



Monthly newsletter of
Latham Community Baptist Church
An affiliate of American Baptist
Churches, USA

Latham Community Baptist Church

109 Forts Ferry Road

Latham, NY 12110

Phone: 518 785-5678

Email: lathamcbc@verizon.com

Web site: lathambaptist.org



O R B I T

George's jottings:

At the end of October, I began a sermon series on fundamental truths about Christianity. Why is that? There are two reasons. First, many Christians have some difficulty articulating what they believe using words that someone outside of church could reasonable understand. If someone asks us, "Who is God?", or "Who is Jesus?" we might struggle to give an answer that does not sound overly complex or overly simple. Other people do not know how to answer the question because they have never had to contemplate a response. After all, everyone must know who God is. Sadly, many people we meet do not have any idea who God is. Just listen to the dialogue in the grocery store or on television and count the number of times God's name is used in vain. Those who use God's name in vain do not know who God is. We need to know the basics of our faith.

The second reason for covering the basics is we must be able to defend our beliefs. Being a Christian is more challenging today than just one year ago. In some circles in which we might travel, it is a bit of a sport to ridicule Christians. In other venues of the world, calling someone a Christian is to place a death sentence upon them. Regardless of the form or intensity of the persecution, we must be capable of giving some reasoned answer for our beliefs. We will never be able to answer every imaginable question about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Salvation, Heaven, or Hell but we should be able to answer the first few questions.

I want to encourage you to think about the simple questions of our faith and be ready "to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" [1 Peter 3:15]

Please feel free to call me as needs arise at 371-2154 or you can email me Stefani.George@gmail.com.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor George

SCHEDULE OF MAJOR EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2015

 <p>COMMUNITY DINNER</p>	<p>Monday, November 2 – We will serve our community meal to those in need at the Troy Area United Ministries facility.</p>
	<p>Tuesday, November 3 – We will serve as a local polling station. Fellowship Hall will be used from 5:30 am to 9:30 pm.</p>
	<p>Friday, November 6-8 – Pastor George, Becky, and several youth from the church will be attending the 2015 Youth Convention in Syracuse.</p>
	<p>Tuesday, November 10 – Kristallnacht Interfaith Commemoration Service to be held at Page Hall, SUNY Albany Downtown Campus at 7:00 pm. La Rabinessa Liora Kelman of Congregation Beth Israel will share with us her own family history of survival. She will talk about her family, the Saranos from Milan, and how they were saved in the small Italian village of Mombarroccio, during the Holocaust. The service will include the movie, My Italian Secret: The Forgotten Heroes which reveals a clandestine Italian resistance movement that helped save many Jews during the Shoah. Pastor George will participate in the service.</p>
<p>GIVE BLOOD</p>  <p>SAVE LIFE</p>	<p>Wednesday, December 2 – The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at the church. Blood donors and volunteers for the registration table are needed.</p>

KRISTALLNACHT INTERFAITH COMMEMORATION

Please plan to attend the Kristallnacht Interfaith Commemoration on Tuesday, November 10, at 7:00 pm at Page Hall, University of Albany downtown campus, 135 Western Ave., Albany. This is a moving interfaith service dedicated to remembering the Holocaust and honoring the survivors. This year, La Rabinessa Liora Kelman of Congregation Beth Israel will share her own family history of survival. There will also be a showing of the movie, My Italian Secret. This movie reveals a clandestine Italian resistance movement that helped save many Jews from deportation and death, hiding and protecting them, despite the risks to their own lives and those of their families.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

NOVEMBER

- 11/5 Janet Wilkinson**
- 11/11 Kelsey Horton**
- 11/16 Joy Nadler**
- 11/19 Becky Stefani**
- 11/19 Derek Nadler**
- 11/20 Joyce Hempstead**
- 11/21 David Hoag**
- 11/25 Eric Houghton**

As well as caring for congregants and friends we care and support other peoples all over the world. American Baptist Home Missions is one of those group of people.



Care Corner

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

As stated by Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, Executive Director, of Home Mission Societies:

- We center ourselves in Christ.
- We claim the Whole Gospel.
- We build Community.
- We collaborate for Missions.

We have received a Thank You from the ABHMS for our generous donation to the America for Christ Offering 2015 of \$100.00 and for a donations to the Hurricane Sandy Project of \$56.00.

We have also received a Thank You from Springbrook for our donation of \$150.00. A comment from one Springbrook family says:

“I learned how to cook on my own, to clean on my own, have a full time job and be able to be on my own and not to depend on everybody for myself. I think Springbrook is the best thin that has ever happened to me.”

Jamie Canfield, program participant.

Way to go Jamie! What a blessing to have an establishment that is able to help many people learn the skills they need to be independent.



The next meeting of the Women's Fellowship will be held on Monday, Nov.16, in the Catterick Lounge. This is Love Gift month. Please remember to bring in your ruler with dimes attached. Jean Cowan will be the hostess and Helen Filkins will lead us in Chapter Two of our book study.



**Once a task has begun,
Never leave it until it's done.
Though the task be great or small,
Do it well of not at all.**



On Sunday, October 25, 2015, the congregation held its quarterly meeting. Becky Stefani prepared a light luncheon of grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup., Pie was served for dessert and we had an interesting meeting.

A discussion of the furniture, sofa and loveseat, in the Catterick Lounge which was removed because of a mold problem and the question of what to do about the room took place. The congregation VOTED to make the lounge a dual purpose room. There will be comfortable chairs that can be used with a large table in the middle of the room for small meeting groups, bible studies, etc. and some chairs that can be used at the end of the room with the end tables just for relaxation purposes.

At this time there is a Boy Scout working on his Eagle Scout Badge is purposing to build tables with folding legs so the tables will be able to be moved in the event it is needed in another part of the building. A committee was set up to look for the comfortable chairs.,

The use of this room for dual purposes will be cost effective since a lot of small meetings are held in our building and by using this room we will not need to heat the large Fellowship Hall in the winter. One of the adults from the Sunday morning Adult Bible School class also mentioned it was much easier to take notes with the use of the table rather than trying to write on one's lap.

We hope all will enjoy the new use of this room when it is completely finished. Watch for the results.



and





SUPPLEMENTAL HYMN BOOK

The Supplemental Hymn Book is being worked on. We will have a dark blue copy the first day of Advent in the pew racks of the sanctuary. At that time the only added hymns will be Advent hymns

After Advent, we will be inserting general hymns and praise songs that we will be able to add to on a continual basis as songs are asked for and we will continue to start adding the songs for Lent, Communion, Children's Day, and Thanksgiving.

If you haven't given suggestions prior to this date for hymn you would like to see in this supplement, please advise us of hymns or praise songs you would like included. We will always be able to add or delete songs from this new book as time goes on.

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Harvest Dinner

The Harvest Dinner was held on Saturday, October 24, 2015, in the Fellowship Hall. A wonderful meal was had by all. The children had a wonderful time filling up their treat bags with a variety of snacks to make Harvest Hash. Items included nuts, chocolate covered raisins, Honeycomb cereal, M & M's, and candy corn. A lot of the adults joined them

with the Harvest Hash. Bowling with large candy corn bowling pins and a pumpkin ball also kept the children active. Pastor George used the chalkboard and chalk for board games with the young people.

All present had a very enjoyable evening.

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A Hymn to Worship By

This is a beautiful time of the year. The colors are so bright and cheerful. How could anyone not enjoy all of them? Of course, if you have leaves to rake you may have doubts about their beauty but think of what the Lord has provided with this season. Not only does he provide the colorful leaves but then there is all of the wonderful produce that is pick, maybe preserved or canned, to use during the winter months. Plowing, planting, and harvesting words remind me of a hymn that we sing on Thanksgiving Sunday. "We Ploy the Fields" is the perfect hymn for this time of the year.

Matthias Claudius had no intention of writing a hymn. A German journalist, he was merely writing a poem about a group of peasants gathering for a banquet. The seventeen-stanza poem, originally entitled "Paul Erdmann's Fest," depicts friends coming over to Paul Erdmann's house and enjoying themselves. It praises both Paul Erdman

for his hospitality and God as the ultimate source of the feast.

Jane Campbell, a British music teacher, made the free translation of this poem into its present English form. She contributed it to a new hymnal in 1861, along with some other translations from German. Since that time, it has become a favorite harvest hymn in many churches. The hymn gained new popularity when John Michael Tebelak and Stephen Schwartz included it in their 1960s musical "Godspell".

In any era the sentiments are valid. God has given us all the good things we have, and he deserves our thanks.

**Scriptures: Isaiah 55:10-11; Acts 14:17; James 1:17-18
Themes: Thanksgiving, Creation; Praise**



**We plow the fields and scatter
The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered
By God's almighty hand.
He send the snow in winter,
The warmth to swell the grain.
The breezes and the sunshine,
And soft refreshing rain.**

Chorus:

***All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above;
Then thank the Lord,
O! thank the Lord for all His love.***

**He only is the Maker
Of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower,
He lights the evening star.
The winds and waves obey Him
By Him the birds are fed;
Much more, to us His children,
He gives our daily bread.**

Chorus:

**We thank Thee, then, O Father,
For all things bright and good:
The seedtime and the harvest,
Our lifem, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer
For all Thy love impoarts,
And, what Thou most desirest,
Our humble thankful hearts.**

Chorus:





Answers to last month's puzzle: Shepherds and Sheep

1. Job (42:12)	2. Moses (Exodus 2:16-17)
3. David (Psalm 23:1)	4. Peter (John 21: 15-17)
5. Abel (Genesis 4:2)	6. Jesus (John 10:11)
7. Isaiah 53:6)	8. The Song of Solomon (4:2)
9. Matthew (25:32)	10. Jesus (Matthew 9:36)

**Let's continue with Shepherds and Sheep. (Same instructions as last issue.)
Find the Book and the verse for each of the following:**

- 11. Who called Saul on the carpet because he had heard the bleating of sheep taken in Saul's battle with the Amalekites?**
- 12. What book warns against sacrificing a defective sheep to God?**
- 13. In what book does God say, "My people hath been lost sheep; their shepherds have caused them to go astray"?**
- 14. To whom did Jesus say, "I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves"?**
- 15. In Jesus' parable of the lost sheep, how many sheep were in the field?**
- 16. Who did God tell Moses would be the new shepherd over Israel?**
- 17. Which psalm says, "We are his people and the sheep of his pasture"?**
- 18. Which epistle says, "We are as sheep going astray"?**
- 19. Which psalm says, "We are counted as sheep for the slaughter"?**
- 20. Who became a shepherd in Midian for his father-in-law?**