

Byron Presbyterian Church

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James R. Renfrew, Pastor
Mary Ann Blair, Clerk of Session

October 20, 2011

Dear Members and friends of Our Church,

“Generous” –what does it mean? Most of us would answer (with a heavy sigh) – “giving”; but, did you know that the definition in Webster’s that comes before “giving” is **“characterized by a noble or fore-bearing spirit”**?

During the fall, we have been talking about generosity and several members of the congregation have given testimonials to generous or “noble” people they have come into contact with in their lives. We have heard stories of giving and of receiving, of people reaching out and touching someone’s life without conscious awareness of doing so! Acts of generosity have ranged from the incredible gestures that save lives, to monetary gifts, babysitting, and something as simple as making a new person feel welcome during greeting time at a Sunday service.

We have created tangible evidence of the *noble and fore-bearing spirit* of our congregation and the wider community with experiences of generosity and hopes for a future of continued giving written on paper leaves. These leaves have been hung on a “Giving Tree” in our sanctuary. The bright colored leaves are a reminder that God has placed us on this earth to be stewards to each other.

We have created a church history timeline that wraps around the sanctuary. You can see many of the amazing acts of giving and sharing that have gone before us. The timeline brings us to present day – and as a congregation, we must come together to be sure that generosity continues with us.

We are also excited to share with you the enclosed “Narrative Budget” for 2012. It goes far beyond a spreadsheet of numbers to tell the story of how we have been faithful in the past year and how we anticipate sharing the blessings of Jesus Christ in the year to come.

Take a moment to think about the “leaves of generosity” that have impacted your life and take a moment to ponder what you would like the “Giving Tree” of the future to look like? Together, with all of our gifts - of time, of talent, of monetary support, - we can create a giving tree that reaches to the stars and that is so laden with leaves of generosity it sweeps the ground.

Blessings!

The Stewardship Committee

Please use the enclosed leaf from our “Giving Tree” to make a financial commitment for 2012. We encourage you to return your leaf by Sunday, November 13th in the Sunday offering plate, or by mail to the Stewardship Committee, Byron Presbyterian Church, PO Box 206, Byron NY 14422. Thank you for your faithfulness and your generosity.

