

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

An American Baptist Church
134 North Main Street, Geneva, NY 14456
(315) 789-3220

E-mail: genevafbc@rochester.rr.com
Web Site: genevafirstbaptistchurch.org

OUR STAFF

The Rev. Phyllis Granger, Pastor
Bill Robbins, Assistant Pastor
Nancy Robbins, Secretary

OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

Beverly Simons - Moderator
Bill Robbins - Visitation/
Christian Education/Evangelism
Geoff Marshall - Personnel Manager
Gary Hartman - Property Manager
Verne Marshall - Financial Advisor
Judy Hartman - Fellowship Coordinator
Sheila Griffin - Worship
Susan Belding - Missions
Peter Achilles - Treasurer
David Belding - Financial Secretary
Nancy Robbins - Church Clerk

OUR SCHEDULE

Neighborhood Saturday Lunch Ministry - 11:45am - 12:15pm
Worship - Sunday, 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship - Sunday, 11:00 - 11:30 am
Bible Study - Sunday, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
Prayer Time - Wednesday, 5:00 pm

Newsletter of FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
134 North Main Street
Geneva, New York 14456
(315) 789-3220



2018

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Miriam Cieslak Birthday	2 Jennifer Robbins Birthday	3 Prayer Time 5:00 pm	4	5	6 Lunch Ministry 11:45 am
7 Worship 10am Pastor Bill	8	9 Rich/Jeannine Principio Anniversary	10 Prayer Time 5:00 pm	11	12 Morgan Achilles Birthday	13 Lunch Ministry 11:45 am
14 Worship 10am Pastor Bill Dusty Myers Birthday	15 Beth Dinkel Birthday	16	17 Prayer Time 5:00 pm John/Jan Frederick Aniversary Dennis Doyle Birthday	18 Rod Foster Birthday	19	20 Lunch Ministry 11:45 am
21 Worship 10am Rev. Granger Annual Mtg	22	23 Sheila Griffin Birthday	24 Prayer Time 5:00 pm	25 Mary Achilles Birthday Stacy Freier Birthday	26	27 Lunch Ministry 11:45 am
28 Worship 10am Rev. Granger	29	30	31 Prayer Time 5:00 pm Christine Milne Birthday Marion Buck Birthday Jinny Safford Birthday			

Pastor's Page:

The year 2017 came to a close with wonderful worship services and celebrations for the birth our Savior, Jesus Christ. We were so blessed to have gifted organists who used their God-given talent to enrich the worship experiences. When we hear the scriptures put to music, it touches our heart in a special way.

We thank the Lord for all the blessings both the church and the individual have received in 2017--both the good times and the trials. Why the trials? Because it is during the trials that we rely most on God and our faith becomes stronger as we see God working to meet our every need. His answers are not always the solutions we desire, but they are the solutions we need.

As the year of 2018 begins, I wish you a happy new year. I received this New Year's prayer, and I would like to pass it on to you.

A New Year's Prayer

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows
By making your life always pleasant
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most
And by making you anxious to be there to help
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

Author Unknown

Rev. Phyllis Granger

Worship Schedule:

Jan. 7	Pastor Bill Robbins
Jan. 14	Pastor Bill Robbins
Jan. 21	Rev. Phyllis Granger
Jan. 28	Rev. Phyllis Granger

To the Congregation from Pastor Phyllis:

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for all the beautiful cards, kind words, gifts, and blessings that I received from you beautiful people at Christmas this year. What a blessing it has been to serve you for the past nine years, and I am looking forward to celebrating my tenth year with you.

Report from the Financial Secretary

*One gives freely, yet grows all the richer;
another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.
Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,
and one who waters will himself be watered. Proverbs 11:24-25*

As financial secretary, I am in charge of “keeping the books” for our church collections. But I can’t fail to recognize how much giving goes unrecorded off my ledger books. The giving Tena and I witness each Sunday in counting plate offerings is just one small piece of a much wider spirit of generosity throughout our congregation. Everywhere I look people are cheerfully contributing to the life and mission of our church. Think of the weekly fellowship hosting by Judy, Tena, Marlyn, Sue and Dale. Think of the thousands of tasks that Pete does everywhere around the church. Think of our faithful Saturday neighborhood lunch brigade, and all the helping hands involved in the food ministry. Consider all of Gary’s work repairing and upgrading our church building and Becky’s work hammering out job descriptions. There is Susan’s scheduling of organists, Margene and Mary’s weekly altar flowers, Carly’s work overseeing sound, Sheila’s organization of worship readers, Nancy’s faithful work as secretary, and the hardworking families who bring the joy of children into our worship services! The list is endless and all ably led by our wonderful Pastors Phyllis and Bill. When someone needs help, others readily step in. All this giving binds us together as one church family in the service of Christ. This spirit of generosity is a gift from God that fills our lives with shared purpose and makes us all happier. Like God’s love, generosity is contagious, it expands, it spreads, it surprises, it conquers the world’s limits!

Attendance

December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31
39	35	34	35	24
			Christmas Eve	
			38	

Pledging: Where we began and where we ended for 2017:

In the annual report last January we approved a budget based on the following projected income sources:

Pledges to date:	57,693 (later increased to 57,733)
Estimated Undeclared Giving	3,000
Plate Collection	3,000
<i>(total anticipated giving)</i>	<i>63,693</i>
Interest	4,000
Other	8,662
Cash Balance on Hand	7,846
Total	84,201

The mysterious “*other*” category of \$8662 was essentially the gap that needed to be filled. Pete anticipated that some of this gap might be closed from various budget savings, perhaps some additional giving with the remainder coming out of our reserves.

Beyond the impressive total of \$72,920 for 2017, there was additional giving toward our various missions, upkeep and other funds (e.g. flowers, window and building funds). The additional giving for the year totaled \$18,122.

Pledges for 2018

To date we have received 25 pledges for 2018 totaling \$59,847. This is \$2114 over last year's total of \$57,733 from 24 pledges. There were three new pledges and two lost pledges. Among the 25 pledges, twelve were able to increase the amount of their pledge while two found it necessary to slightly reduce the amount. As noted above, our plate collection in 2017 was quite healthy. This reflects the fact that, even though some may not pledge, they nevertheless give quite generously.

(If you have not yet pledged, I encourage you to consider making a commitment. No matter how small the amount, the simple act of commitment is one way we remind ourselves to invite God into our everyday lives.)

I want to thank everyone for their wonderful, steadfast generosity throughout the past year and their faithful commitment toward the future.

May the new year bring each of us closer to Christ.

Dave Belding
Financial Secretary

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

Thanks to our congregation's generosity, we have been able to show appreciation towards retired American Baptist ministers and missionaries who have served their communities faithfully over many years. By contributing gifts amounting to \$817 towards RMMO during December's Advent and Christmas season, we helped send "thank you" checks to these faithful leaders and their widowed spouses. Thank you for recognizing the sacrifices made by God's servants who have devoted their lives to following in Christ's footsteps.

Susan Belding,
Mission Coordinator

THANK YOU TO ALL!!

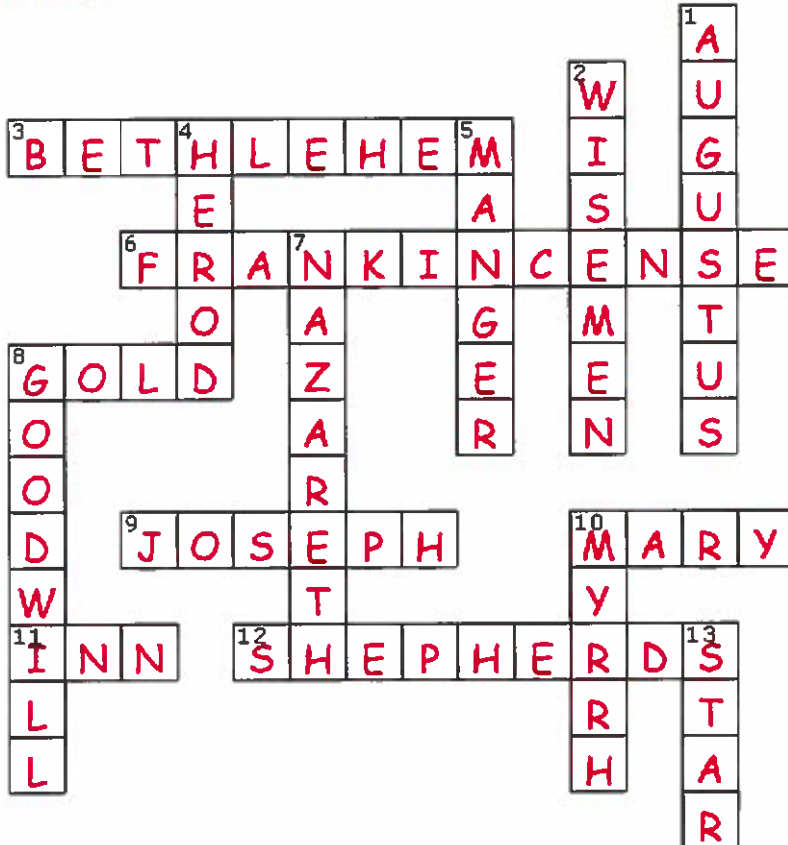
Nancy and I would like to thank you all for your kindness, prayers, support, and generous gifts during this Christmas season. We are so blessed to serve a loving church family. We pray each one of you felt Christ's love throughout the holiday season. May you all find His peace this new year as we journey together in service to our Lord and Savior.

**With love,
Bill and Nancy Robbins**

Christian Bible Reference Site

Crossword Puzzle: Jesus is Born

Desktop, laptop: Type with your regular keyboard. Click on a square to type across. Click twice to type down. Or click on a clue then type. Or print this page and solve on paper. **Tablet, mobile, smartphone, touchscreen:** Type with the on-screen keyboard below the puzzle. Tap a square to type across. Tap twice to type down. The **Solve** button at the top of the puzzle shows the solution.



ACROSS

- 3 City where Jesus was born
 - 6 Gift brought to Jesus
 - 8 Gift brought to Jesus
 - 9 Mary's husband
 - 10 Jesus' mother
 - 11 There was no room for Mary and Joseph at the _____
 - 12 They visited Jesus
- ### DOWN
- 1 "Caesar _____ issued a decree that a census should be taken"
 - 2 They visited Jesus (2 words)
 - 4 King who wanted to kill Jesus
 - 5 Jesus' crib
 - 7 City where Jesus grew up
 - 8 "On earth peace, _____ toward men"
 - 10 Gift brought to Jesus
 - 13 Guiding light for wise men