

GRIEFSHARE

GriefShare is for people grieving the death of a family member or friend. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. A new group will begin meeting on Monday, February 15 at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending or want more information, please contact Pastor George at 371-2154.

CARE CORNER

Please pray for Dianne Lourinia (respiratory issues), Lou Lourinia (knee replacement), Linda Rosenthal (knee replacement), Carol Wilsey (recovery from foot surgery), Danielle (Lucile Sheldon's granddaughter – pregnancy concerns), and Donna and Faye (Elaine Morris' coworkers – each with cancer), Linda (Becky's friend – cancer).

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY'S

2/5	Jacelyn Ortiz
2/12	John Cowan
2/20	Caitlin Morris
2/22	Kevin Durante, Jr
2/23	Beth Horton
2/25	Christopher Stefani



I believe we are entering a new phase of life in this church and I believe it promises to be a rich blessing.

Last week, we met and celebrated at our annual meeting. (Not too many churches use the word celebration and annual meeting in the same sentence!) We received the reports of the work accomplished by the church and within the church during the last year. In 2015, we rapidly expanded our missional outreach to the local community, continued to enjoy vibrant ministry within the congregation, and made significant improvements to the building we call "the church." At the annual meeting, I encouraged us to follow three principles as we continue to develop in 2016: Be Biblical, Be Simple, and Be Relevant.

Be Biblical. We will remain focused on Biblical thinking through our preaching, teaching, personal and corporate conduct, and expanding missional focus.

Be Simple. We will keep our efforts simple and easily understood as furthering the goal of making our church a Christ centered, community serving, body of believers.

Be Relevant. We will continue to base our specific missions and ministry activities on simple Biblical principles all the while ensuring what we do is relevant to our local community.

Let's look forward to a great year following God's lead.

Pastor George

SCHEDULE OF MAJOR EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

DONATIONS FOR PEOPLE IN NEED

	<p>Wednesday, February 3 at 7:00 pm - American Red Cross Blood drive at the church.</p>
	<p>Sunday, February 7, 2016 – The Boy Scout Troop 279 and Cub Scout Pack 66 will join us for worship service for Boy Scout Sunday.</p>
	<p>Sunday, February 14 - We will be collecting personal care items for the CABA mission to the people in need in Troy/</p>
	<p>Sunday, February 14 - We will be installing our church officers and committee members during the worship service.</p>
	<p>Thursday, February 18 – We will serve our community meal to those in need at the Troy Area United Ministries facility.</p>
	<p>Friday, February 19 – A new movie for Easter will open. We will be looking to make this a youth group event.</p>

On the last Sunday of each month, we donate food items to St. Ambrose Church Food Pantry. This ministry helps many people in our community. Last year, we joined a new mission to collect and distribute personal care items to those in need in Troy. During the last few months, members and friends of our church have asked if other items could be made available to those in need. The short answer is “YES!” In the last few weeks, we have made available a kitchen table, men’s shoes, artificial Christmas trees, dinnerware, socks, and medical bandages. If you have some items you want to donate to those in need please contact Pastor George. Part of becoming missional is to develop a mindset of continually reassessing our time, talent, tears, and treasures that they may be used to the glory of God.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

At our annual meeting, we approved four changes to the constitution to simplify the management of the church’s financial assets, budgeting, and expenditures under the Board of Trustees. These changes will help us continue to be good stewards of the resources God placed in our care. With these changes, it will be easier for us to produce a ministry-based budget that shows the connection between our priorities for missions and ministries and our planned spending.

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING

One of our major American Baptist mission offerings is the America for Christ offering. These funds go to the American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS) who uses these funds to sponsor development of American Baptist missions within the United States. Last year, ABHMS sponsored training in *Mission from the Gospels*. CABA used the *Mission from the Gospels* lessons to initiate new missions among CABA churches. LCBC played a key role in one of those initiatives, “Twice Fed” Ministries to the Saratoga Racetrack. That mission was highlighted by ABHMS in its promotional material for the 2016 America for Christ offering. Please consider making a special gift to the America for Christ offering so other new missions can be started.