

# *The Spirit*

*Byron Presbyterian Church September - October, 2010*

*"You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience ... and to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity." [Colossians 3:12,14]*

## *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 or 638-6679.

## *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 office) [[pastor@byronfpc.org](mailto:pastor@byronfpc.org)]

Clerk of Session: Mary Ann Blair

Treasurer: Robin Glazier

Organist: Elizabeth Weber

Board of Trustees: Ron Glazier

Sexton: Rhonda Hickey

Secretary: Janet Pike

## *Sunday School Begins*

Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:45 AM

Join us for a free breakfast, starting at 8:30 AM to start the new year!

## *Turkey Supper*

Sunday, Oct. 24, 11 AM - 2 PM

Tickets \$8.00. Take-outs available

## *Rekindle The Gift!*

It was on New York City subway. Do you know the unwritten rule that all subway passengers must follow? Never look anyone else in the eye. Read your paper, read the advertisements on the wall of the train, anything but look at anyone else. We had just left the station on a hot, crowded day when the train stopped

dead in the dark tunnel, broken down during rush hour. Many words in many languages were said in the dim glow of the emergency lightening, all expressing the same frustration: hot, crowded, and going nowhere.

But then the voice of the train conductor spoke to us from the loudspeaker . He knew exactly how we were feeling. "*Good afternoon, folks,*" he said in a cheerful voice that seemed way out of place, "*we've got a little delay, so why don't you take a moment to get acquainted, smile, introduce yourselves.*" It was like a magic spell had been broken. We began to laugh and chat with our neighbors, and suddenly things weren't so bad anymore.

It was a gift, an amazing, spiritual gift on the subway that day. For a brief moment we recognized how much we had in common, and how easy it was to bring us together. The gift broke through the heat and the frustration, the fear and the prejudice. We laughed and made friends with complete strangers. What fun to be on the subways of New York! But then the train began to roll again and we were on our way uptown, and what we had discovered in each other was quickly lost, and everyone went back to their usual habits. We'd had it for only a moment, a brief ray of sunlight on a cloudy day, a breath of fresh air in the sweltering heat. But then our eyes dropped down, the smiles faded, and we went back to reading our newspapers or studying the floor tiles.

In his Letter to Timothy Paul speaks directly to people like those passengers. "*Rekindle the gift of God that is within you*". You had the gift, you felt it, you experienced it, you enjoyed it, but then ... you lost it. Paul knows that many of us have lost spiritual momentum, have slid backwards, and have let precious spiritual gifts go unused.

That's why we're here in Byron - to help each other rekindle the gift! We are glad to be doing it, we get excited when it happens, and it's something we look forward to whenever we gather. Every Sunday, World Communion Sunday, every gathering is all about rekindling the gift! [Jim Renfrew, Pastor]

## ***Busy Signal?***

"*Beep - beep - beep ...*". You know that sound. It's what you hear when you're trying to reach a friend or family member on the phone and the line is busy.

Fortunately, there are no busy signals when you pray. God is attentive and ready twenty four hours a day. More than that, you can get all of your church friends to pray with you and, still, no busy signal for anyone.

Please contact Laura Platt or Jean Roda to get on the chain. 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.

## ***Sing, Sing, Sing!***

Return of the choir.....Fall 2010!! We're baaack!!! Don't be nervous - be a part! Soprano, alto, tenor, bass..or any part in between. Hoping that all past choir members will return and new voices will join in with us. Choir will start rehearsals on Thursday Sept 9th at 7PM. We plan to rehearse every week on Thursday evenings.

We will sing in church on these Sundays:

Sept 19th	Nov 28th
Oct 3rd	Dec 5th
Oct 31st	Dec 12th
Nov 21st	Dec 19th

We will also sing on Christmas Eve, Dec 24th for the Candlelight Service. We would love to add your voice to our choir! Don't worry if you need to miss a practice or two - just jump in and sing away!! If you have any questions you can give me a call at 548-7363 or email me at dew99@juno.com

Hope to see you soon!! Kim Dewey/Choir Director

## ***Trustees Report***

With the good summer weather, Stafford Painters were able to paint three sides of the building. At the same time, they installed flashing along the front eaves to hopefully deter the bats. A new door with an upper glass panel is being looked at for the Nursery room. Work will continue on the organ blower room in the attic when cooler weather arrives. Continued gratitude to our volunteer lawn mowers on keeping up with the ever growing grass! [*Ron Glazier, Trustees*]

## ***From the Pastor***

Dear Friends,

Here is a letter we recently received from the Rev. Dr. Bill Lawrence, a Presbyterian pastor who grew up in our church. He handed this to us at our outdoor worship service during his 50th Byron-Bergen High School Reunion weekend.

*"It was a joy to be able to share in worship with you today. It brought back many memories of my childhood growing up in the Byron Presbyterian Church. I am indebted to this church where I first learned about Jesus from the many wonderful, dedicated Sunday School teachers that I had. Some names that stand out in my memory are: Mrs. Mamie Wentz, Mrs. Mary Blair, Mrs. Amelia Alexander, and Mrs. Helen Chupp. Helen Chupp was our Sunday School Superintendent for many years.*

*I appreciate receiving your newsletter and always read every line of it. From time to time I also get on your very professional website.*

*Although I have been away from Byron fifty years it will always be home. This weekend my wife and I were here to attend my 50th class reunion from Byron-Bergen Central and several of my classmates were also Sunday School classmates.*

*Enclosed is [a gift] in gratitude for the ministry that continues in the name of Jesus Christ through the Byron Presbyterian Church. May God continue to bless and enrich your pastor and all of you who make up this church family.. In Christ, The Rev. Dr. Bill Lawrence"*

Thank you, Bill, and may God bless your continuing ministry as well. For your information, Bill is now officially retired, but continues to preach in Ohio.

Blessings and Peace,

Jim Renfrew, Pastor

PS - thank you for your many prayers, cards and flowers at the time of my father's death in August. At 87 years he had lived a good long life, and left for his family his strong values in faith and community service.

## ***Deacons in Action***

It's hard to believe that summer is winding down and soon it will be time for back to school. The Deacons will be back to work as our busiest season is upon us. We will begin our regular monthly meetings on Sunday, September 12th.

On the Deacon calendar for fall is our annual project of Thanksgiving in a Box and then, a short time later, sponsoring a family for Christmas. As holidays approach we are often caught up in the hustle or preparing for our own family gatherings. Let's "pay it forward" with helping others as much as we can this year.

We continue to receive donations for the Genesee County Churches United Emergency Food Shelf at the Salvation Army in Batavia. Food items may be placed in the box at the rear of the sanctuary, or in the grocery cart by the side entrance. Take advantage of the many books in the library located near the classrooms. There are books to borrow for all ages. Maybe you would like to do a book review for the newsletter.

Have you ever considered serving on the Board of Deacons? I encourage you to speak to any of the deacons, who will be happy to answer any questions you may have or to share their experiences. Your deacons are Jane Ezard, Doris Hillabush, Luan Riner, Bridgette Yaxley, Barb Emerson, Harley George, Lynne George, Faline Tyler and Kathy George.

*"The office of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ. It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith."* The Book of Order, Presbyterian Church USA, Sections G-6.0401 and G-6.0402

## ***Session Notes***

Session agreed to the Pastor's proposal for a Session Retreat in the early fall to review our purpose and the scope of our ministry.

Session approved Rev. Renfrew's proposal to use continuing education funds for a second year with the Auburn Theological Seminary's "Coaching Institute".

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

Trustees report that Stafford painters will soon commence exterior painting of the church building.

Letters have been sent to inactive members suggesting transfer to the Inactive Roll.

The Mission Committee reports that the Backpack Program will continue as the new school year begins.

Session will next meet on Thursday, September 16, 7:00 PM [Mary Ann Blair, Clerk of Session]

## ***Your Small Group Invitation***

We had our second Small Group gathering at Luan Riner's home in August. Those in attendance enjoyed the opportunity to get to know one another better ... as well as to enjoy delicious dessert!

We plan to do this again on **Tuesday, October 12th, 7:00 PM, at Melanie and Tom Nesbitt'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 September October***

SEPT 5	Luke 14:25-33	"The Cost"
SEPT 12	Luke 15:1-10	"The Coin"
SEPT 19	Luke 16:1-13	"The Conniver"
SEPT 26	Luke 16:19-31	"The Crumbs"
OCT 3	II Tim 1:1-14	"The Christ"
OCT 10	Luke 17:11-19	"The Cure"
OCT 17	Luke 18:1-8	"The Cry"
OCT 24	Luke 18:9-14	"The Comparison"
OCT 31	Luke 19:1-10	"The Cheat"

## ***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 or plastic bags, please. We earn \$5 per ton in support of our Youth Group..

## ***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 at 548-2800 (office).

## **Nooma**

Join us on the fourth Sunday of each month, following worship, for a thought-provoking conversation centered on the "Nooma" DVD series, or the "Questions of Faith" DVD series.

## **We Get Letters**

*I want to thank you for the support you and your congregation gave to ensure this year's Byron Dig. Our fundraising effort was quite successful, and we'll be able to conduct the dig and its aftermath to proper standards. The Byron Presbyterian Church will be on the donor board displayed at the site, at the Museum's Byron Hall, and on the Byron Dig's website. I hope you'll stop by to see it while we're digging. Again, thanks so much for your encouragement.*

Sincerely, Dick Laub, Research Scientist, Curator of Geology, Buffalo Museum of Science

## **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

Note: we do not circulate or publish e-mail addresses.

## **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 have enjoyed the progress that three groups have made in working on "The Big Give" this summer. Instead of our usual burden of trying to raise money, we've had money to give to the community. Wow, a church dedicated to giving, not getting!

The Byron Presbyterian Church Youth Group took \$70 from the church and quadrupled it to \$307 for the Heifer Project International. The youth held a picnic on the final night of their July mission program and the donations received will be directed to the Heifer Project, which supplies poor villages around the world with the livestock they need to become self-sustaining. Connor Nesbitt brought a calf and chickens, Ben Britt brought rabbits, and everyone could see exactly what the Heifer project does. Connor also gave hay wagon rides around the center of town. Well done!

Ruthie and Dick Crowley, Doris Hillabush and Anita and George Hillabush received \$20 from the church to print up the tickets for a raffle which was offered at the Byron Heritage Festival, with the drawing to be held on September 15th. They are raffling a beautiful afghan, a pretty painting, and pieces for a Christmas village. They

have already quintupled the \$20. You can purchase your tickets any Sunday between now and the drawing. Crossroads House and Cancer Action will be the beneficiaries of this project.

Marilyn Britt and Luan Riner are working on a project to benefit the Byron Museum. Watch for more details in coming weeks.

Want to give it a try? We'll be happy to help. All you have to do is receive some money from the church for your community service idea ... and then try to multiply it.

David Franke, Don B. Britt, Marilyn Britt, Kim Dewey, Jim Renfrew,  
Eric George, Harley George, Robin Glazier

## Bible Study ?

You are invited! September 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM, at the church.

Please consider coming. Now if you are thinking "I go to church every Sunday (almost) and I read the Bible myself (sometimes) and I give to the church and I volunteer when help is needed, so why do I need Bible study?" check out the rest of this little missive. Obviously we study the Bible, but Bible Study offers so much more.

It's in Bible Study that you're able to ask questions, hear different views or interpretations consecutively, and participate in a mid-week fellowship. It would be considered out-of-line to ask questions during worship service, on Sunday morning, while Jim is preaching. You'll most likely have to write it down in order to get clarification later. Fortunately for the body of Christ, we have Bible Study. It is not only welcomed but it is desired for individuals to participate and ask questions in this atmosphere. Sometimes we are hesitant to ask for a deeper explanation about something we don't understand. If we attend Bible Study then someone else may ask that same question that we had in mind.

Bible Study is an open forum for all to participate. There are fundamental doctrines that all true Christians must believe. On the other hand, there are things in the Bible that people disagree about that doesn't affect our Christianity. Do you believe in freewill or predestination? Do you find that certain passages might be interpreted differently, depending on how you read it. Do you find that you just don't understand what some passages are saying at all? Do you question whether some parts of the Bible are meant to be taken literally in today's world, or do they have to be read through the eyes of someone living in the time they were written? These are some of the discussions that may arise in Bible Study that may produce different viewpoints. During these conversations you can benefit greatly through the insight and understanding of others, or they through yours. From there, you pray to God for wisdom and understanding.

Fellowship with other members of our church is so important in this day and age! So many non-Christians surround us at work with non-Christian conversations, the news rarely speaks well about anything, and life carries its own weight. It is at this time we may need this fellowship. This mid-week association can be your source for a refill. Something could be said that will uplift your spirit, offer direction and guidance, or increase your understanding of His word. Or you may be able to do just that for someone else.

However you look at it, Bible Study offers positive support for your daily walk in Christ. Taking time out for it and it will deliver visible growth to you and those that you share it with.

We will start out this season with a study of the book of James. If you'd like to get a head start on our first session give some thought/study to the following:

- 1: Who was this James and what do we know about him?
- 2: When did he write this letter?
- 3: Why is James somewhat controversial?
- 4: How is this book different from the other 26 books of the New Testament?
- 5: What other passage in the Bible (NT) does James seem to almost echo?
- 6: What do you think about the writings of James?

Yours in Christ, Jim Moore

# ***Presbytery of Genesee Valley Resource Saturdays***

Saturday, September 26, 9:30-11am  
Four Helpful Programs

"Stewardship That Works"

"Reinvigorate Your Church's Web Site"

"Mission Trips, Retreats, and Other Mountaintops... Connecting Spiritual Highs and Faith Formation"

"Q&A for Clerks of Session"

***Registration Deadline: Thursday, September 23***

***For registration or more information, please call Susan Orr at 242-0099***

Saturday, October 16, 9:30-12:30 PM

Sexual Misconduct and Child Safety Policies

The Basics: Prevention and Intervention

Advanced Topics: Issues, Problems, & Challenges

## ***BACKPACK PROGRAM***

We will launch the backpack program again this fall, providing a backpack of nutritious, easy to eat food items each weekend of the school year for about 30 students. Each week the students return the backpacks to be re-filled.

We provided two families with backpacks over the summer. The kids were so happy to get the backpack each week! Feel free to ask Pam Kenward about the experiences!

If you are interested in providing food items for the backpacks there will soon be a list of items we are looking for on the bulletin board outside the office. Please follow what is listed (for instance, we want 100% juice if you get juice boxes - not sugary drinks!). You can also at any time place a check or cash indicating it is for the backpack program in the offering plate.

If you are interested in helping pack bags and drop them at the schools (both elementary and middle school) please get in touch with Pam Kenward!

Thank you for all your support.

## ***ANOTHER LETTER***

*"I just wanted to say thank you so much for welcoming me into your congregation this past year, for letting me play piano and for the generous gift card. By the end of my time in NY I truly felt at home in your church and that meant so much to me. As my way of saying thank you, I am sending back the check you gave me for playing on Children's Sunday. It was always my pleasure to play and I consider it a privilege to give back and support the many wonderful things you are doing in your community. May God bless you all!."* [Lauren Paluta]

(Note: Lauren served with AmeriCorps for a year at the Genesee County Youth Bureau, lived in Byron, and often attended our worship services. Her next step is to apply for entry to medical school.)

## ***INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKER***

On Saturday, October 9th, a Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Sudan, **Rev. John Tubuwa**, will be our guest for a Mission Dinner at our church, beginning at 6:00 PM. Rev. Tubuwa works with SALT. (Serving and Learning Together Development Agency), a Sudanese Christian group which seeks to raise the health, education,

and living standards of the Sudanese people through the development of men and women with a servant-leader mentality. In accomplishing this he has developed partnerships with the Christian Women's Association of Pibor, Volunteers in Medical Mission, Trinity Presbytery, and other groups. Rev. Tubuwa was born into the tribe called Murle in Upper Nile, Southern Sudan. He is married to Yayo James Ngadavar and they have one son. John attended a Bible school in Kakuma and graduated in 2000. Rev. Tubuwa was ordained as PCOS Pastor and assigned to a Murle congregation in Kakuma Refugee Camp.

Please bring your own table settings and a dish to share with others. This promises to be an informative and inspiring evening as we hear a speaker from a place that is often in the news. [*Pam Kenward, Mission*]

## ***PEACEFUL GENESEE***

The Mission Committee has designated "Peaceful Genesee", a Genesee County initiative to foster peaceful living in schools and neighborhoods, as the recipient of the local share of the 2010 Special Offering for Peacemaking, which will be received on World Communion Sunday, October 3rd. In July Session agreed to endorse the aims of Peaceful Genesee. [*Pam Kenward, Mission*]

## ***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 photos, sermons, the current Sunday bulletin, and other interesting news from the church. from our June car wash, recent sermons, and each week's Sunday bulletin.

## ***Prayer Shawl Ministry***

Do you knit, crochet? Do you want to learn? Do you want to make friends and join in with other women for an evening of fun and fellowship? Then our Prayer Shawl Group is for you!!

Please join us for our first meeting of the season at the home of Kim Dewey on Wednesday, September 8th at 7PM. Light refreshments will be served.

Bring your knitting needles, crochet hooks, yarn, and an open heart (and a good joke or two)!!