

REFRESH GROUP – DINNER AND BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Starting Wednesday, January 4, 2017, Pastor George will begin leading “Refresh,” a dinner and Bible study group. We will begin our time together with a light potluck dinner and then a Bible study. The meal would start at 6:00 pm and the Bible study at 7:00 pm. The study would end by 8:30 pm. You are invited to participate in both the meal and the study or just the study. We will meet every other Wednesday. This is a great opportunity for fellowship within the congregation and an opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to an informal setting to be refreshed. The group will meet at Pastor George and Becky’s house at 13 Parkland Court, Clifton Park. If you are interested in becoming part of this group, then please tell Pastor George so we know to expect you.

CARE CORNER

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



The angel said to Mary, “Greetings, you who are highly favored. The Lord is with you.” With these words, God’s plan for the birth of Jesus Christ was opened to the world. What a marvelous world changing moment.

The birth of Jesus removed the veil to understanding the nature of God. Do you want to know what God is like? Then look at Jesus; see God in the flesh. The birth of Jesus removed the veil to understanding how God wants you to live. Do you want to know how to live? Then look at Jesus; imitate Him. The birth of Jesus removed the veil between God and us. Do you want to be with God all your life, here on earth and for all eternity? Then look at Jesus; He had you and me personally in mind when He went to the cross and took our sins. Knowing, believing, and following Jesus means that we walk with God now and for all eternity. It is as if the angel has said to us, “Greetings, you who are highly favored.”

This Christmas season take the time to consider just what happened the day Jesus was born. Consider how blessed we are to know that God loved us so much that He sent His Son to be born and bring us abundant life now and forevermore. If we take that all in, then our words “Merry Christmas,” become more than just a greeting. It will represent an invitation to a way of life in which “God is with you.”

Peace,

Pastor George

SCHEDULE OF MAJOR EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

	<p>Monday, December 5 - We will serve our community meal and distribute personal care items and clothing to those in need at the Troy Area United Ministries facility.</p>
	<p>Sunday, December 11 – Immediately following worship service we will have a Birthday Party for Jesus. Please plan on coming and bringing a dish to pass.</p>
	<p>Saturday, December 17 – Women's Yankee Swap Christmas Party at Pastor and Becky Stefani's house – starts at 1:00 p.m.</p>
	<p>Sunday, December 18 at 2:00 pm – We will hold a Blue Christmas service of remembrance and hope for those who are experiencing the pain of loss of a loved one.</p>
	<p>Saturday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. – Join us for our Christmas Eve service for a time of great music and celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior.</p>
	<p>Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. - Join us for the celebration of our Lord and Savior's birth.</p>

INTEGRAL MISSIONAL LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

The Latham Community Baptist Church received a grant from the American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS) to create and implement an alternative model for developing leaders for local missions. This is an exciting opportunity for our church to move forward on its mission to develop bonds with other CABA churches and serve the greater community of Saratoga Springs.” Group meetings will start in January 2017. Details and commitment forms will be provided soon.

ABC MISSION – RETIRED MINISTERS & MISSIONARIES

Each year, American Baptist Churches across the nation take up a special offering to support retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy. This year's theme is *The Grace of Giving*. Through the simple yet profound act of giving, American Baptist churches can share in an act of *Grace* that reminds those who served so faithfully that they are remembered with love and gratitude. Our church has set aside \$200 for this offering. Those wishing to add to this offering can do so by designating funds during the weekly offerings in the month of December.

HYGIENE KITS FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS

The Women's Group met on Monday, November 21, and packaged over 75 hygiene kits for homeless students in our local school district. This is an important opportunity for our church to demonstrate it is “Centered in Christ; Serving the Community.”

