

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

Please pray for continued opportunities to invite people to faith and new people to fellowship in the church. Please pray for

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Happy New Year. Many people will begin the year with one or more resolutions. Top among the resolutions are to lose weight, get organized, save more, stay fit, quit smoking, spend more time with the family, etc.

Virtually all New Year’s resolutions have a common thread of improving one’s life through self-help and the exercise of willpower. Scripture has an invitation that could be made into a resolution. It is not on the top ten list and probably never will be. It comes following the words where Jesus told his followers that he must undergo great suffering, be rejected by those who should love him, and then be killed by crucifixion. After this, Jesus made an invitation to his disciples, “Become my follower. Take up your cross and follow me.” If we took these words seriously and reword them into a resolution it might sound like, “This year, I will follow Jesus, even if it means that I will die on a cross.” I suspect few would resolve to live their lives that way. These are difficult words to promise and even harder to live. It is easy to see why this resolution is not on the top ten lists of New Year’s resolutions. Yet these are Jesus’ words to those who sought to follow him and they apply to us.

If we are to be serious about our faith, we need to recognize the cost of discipleship. This year can be a truly great year if each morning we resolve to accept Jesus’ invitation and follow him for the day. Just one day at a time. I know it will change our lives and those God places in our path. Let’s do it and have a Happy New Year.

Peace,

Pastor George

SCHEDULE OF MAJOR EVENTS FOR JANUARY

	<p>No Meal This Month - We will not serve a community meal this month as the facility is closed the first Monday of this month (January 2, 2017)</p>
	<p>Wednesday, January 4 and 18 – The LCBC small group will restart with dinner and bible study. Dinner at 6:00 pm and study at 7:00 pm. Please join.</p>
	<p>Saturday, January 21 at 9:00 p.m. – Join us for our initial meeting of the missional leadership program.</p>
	<p>Sunday, January 29 - Please plan to attend our annual meeting for fellowship and discussion of 2017.</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.” Initial group meeting is Saturday, January 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm.

ABC MISSION – AMERICA FOR CHRIST

The theme for the America for Christ Offering 2017, “Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities,” inspires and encourages us to partner with American Baptist Churches USA in answering God’s call to live out the Christian faith in transforming individuals, congregations and communities; to develop networks and programs committed to nurturing Christ-centered leaders; and to promote witness and evangelism as well as discipleship and social justice. Please consider giving something extra to this year’s offering.

CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS FOR FORTS FERRY STUDENTS

With the funds received from our Matthew 25 Grant we supported the Forts Ferry Elementary School by providing six \$50 gift cards to help 21 students in six families have a blessed Christmas dinner. Principal Candace Lobdell expressed her appreciation to our congregation for the continued support of the Forts Ferry Elementary School students.

THANK YOU

Becky and I want to thank the congregation of Latham Community Baptist Church for your very generous and thoughtful Christmas present. We feel blessed to have this opportunity to worship and minister at LCBC. We look forward to another great year together. Once again, thank you for your many expressions of love and your gift. *Pastor George*

NEHEMIAH LEADERSHIP NETWORK UPDATE

In January 2014, Pastor George began a three-year leadership development program, Nehemiah Leadership Network. This program is offered by the American Baptist Churches USA to pastors to deepen their self-understanding, develop new and potent skills for leading human systems, increase emotional intelligence, and find healthy life-balance. Pastor George will complete this program with week of January 31.