

# The Spirit

Byron Presbyterian Church Newsletter - JULY & AUGUST 2011

*But some seeds fell in good soil, and bore grain: some had one hundred grains, others sixty, and others thirty. And Jesus said, "Listen, then, if you have ears to hear!" (Matthew 13:8-9)*

## ***The Basics***

Sunday Worship begins at 9:45 AM,

Sunday School and Christian Education for young children during the worship hour.

Nursery Care during the worship hour.

Contact Pastor Jim Renfrew at 638-6679 (home), 813-2934 (cell) or at [pastor@byronfpc.org](mailto:pastor@byronfpc.org)

## ***"I'll Go Ahead of You, Clearing and Paving the Road"*** ***Isaiah 45:2***

We're going to pave our parking lot! This was agreed to unanimously at a Special Congregational meeting on June 5th.

The church parking lot is badly in need of major repair. Large potholes endanger cars and pedestrians alike, and the soft shoulder next to the lawn leaves messy mud puddles to navigate after every rainfall. It will get worse if not repaired soon. It's a safety issue for those attending events at the church. It's a public relations issue as we wish to present the ministry of the church in the most positive way to the community. Rather than patch each hole, Trustees prefer a more complete approach that involves removing damaged areas, re-grading to insure proper drainage, and adding new pavement. The congregation has agreed to move ahead with this project.

But how to pay for it? Bids from local contractors are likely to be at least \$20,000. Session has established a team to lead the congregation towards support for this figure. Thanks to Robin Glazier, Marc and Pam Kenward for stepping up to help. We have an initial \$5,000 commitment from the Memorial Fund, \$1,700 committed by Session from two bequests, and need to raise at least \$10,000 from members and friends of the church. The team will be sending out an appeal in the next several weeks.

Thank you for your faithfulness in responding to this appeal. In reading from Isaiah we are heartened to think that God might view our effort favorably!

## ***Traffic Calming Ahead***

Some neighborhoods, to improve safety, have added traffic calming devices, like speed bumps, chicanes and rotaries. Sometimes our lives have more traffic congestion than we can easily handle, due to family, health, school or work challenges, and we need some traffic calming to reduce the stress and tension.

Our Prayer Chain is ready to help. We can't stop the traffic, but we can help calm things down a bit with prayer. Please contact Laura Platt or Jean Roda to get on the chain.

## ***Trustees Report***

We have three quotes for the driveway paving project but I am trying to equalize them all. Besides the three different prices, each had different square footage and finished thickness. I also came up with my own square footage figure, different from the three (in the middle though), so I have my work cut out for me! One contractor said it included striping the parking spaces but it was not written in the quote. I think in the end we should have it striped.

We are anticipating a presentation of the project to the Presbytery Board of Trustees (as a courtesy only) on August 4th but need to confirm the date and time. We hope to get the paving work done by the end of September, depending on how the financing is finalized.

We have tentatively scheduled the fellowship floor stripping / re-sealing and rug cleaning for Thursday, July 28th.

Organ blower room - with some luck and help from friends and members, we hope to have the blower moved to its next resting place (for the next 50 years?) this fall. Then we can focus on building walls around it!

Thanks to Chip Blair for rewiring the elevator so that the key operation is now by-passed. Keys are no longer necessary. Just press the buttons and go!

ITS GOING TO BE A BUSY FALL! *[Marc Kenward, Trustees]*

## ***From the Pastor***

Dear Friends,

A farmer goes out to plant seeds (Matthew 13:1-9). As you hear the story, imagine your own favorite fruit or vegetable. The farmer sowed his seeds tossing some to the left, some to the right, and some right down the center, up one row, down the next, until the whole field had been planted.

What expression was on the farmer's face as he spread the seeds? Was he joyful, was he hopeful, was he looking tired, angry, frustrated? What expression is on your face when you work in your garden, when you spread the seeds in your field?

Whether the seeds are planted in the ancient way, or the modern way, Jesus' lesson still holds true. Now I saw men planting cabbage one time, They looked tired, at the end of a long day that lasted until nine in the evening, but they handled each cabbage seedling with tremendous care, as if each one was the most valuable seedling of them all.

What does this parable mean? As Jesus explains this parable to his disciples, the seeds represent the word of God that is given to each one of us. Each word being a personal message to you filled with promise and possibility, in hope of a bountiful crop in every field you find yourself, in every season of your life.

What look was on the farmer's face when he realized that some of his seeds would fail to grow and yield a good crop? Anger, frustration, weeping, sadness?

It doesn't always work out. One year the farmers in this area lost their crops to severe drought. Another year we got rain, but too much of it. It doesn't always work out. It didn't always work out in the story Jesus told about the farmer, either. There are so many seeds lost along the way - eaten by birds, parched for lack of water, or choked out by weeds.

What will this farmer do? You would think the farmer would give up farming - just plain give up in terrible frustration. But in Jesus' parable, this farmer does not give up.

Like the farmer, we face many disappointments in life, such as the death of a family member, a serious sickness, loss of a job, a painful divorce, and it is tempting to become hardened and cynical about the world around us. Why try to be nice? Why get our hopes up? Why trust anyone?

What is God like? Jesus has an answer: God is like this farmer. God does not give up because of one tough season out in the fields. In fact, God continues to spread the seeds season after season, always in hope that some will bear an abundance of fruit. God does not quit farming after one difficult season in the

fields, and neither should we. God never ceases spreading this precious seed, this precious word, tossing some to the left, tossing some to the right, tossing some right down the center, up one row, down the next.

What are you like, knowing that God has invested so much love and care in you? Would knowing this much about God change your life? What expression do you think is one God's face when the seed planted in you flourishes?

Was there a moment when your life changed because you really understood how much love and care God had invested in you? A faith that is alive is a faith that has experienced this incredible love of God.

The seed of God, the promise and hope of God, is in you. And God will spare nothing to see that the seed in you will grow and flourish - thirty times over, sixty times over, one hundred times over. Let this season in your life be that season!

Blessings, Peace, and Good Growing!

Jim Renfrew, Pastor

## ***Deacons in Action***

Deacons will not be meeting during July and August, but will communicate with each other as needed during that time.

Even though we won't be meeting, we continue to collect food contributions each Sunday for the Emergency Food Shelf of Genesee County Churches United located at the Salvation Army in Batavia.

Many thanks to those who helped deacons offer a meal following the Memorial Service for Lisa Shepard.

Beginning in September Deacons will begin meeting on the second Sunday of each month, following worship. *[Doris Hillabush, Moderator of Deacons]*

## ***Outdoor Worship in the Park***

Our worship service in the park next to the church will take place on Sunday, July 31st, 9:45 AM. Please bring lawn chairs if you have them. This takes place on the same weekend as the Byron Heritage Festival.

## ***Session Notes***

Session was informed that a new Form of Government ("nFog") for the Presbyterian Church (USA) has been endorsed by the majority of presbyteries and will take effect on July 10th. The Form of Government is the first section of the Presbyterian Book of Order, and functions as the denomination's constitution. The so-called nFOG, is meant to give sessions and presbyteries more flexibility in ministry. In the short term many of the "old" Form of Government provisions are likely to be maintained by our Presbytery of Genesee Valley.

Session has also been informed that Amendment 10-A, which revises the Presbyterian Church's ordination standards, has also been approved by a majority of presbyteries in a closely-watched vote. The Amendment revises the conditions under which gay and lesbian persons may seek ordination in the PCUSA, by now granting presbyteries greater authority to set ordination standards.

For more information about these two matters, please visit the Presbytery of Genesee Valley web site: <http://www.pbygenva.org>.

Also, Session approved a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 5th, at which time the Congregation approved the trustees plan for repaving the parking lot and driveway.

*Mary Ann Blair, Clerk of Session*

## ***"Growing in Faith" Small Group Invitation***

For the past three years we have been using Natural Church Development as a process for improving the spiritual health of our church. Small sharing groups like this are an opportunity for strengthening our ministry by getting to know one another better. Having met each month since September, we are taking a break until the Fall.

## ***Preaching Themes for July & August***

JULY 3 Matthew 11:28-30 *"The Yoke's On You"*  
JULY 10 Matthew 13:1-9 *"Good Soil"*  
JULY 17 Matthew 13:21-32 *"Nests"*  
JULY 24 Matthew 13:33-35 *"Rising"*  
JULY 31 Matthew 13:45 *"The Pearl"*  
AUG 7 Matthew 13:44 *"Hidden Treasure"*  
AUG 14 Matthew 14:22-33 *"Faith and Fear"*  
AUG 21 Matthew 15:21-28 *"Are You a Crumb?"*  
AUG 28 Matthew 15:29-31 *"Amazement"*

## ***Abitibi Paper Retriever Program***

We are sad to report that Abitibi has discontinued paper recycling in our area. The reason given is the high cost of fuel for transportation. Thanks to everyone who has supported this project, it helped our youth ministry, and also helped the environment.

## ***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 eight chairs. Those wishing to borrow these must make arrangements well in advance with the Church Secretary (548-2800). New chairs are not available for borrowing.

## ***Dining Room Rental***

Did you know that the Church Dining Room and Kitchen are available for your use? There is no charge for church members, and a nominal fee for people from the community. Please contact our Church Secretary to make a reservation.

## ***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.

## ***Prayer Shawl Ministry***

Prayer Shawl will not meet for the summer months. We will reconvene in September. There are several shawls in the cupboard in the hallway behind the sanctuary. Please feel free to take one if you have a need!

## ***New Directories Available***

A new Church Directory is now available to members and friends of the church. They may be picked up on any Sunday, or by contacting the church office. Please let us know if you any errors or omissions.

## ***My Loving Challenge***

Most folks who have a fantastic relationship with God spend time in His Word every day.

The more you expose yourself to the Bible, the more it will expose itself to you!

***Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. (Joshua 1:8)***

If you want to develop your faith as a Christian, then you must set aside time for prayer and reading the Bible every day. Yet, so few of us do so! You must ask the question, what gets in the way of my time with God? How much does TV, over working, or socializing take from you and your time? Which is more important?

I know, you just don't always have time. What! You don't have time?! I have to admit that I've said (or at least thought) that myself. On the other hand I want God with me 24/7, every day of the year, every year for the rest of my life.

Did you know that it would take the average reader a whole 12 ½ minutes a day to read through the whole Bible in a year? If you can afford 25 minutes a day you can actually read the Bible completely through twice a year! In about 8 years I'm only on my 4<sup>th</sup> time through --- pretty shabby I know, but how are you doing? I'll bet we can both do better.

If you share my desire to spend time in His Word daily you may find it helpful to keep copies of the Bible in various places, and even in various forms. Small pocket versions are easy to keep on hand in your purse, your car, your suitcases, or even the side pocket of your favorite recliner chair. Cassette or CD versions make good listening while traveling or while relaxing at home. For the more tech savvy you can go to [youversion.com/download](http://youversion.com/download) and get the app for almost any smart phone or mobile device. Youversion gives you quick access to many versions and languages as well as reading plans and much more.

So that's my challenge to you, and to myself. Read the Bible all the way through this year --- 12 ½ minutes a day, every day. Just like I want God with me every day, I want to be with Him and want to be growing in His Word every day.

For a "real" vacation hit the Scriptures this summer! The only way to really get away from the sin, suffering, and turmoil of this world is through His Word.

Yours in Christ, Jim Moore

## ***Mission Committee News***

THANK YOU!

I want to personally thank all of you for supporting the Backpack Program as you have. This school year we averaged 26-28 kids most weeks. Thank you for helping us combat hunger in our area!

I especially want to thank Faline Tyler, Lara Ezard and Laurie Simmons for helping by delivering empty backpacks over to Gillam-Grant each week. A HUGE thank you goes to Marie Andes for taking the reins on filling the bags most weeks, along with the help of Melanie Nesbitt, and dropping them off at school. You each have made an impact on the lives of children in our school district!

We will be continuing through the summer to deliver backpacks to a few families. If you are interested in donating money or items, it would be greatly appreciated. Checks can be given through the offering or sent to church--just please indicate that it is for the BACKPACK PROGRAM. If you would rather donate items, the following are always useful: individual packets of oatmeal or cereal, 100% juice boxes (please only 100% juice), small microwave meals or soups, easy mac, or fruit cups.

The backpack program has been possible through the help of other organizations in our area. Participants this year have been Stone Church, North Bergen Presbyterian Church, Bergen Presbyterian Church and the Byron-Bergen Teacher's Association. If you know any of the folks in those groups, feel free to mention that you appreciate their support!

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

On Sunday, August 14, we will travel to Cameron Community Ministries in the Lyell Avenue neighborhood in Rochester to once again host a Sunday Celebration. We will provide a meal to those from the community in attendance, eat with them, and host an informal worship service with them in their dining hall. If you are interested in helping that day or helping with providing food, please contact Pam Kenward. We only need about 10 people the day of the event. If you have never had a chance to attend before, please save the date and plan to come. It is a very humbling and eye opening experience. The neighbors in the area are extremely grateful for the food and for the company and it is always a lot of fun! ***[Pam Kenward]***

## ***International Mission Trip***

We have been in communication with folks who are in the mission field in Peru (through the Presbyterian Church USA). We are hopeful that this may be a good opportunity for us to plan to do our international mission trip with trip with them in summer 2013.

While the youth are the focus, adults are welcome as well. If you are interested, let Pam Kenward know. We are hoping to meet up with the missionaries in the Ithaca area in August, as they are back in the states at that point for a couple of months. For more information about what they are currently doing in Peru, please check out their website at [www.puentesperuanos.org](http://www.puentesperuanos.org). ***[Pam Kenward]***

## ***Youth Summer Mission Work***

During the week of July 25-29, Monday through Friday, our youth group will be spending each day at Cameron Community Ministries in Rochester. Our plan is to leave from the church each morning around 8:30 AM and return mid-afternoon.

Each day our work will consist of meal preparation, various chores involving cleaning and organization of supplies, and assisting with an afternoon youth camp. We will also be presenting all of the supplies we have gathered from our "Undie Sunday" effort earlier in the summer.

Cameron Community Ministries, located in the Lyell Avenue area of the city, has been a community center sponsored by the American Baptist region, with long-time involvement from the churches of the Presbytery.

Later in the summer, on Sunday, August 14, our Mission Committee will be coordinating a Sunday night dinner at Cameron. This also includes a worship service.

## ***Byron Heritage Festival***

### ***Saturday, July 30, 2011 - Schedule of Events***

<b><i>Fishing Derby</i></b> (sponsored by Byron Kiwanis)	8:00 - 9:00 AM (Ages 12 and under) Registration begins at 7:30 AM.
<b><i>5K Run</i></b> (sponsored by Boy Scout Troop #13)	7:00 AM Registration, 8:00 AM Race Begins 9:30 AM Race results posted
<b><i>Craft and Food Vendors</i></b>	9:00 AM - ????
<b><i>Garage Sales</i></b>	Call Town office 548-7123 to be added to the list
<b><i>Bounce House</i></b>	10:00 AM - ???? (sponsored by Fullerino's)
<b><i>Parade</i></b>	11:00 AM
<b><i>Cruise In</i></b>	11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
<b><i>Raffles</i></b>	Winners announced starting at 3:00 PM
<b><i>Basketball Shootout</i></b>	2:30 PM at Basketball Court
<b><i>Garden Contest</i></b>	Winners announced at 3:00 PM
<b><i>Horseshoe Tournament</i></b>	4:00 PM (sponsored by Sue Fuller)
<b><i>Chicken BBQ</i></b>	4:00 PM, <u>until sold out</u> (at Tennis Court)
<b><i>Ghostriders</i></b>	1:30 - 4:30 PM
<b><i>Brick Band</i></b>	5:00 - 7:30 PM (sponsored by the Byron-Bergen Library in coordination with the Byron Heritage Festival)
<b><i>Big Money Bob</i></b>	8:00 - 11:00 PM
<b><i>FIREWORKS!</i></b>	9:30 PM

The Byron Presbyterian Church will be selling soft ice cream during the Heritage Festival. We can use your help! Please contact Luan Riner at 548-2428 to volunteer for a shift during the day. We will be located on the park grounds near the large pavilion. Come enjoy an ice cream!