has a calling on your life." Their friendship grew.

I don't want to give the whole story away but a major trial will test their faith. Sometimes we just have to accept things that we can't change or don't understand and put our trust in God. Denver's words are what I will remember the most from this book. "Our limitation is God's opportunity. When you get all the way to the end of your rope and there ain't nothin' you can do, that's when God takes over."

Check out this book. It makes you take a look at how you serve God and makes you wonder, when you put down your torch, who will pick it up?

Resource Saturday

At the Presbytery Resource Center, 1190 Winton Road South

All courses are FREE! Pre-registration requested for all courses. Contact Susan Orr, 242-0099.

Saturday March 15, 9:30-Noon

Registration Deadline: Thursday May 13

Spring Workshop in Digital Photography

Leader: Linda Badger Becker, General Presbyter, Presbytery of Genesee Valley

Okay, so maybe you already know how to use your digital camera (and maybe not). But, do you know how to take

really great pictures? Composition is everything!

Join us for a live photo shoot for hands-on learning and experimenting. Find out what works, what doesn't, and why. Learn more about your camera. We'll also use the Resource Center Media Lab to share our work, and explore the wonderful world of digital photo editing and storage.

Bring your camera (with fully charged battery), your camera manual, and the USB cord that connects your camera to the computer. If you have a laptop, bring that along too. Newbies and not-so newbies are welcome.

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 \$_____.

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