



The Beacon

January 2018

The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.

Happy New Year

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS

Have you had a chat with the Lord today? No appointment needed, the opportunity is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Keep praying, prayer changes things.

PRAYER EMPHASIS FOR JANUARY

The New Year can often bring a mixed bag of emotions and memories for many of us. Some may have just experienced the best year ever and look forward to an even greater one looming ahead. Others may have just trudged through one deep struggle after another. The fresh calendar year brings desperate hope for things to be better, with an ache for the still-fresh wounds to slowly begin their process of healing.

Whether you've just walked through the greatest year of your life, or are incredibly glad to see this one finally over, one truth still rings clear amidst it all. You are not alone. Not ever.

Our God is a "with us" God. On the heels of the celebration of the birth of our King, that reminder has the power to carry us right into a fresh, new start. He is Immanuel, God with us. And though things and people around us shift and change, our God never changes.

Verse Psalm 65:11

"You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance."

Out with the Old and in with the New!



As we approach a new year, it may not be difficult for most to say goodbye to 2017! This past year was for many one of great difficulty, with a great divide in the country over our new president, racial issues, free speech, and more. There were some very bad hurricanes in the South, wildfires in the West, and more terrorism, domestic and abroad. The Las Vegas shooting shocked the nation and we continue to feel less secure in our own country, with even those charged with protecting us under assault. Assaults on police were up 45% in 2017. With violence, loss, and devastation of these kinds and more, it's not hard to say "out with the old"!

Yet, even in such a challenging year, there have been good things that have occurred in most of our lives. Certainly, the adversities of this past difficult year have made more people realize the importance of family and friends, of the centrality of the basic things in life, including caring for others and finding contentment in little things. Many have perhaps come to realize more fully the meaning of the words of the apostle Paul, "I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need" (Phil. 4:11-12). What is that secret to which he alludes? Paul is unequivocal: it is resting by faith in the providence of God in Christ. "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13). Have we learned that secret?

As we commence a new year, we will hear words of good cheer: "Happy New Year"! Whether or not it will be a happy one or not depends not so much on our circumstances, however, but on us, on our willingness to rest in God's providence and trust in the sufficiency of God's goodness to us. "He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?" (Rom. 8:32). God has promised to supply all our needs in Christ Jesus. He loves us more than we could ever know and has demonstrated that in the gift of his only begotten Son for us and our salvation.

Jesus told us not to worry about our lives, about what we will eat or drink or wear, because life is more than food and clothes. (Surely the apostle Paul has these words in mind when he later says, "if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these" [1 Tim. 6:8].) Jesus goes on to say that if God provides for the birds of the air and the flowers of the field, he will certainly provide for all we need. "Therefore, do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles [i.e., pagans] who strive for all these things; and indeed, your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things" (Matt. 6:31-32). We are to live free of such worries, confident of God's providence. We are to be content.

Free of such striving, we are nonetheless called upon to strive for that which is greater, the kingdom and glory of God: "But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matt. 6:33). "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and enjoy him forever" (Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q. 1). Putting God first in our lives makes all the difference!

Happiness, blessedness, and contentment are all ideas we so often long for, as though they are always just over the horizon. I like the maxim that says, "Happiness is not a destination; it is a manner of traveling." We can be happy and blessed and content this year and every year as we walk in the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6), as we walk with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pastor's Report for October, 2017
Prepared for Session Meeting of Nov. 12, 2017
Rev. Randall Otto

- A. Service of the Lord's Day
 - a. Prepared and led worship on 5 Sundays
 - b. Administered sacrament of Lord's Supper on Oct. 1
 - c. Sunday night activities; Campus Crusade videos on witnessing, kickball
- B. Visits and Contacts (Pastoral and other)
 - a. visits: 8
 - b. Hospital visits: 0
- C. Administration
 - a. wrote the pastor's page, other items for Beacon
 - b. moderated session Oct. 8
 - c. did updating of church website and Facebook page
- D. Community outreach/church connections
 - a. Participated in Kingswood UMC's worship and ramp consecration

Pastor's Report for November, 2017
Prepared for Session Meeting of Dec. 10, 2017
Rev. Randall Otto

- A. Service of the Lord's Day
 - a. Prepared and led worship on 4 Sundays, incl combined service with KCOS Nov. 5
 - b. Administered sacrament of Lord's Supper on Nov. 5
 - c. Sunday night activities; Campus Crusade videos on witnessing, praise night Nov. 5, bonfire at Furry's on Nov. 12, Thanksgiving and go bags on Nov. 19
- B. Visits and Contacts (Pastoral and other)
 - a. visits: 9
 - b. Hospital visits: 0
- C. Administration
 - a. wrote the pastor's page, other items for Beacon
 - b. did updating of church website and Facebook page
 - c. moderated congregational meeting on Nov. 12
- D. Community outreach/church connections
 - a. Participated in mission study on Nov 8, 29
 - b. Did FaceTime counseling sessions with Marty Cho and wife Diane regarding wedding ceremony plans on Nov. 8 and 29
 - c. Attended Italian buffet (yummy!) on Nov. 11
 - d. Wed. morning Bible study
 - e. Participated in Community Thanksgiving worship on Nov. 22

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Stated Session Meeting
October 8, 2017

Moderator Rev. Dr. Randy Otto opened the meeting with prayer at 4:02 pm.

Members in attendance: Flora Atangcho, Dave DiMartine, Darrell DiStefano, Julie Guns, Myron Hardesty, Florence Fonjweng, Mary Anne Colbert and Cliff Wood.

Members not in attendance: Jane Wright

Quorum present and docket approved.

Minutes from Sept. 2017 Stated Session Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved pending audit. Income for Sept. 2017 was \$11,592.50. Sept. Expenses were \$13,119.81. The deficit for the month was \$1,527.31. The deficit for the year 2017 \$18,570.42.

Clerk's Report:

- Attendance for the month of September was 219 people.
- Just over \$4,500 was raised from St. Andrew's Golf Outing (pending audit).

Commissioner's Report: Darrell DiStefano reported on his attendance at the 837th Stated Meeting of New Castle Presbytery on September 19, 2017.

Motions made, seconded and approved:

- All reports were received and approved.
- Allot up to \$1,000 to Deacons for the "**We Care Fund**" to their reserve budget.
- Hold a joint Service with KCOS on Nov.5th for the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. The service will begin at 11:00 am. Communion will be served.
- The first Sunday evening of every other month, beginning in November, will be designated as a "Praise and Worship" evening. Everyone is invited to attend.
- A combined Thanksgiving Service with Kingswood United Methodist and St. Nicholas Churches will be held at 7 pm at St. Andrew's. Monies collected during the offering will be donated to the Sunday Breakfast Mission.
- Meeting was adjourned with prayer by Cliff Wood at 4:45 pm.

The next session meeting will be held on Sunday, November 12, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen B. Hunt, Clerk of Session

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Congressional Meeting
Sunday, November 12, 2017

Meeting was opened with prayer at 11:05 by Rev. Dr Randy Otto.

Proper notice was given for this meeting.
Quorum was present.

Cliff Wood presented the slate for Session nominations as follows:

- **Flora Atangcho** - 3 year term
- **Florence Fonjweng** - 3 year term
- **Grant Hardy** - 3 year term

A **motion**, was made, seconded and approved to close the nominations.

A **motion** was made, seconded and approved to cast a unanimous vote for the above named people.

Cliff Wood presented the slate for Deacon positions as follows:

- **Rick Hardy** – 2 year term

A **motion** was made, seconded and approved to close the nominations. No nominations were made from the floor.

A **motion** was made, seconded and approved to cast a unanimous vote for the above named person for the Board of Deacons.

Changes to the **STANDING RULES** were approved at 2 consecutive Stated Session Meetings and presented to the members during this meeting. One change was suggested for II. G. to read "The Chair shall submit a written annual report to the Office Manager by year end ***to be included in the Annual Report to the Congregation***" with the exception of the Treasurer and Audit Committee, who shall submit as soon as completed.

A **motion** was made, seconded and approved to cast one unanimous vote to accept The Standing Rules with the one change.

At this meeting Mary Beth Schweitzer explained that **THE MISSION STUDY REPORT** was complete and will be presented to Session in the near future.

A **motion** was made, seconded and approved to adjourn this meeting at 11:27 a.m. The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Rev. Dr. Randy Otto.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen B. Hunt, Clerk of Session

FROM THE DEACONS
January 2018
Happy New Year!

We thank you for your support throughout the previous year. You donated food for the hungry, clothing and new socks for the homeless, Christmas gifts for families in financial difficulty, and school supplies for children whose parents can't afford them. You filled Hope Totes with toiletries for the homeless. Money you gave bought laundry vouchers for people in need. Your financial support helped send 3 of our students to Camp Donegal. You donated your time and efforts to Quilts for Comfort and the Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign. The deacons could not function without your help.

The deacons begin this New Year with 5 members, down from 9 in previous years. As you know, the more active members of a body the more the body can accomplish. Please consider serving as a deacon. Ask any deacon about the rewards of serving.

We wish you all a blessed 2018.



The youth would like to thank everyone that came out and/or donated items for the youth to bake cookies for the cookie walk. We were able to bake 1,608 cookies (give or take a few we may have eaten). Thank you to the choir and church members who came Christmas caroling with us on the 17th.

Please don't forget to tell everyone about the hottest spot for youth on New Year's Eve. That's right! Right Here at St. Andrew's. We will be holding the 8th annual New Year's Eve Lock-in from 7pm December 31- 9 am January 1, ages 5-19 are welcome.



Morning Circle

The next meeting will be Thursday January 4th at 10 AM in the home of Betty Winter.

Esther circle

The Ruth and Naomi Circles have combined to become the Esther Circle. They are using 2017-2018 PW/ Horizons Bible Study, *Cloud of Witnesses; The Community of Christ in Hebrews*. The next meeting is Tuesday January 16th at 7PM at the church. All women are welcome to join.

2017 Cookie Walk was very successful again and I would like to thank everyone for helping, we had a profit of over \$4,000. If you haven't given us your cookie recipes please write them down and give them to Kay DiStefano or myself so we can make a cookbook for next year. Thanks be to God.
Linda DiMartine, Cookie Walk Chairperson.

Installation of Officers

The installation of newly elected or reelected elders and deacons will occur in worship on Sunday, Jan. 7, 2017. We look forward to this time of commitment of these men and women to the work of leading our church.

Congregational Meeting

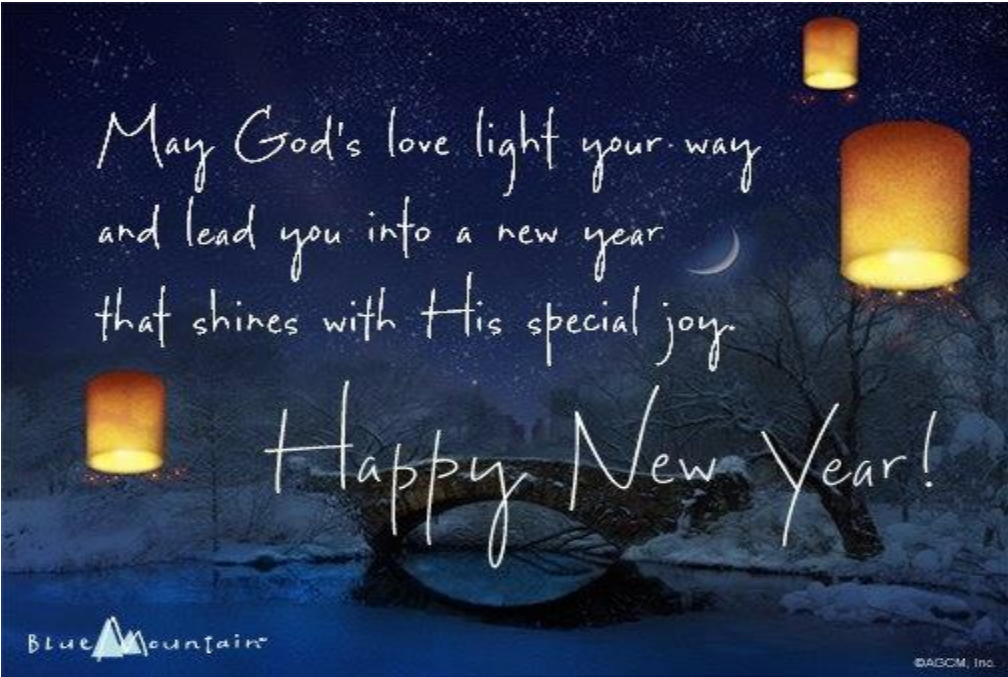


The annual congregational business meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 28 after worship in the fellowship hall. If worship is cancelled for bad weather, it will be held the following Sunday.

Confirmation Class Scheduled



Pastor Otto will be offering a confirmation class for those in sixth grade or above each Sunday after worship for 45 minutes from Feb. 4-March 18. This class will be held in the pastor's office right after worship so parents can enjoy their coffee and fellowship time and then take their children home with them. Those wishing to join to church will then be received on Easter Sunday, April 1 at 10 am.

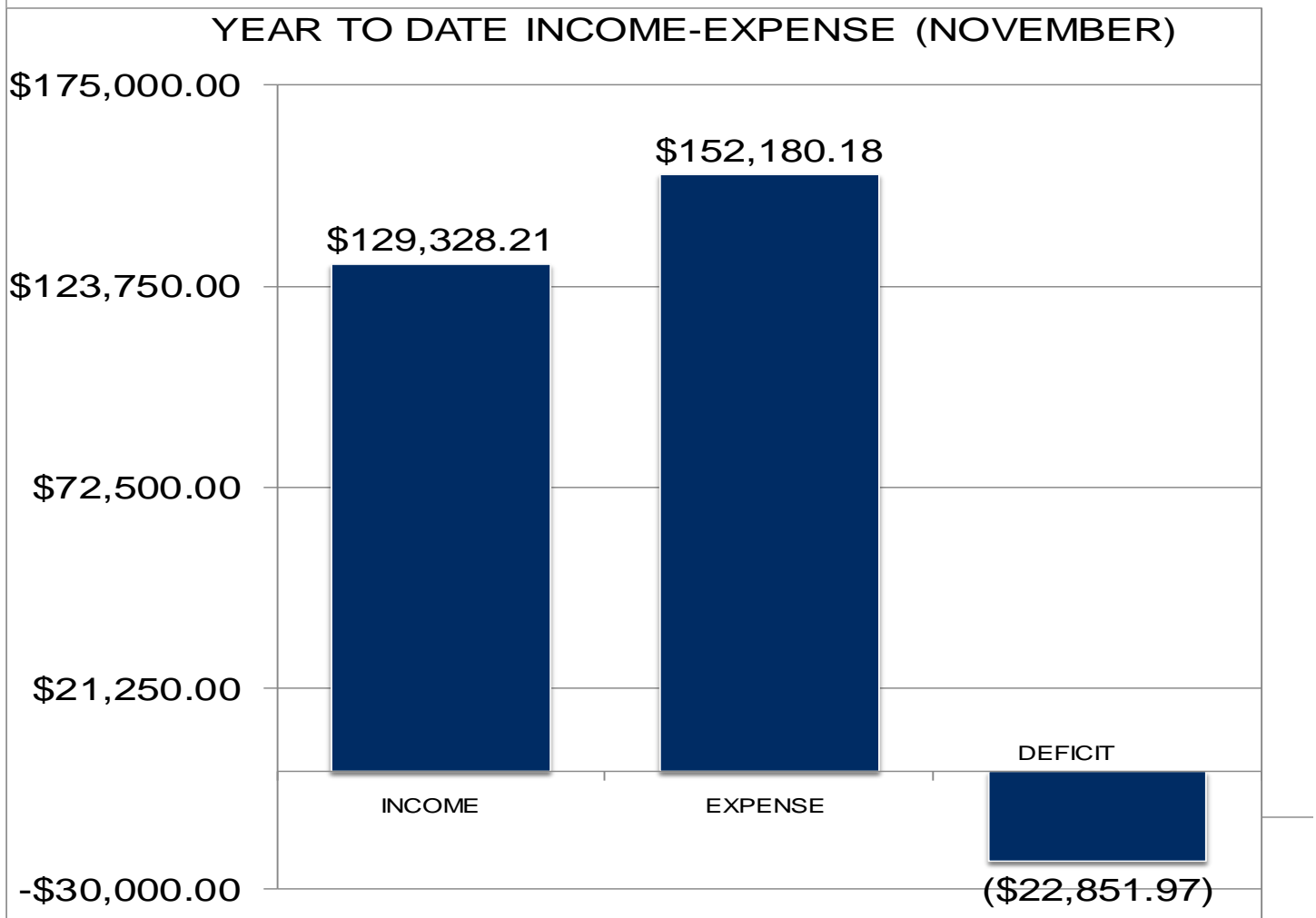


DOLLARS AND SENSE - THE BOTTOM LINE

In November, St. Andrew's received \$10,752.10. That amount is \$2,355.90 less than the \$13,108 budgeted for the month. We spent \$13,144.66 in November. That is \$969.36 less than the budgeted expenses. The deficit for the month was \$2,392.56. The deficit for the year is \$22,851.97.

In 2016 St. Andrew's received \$157,364.56 and spent \$160,339.08 resulting in a deficit of \$2,974.52.

ST. ANDREW'S NOVEMBER FINANCIAL POSITION - ACTUAL VS BUDGET						
MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET	YTD INCOME	YTD BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET
NOVEMBER	\$10,752.10	\$13,108.00	-\$2,355.90	\$129,328.21	\$144,188.00	-\$14,859.79
	EXPENSE	BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET	YTD EXPENSE	YTD BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET
PASTOR	\$6,825.00	\$7,249.99	-\$424.99	\$79,735.48	\$79,749.89	-\$14.41
STAFF	\$3,883.60	\$3,983.57	-\$99.97	\$43,566.79	\$43,819.27	-\$252.48
PROGRAM	\$93.18	\$312.48	-\$219.30	\$1,487.87	\$3,437.28	-\$1,949.41
BLDG GRDS	\$2,342.88	\$2,269.98	\$72.90	\$24,532.67	\$24,969.78	-\$437.11
PER CAPITA	\$0.00	\$298.00	-\$298.00	\$2,682.45	\$3,278.00	-\$595.55
MISSIONS	\$0.00	\$83.33	-\$83.33	\$174.92	\$916.63	-\$741.71
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$13,144.66	\$14,197.35	-\$969.36	\$152,180.18	\$156,170.85	-\$3,990.67
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(\$2,392.56)	(\$1,089.35)		(\$22,851.97)	(\$11,982.85)	



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2018

1 Monday	<i>Happy New Year</i>	
3 Wednesday	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
4 Thursday	Morning Circle	10:00 a.m.
	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:00/7:00 p.m.
7 Sunday	Blended Service w/ Communion	10:00 a.m.
	Installation of New Officers	
	Youth Sunday/Food Collection Sunday	
	Deacon Meeting	11:00 a.m.
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
	PRAISE & WORSHIP NIGHT	6:00 p.m.
10 Wednesday	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
11 Thursday	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.
14 Sunday	Blended Service	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
	Session Meeting	4:00 p.m.
	Sunday Night Dinner, Faith Club, Youth Group And Adult Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
15 Monday	BEACON DEADLINE	
16 Tuesday	Esther Circle	7:00 p.m.
17 Wednesday	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
18 Thursday	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.
21 Sunday	Blended Service	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
	Sunday Night Dinner, Faith Club, Youth Group And Adult Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
24 Wednesday	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
25 Thursday	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.
28 Sunday	Blended Service	10:00 a.m.
	Congregational Meeting/BBQ Lunch	
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
	Sunday Night Dinner, Faith Club, Youth Group And Adult Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
29 Monday	Hope Dining Room	11:00 a.m.
31 Wednesday	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.

JANUARY 2018



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|--|---|
| <p>8 Eileen Hunt
 9 Heather Favazza
 10 Harry Davidson
 Miriam Fonjweng
 11 Belner Bolima</p> | <p>12 Katie Hardy
 15 Marianne Hardesty
 17 Bill Furry
 29 Nancy Otto
 30 Dave DiMartine</p> |
|--|---|

		2	3	4	5	6
			Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10AM KCOS 7:30PM	Morning Circle 10AM Praise Band Rehearsal 6PM Choir Rehearsal 7PM		
7 Blended Service w/ Communion Installation of new officers Youth Sunday/Food Collection Sunday 10:00 AM Deacon's Meeting 11:00 AM Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM Praise & Worship Night 6:00 PM	8	9	10 Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10AM KCOS 7:30PM	11 Praise Band Rehearsal 6PM Choir Rehearsal 7PM	12	13
14 Blended Service 10:00 AM Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM Session Meeting 4:00 PM Sunday Night Dinner, Faith Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study 6:00 PM	15 Beacon Deadline 	16 Esther Circle 7PM	17 Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10AM KCOS 7:30PM	18 Praise Band Rehearsal 6PM Choir Rehearsal 7PM	19	20
21 Blended Service 10:00 AM Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM Sunday Night Dinner, Faith Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study 6:00 PM	22	23	24 Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10AM KCOS 7:30PM	25 Praise Band Rehearsal 6PM Choir Rehearsal 7PM	26	27
28 Blended Service 10:00 AM Congregational Meeting/BBQ Lunch Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM Sunday Night Dinner, Faith Club, Youth Group And Adult Bible Study 6:00 PM	29 Hope Dining Room 11:00 AM	30	31 Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10AM KCOS 7:30PM	 8 - Doug & Eileen Hunt		

Report on 838th Stated Meeting of New Castle Presbytery – December 2, 2017
Red Clay Presbyterian Church

The docket was full but we were able to convene on time and adjourn with time to spare. The meeting was somewhat bitter sweet. This was my last meeting as Moderator and I had the privilege to install the new Moderator (Jeff Howard) and Vice Moderator (Dianne Deming).

Committee Reports

Committee on Ministry:

Mark Douyard, Anne Gunn, Rourke Moore, Dave Norton and Rich Watters, were approved as Commissioned Ruling Elders for limited pastoral service for the Presbytery as assigned by the COM for 3-year term beginning Dec. 2, 2017. They along with CREs Tim Arnold (Hanover and Port Penn), Ginny Jones (Church of the Covenant and Edge for Tomorrow Ministry), Mawuna Gardesey (Olivet), Lee Johnson (Manokin), and Pan Ruarke, were commissioned during the worship service.

Terrence Dougherty was examined and approved for Ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PCUSA and to install him as Pastor of the Ocean View Presbyterian Church, Ocean View, DE. His terms of call also were approved.

Elizabeth Lyman (Temporary Pastor at Concord/Wilmington) and Nancy Conklin (Temporary Pastor at Limestone, Wilmington) were introduced.

Committee on the Preparation for Ministry:

Shannon Hanson and Jennine Money were both certified ready for examination by a presbytery for ordination, pending a call.

Committee on Nominations:

Committee on Ministers and Congregations, Committee on Leadership, Trustees and Financial Resources, Permanent Judicial Commission, Sexual Misconduct, and Synod of the Mid-Atlantic all had members voted in to serve for various terms of service. Please read the full list and positions held on the Presbytery website under meetings.

Presbytery Council:

Council will no longer function beginning Jan 1, 2018.

Motions which passed included;

State Clerk/Interim Mission Director Transitional contract for 2018 for Bob Schminkey for 3 months. The new Connectional Presbyter will hopefully be installed prior to March 31, 2018.

Two Transitional Executive position descriptions for Jim Moseley for 2018. During this time, a new Missional Presbyter will be installed.

Continuing Budget resolutions to fund ongoing program needs through June 30, 2018. This will enable Presbytery to maintain current financial commitments for salary and partner support for first half of year while the transition to Ignite takes place. Includes: Campus Ministry, Riverfront Church, Presbytery Guatemala Partnership, Presbytery Congo Partnership, and Beach Retreat.

Motion passed to end Presbytery Council effective Dec. 31, 2017.

Stated Clerk's Report:

Two motions passed for NCP to concur with Overture from Presbytery of Central Nebraska to amend G.2111, Certified Church Service regarding the Administrative Personnel Association and to concur with overture from the Presbytery of the Cascades on "Responding to the Current Syrian Crisis".

With the adoption of the unified budget, celebrations of the ministry of the West Legacy Trust and Ministry of the Speer Trust were held. Motions to terminate each trust and move the funds into the unified funding model effective Dec. 31, 2017 were approved. 2018 Speer multiyear grants were distributed Dec 2, 2017.

Special guest, Sara Pottschmidt Lisherness, Director of Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministry for PCUSA preached during the worship service and provided additional information during the meeting.

Presbytery meeting was adjourned and the Trustees Annual General Meeting convened.

Report on 2017 activities were reviewed.

The 2018 unified budget was approved.

New Trustees were elected.

The new Treasurer was elected. Lynette Kenton will begin Jan. 1, 2018. This is a ¼ time position.

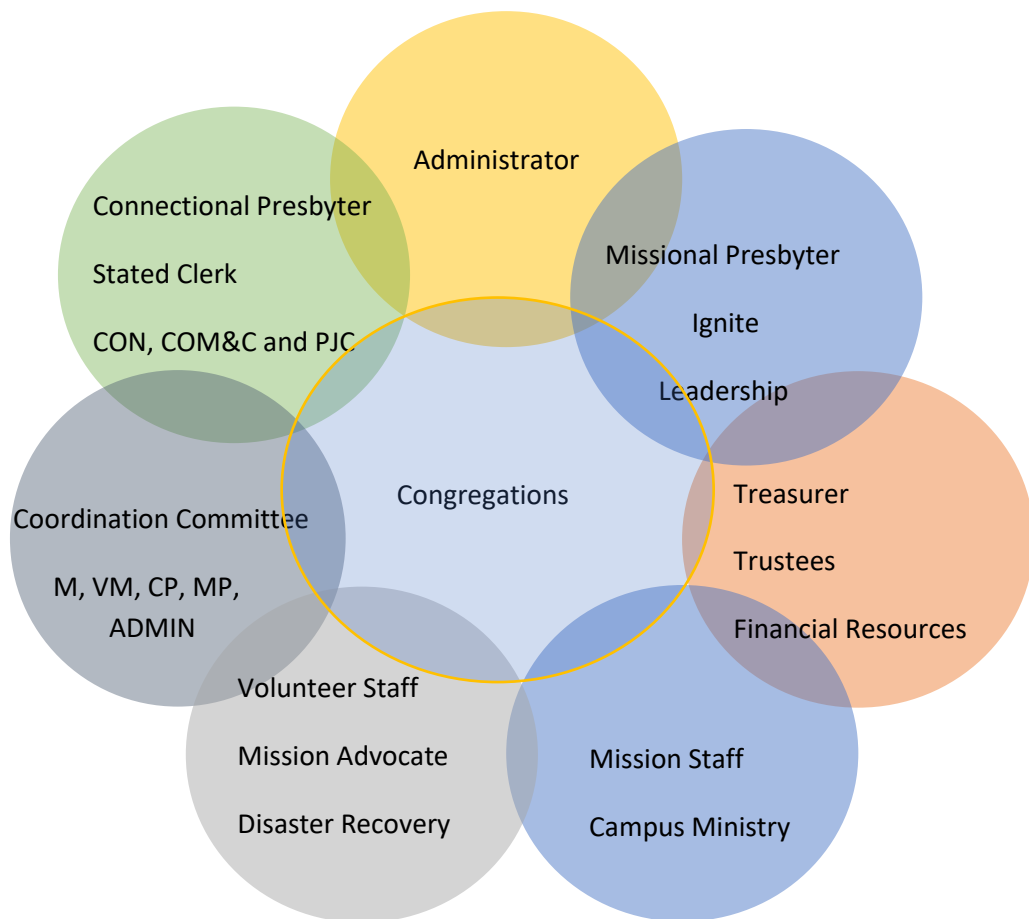
Beach Retreat

March 2 – 3, 2018

Dunes Manor Hotel, Ocean City, MD

Respectfully submitted,

Winnie Wagner



New Castle Presbytery
Restructured
2018

All Things New Castle Presbytery

Over the course of 2018, I will be covering changes within New Castle Presbytery, what happens at Presbytery meetings and most importantly, how all this affects you, the person sitting in the pew at St. Andrew's Presbyterian church!

The diagram presented here is a visualization of the restructuring that will be happening in 2018. At the March 2017 Presbytery meeting proposed recommendations were approved. The changes are based on theological references as well as Polity reference from the Book of Order, listening campaigns, and a professionally-designed and conducted survey. All churches had at least one person who completed the survey. The recommendation from the Balcony 2 team based on the above areas was that New Castle Presbytery's primary energy and focus will be to engage churches in working in mission and partnership. Everything – staff, meetings, Speer and other funds, and structure will be designed to serve that end. The full implementation of a unified funding model was initiated and the unified budget for 2018 was approved December 2017. This will provide a unified vision and coordination of funding to meet missional needs. The "Ignite" team is currently working on the process by which churches can apply for missional funding of projects. More information on this and other changes will be given going forward.

To read a copy of the Balcony 2 recommendations, please visit the New Castle Presbytery webpage. <http://www.ncpresbytery.org>

If there are specific topics or questions regarding changes, please feel free to email me at winniencp@gmail.com, or call me 302-368-1365. Stay tuned for the next Beacon for more information on All Things New Castle Presbytery!

Winnie Wagner



A Prayer to Keep God First this New Year:

Dear God,

Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day.

We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would help us release our grip on the things to which you've said "no," "not yet," or "wait." We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you've put within our hearts.

We ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honored by our lives, and others would be drawn to you.

We pray that you'd keep us far from the snares and traps of temptations. That you would whisper in our ear when we need to run, and whisper in our heart when we need to stand our ground.

We pray for your protection over our families and friends. We ask for your hand to cover us and keep us distanced from the evil intent of the enemy; that you would be a barrier to surround us, that we'd be safe in your hands. We pray that you would give us discernment and insight beyond our years, to understand your will, hear your voice, and know your ways.

We ask that you would keep our footsteps firm, on solid ground, helping us to be consistent and faithful. Give us supernatural endurance to stay the course, not swerving to the right or to the left, or being too easily distracted by other things that would seek to call us away from a close walk with you.

Forgive us for the times we have worked so hard to be self-sufficient, forgetting our need for you, living independent of your spirit. Forgive us for letting fear and worry control our minds, and for allowing pride and selfishness wreak havoc over our lives. Forgive us for not following your ways and for living distant from your presence.

We confess our need for you...fresh...new...again. We ask that you make all things new, in our hearts, in our minds, in our lives, for this coming year. We pray for your refreshing over us.

Keep your words of truth planted firm within us, help us to keep focused on what is pure and right, give us the power to be obedient to your word. And

when the enemy reminds us where we have been, hissing his lies and attacks our way, we trust that your voice speaks louder and stronger, as you remind us we are safe with you and your purposes and plans will not fail. We ask that you will be our defense and rear guard, keeping our way clear, removing the obstacles, and covering the pitfalls. Lord, lead us on your level ground.

We ask that you would provide for our needs, we ask for your grace and favor. We pray for your blessings to cover us, we pray that you would help us to prosper and make every plan that you have birthed in our heart to succeed. We pray that others would take notice of your goodness and could not help but to say, "These are the ones that the Lord has blessed."

Help us to be known as great givers, help us to be generous and kind, help us to look to the needs of others and not be consumed by only our own.

May we be lovers of truth, may the fruits of your spirit be evident in our lives - your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed. We may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing.

To you be glory and honor, in this New Year, and forever.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.



New Castle Presbytery

Beach Retreat

*Dunes Manor Hotel
Ocean City, MD*



CHARTING A NEW COURSE:

Creating a New Church

March 2-3, 2018

Mark your calendars

Save the Date!

REGISTRATION OPENS

December 22nd !

Info will be sent via email,
advertised in the December
20th Midweek Musings, and
posted to the front page of
our website

(www.ncpresbytery.org).

The Presbytery is “charting
a new course”.

RESERVATIONS CLOSE
JANUARY 26th, so register
early!



Worship Leader: **Bill Carter, with the Presbybop Quartet.** **Bill Carter** is a Presbyterian Minister from Clarke's Summit, PA, and his idea was to gather some of the world's great jazz musicians and take them to church. Not all the time, of course; they play on concert stages and clubs, too. But Bill Carter discovered that he loved to play with jazzers who stretch his imagination and bring him to deep laughter. Along the way, he discovered that he also enjoys writing notes for them to play. Not that any of them stick to the printed page for very long... but as Bill is fond of saying, "The great fun of this music is seeing what happens when you start to play it."

The jazzers he plays with are the **Presbybop Quartet.** "Presbybop music exists to create jazz music that glorifies God, renews the Christian church, and models the integration of faith and the arts. We're here to help you infuse the life of faith with the swinging pulse of jazz."

The Band usually includes Jazz greats:

Al Hamme, saxophones and flute

Tony Marino, bass

Ron Vincent, drums

and a variety of friends who also play with PresbyBop from time to time

For more information, view their website at:
www.presbybop.com

SPEAKERS FOR THE EVENT INCLUDE:



Jose Luis Casal is the first Cuban-American to serve full-time as Director of World Mission for the PCUSA. Prior to joining the national staff in 2017, Jose Luis served as the general missionary of the Presbytery of Tres Rios in Midland, Texas. Born in pre-revolutionary Cuba, where he was ordained, Casal served as a pastor in the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Cuba. In 1989, he joined the Latin Council of Churches in Quito, Ecuador, also working with the World Student Christian Federation in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 1994 he moved to Florida to co-pastor a Hispanic congregation in Miami, Iglesia Presbiteriana El Cordero. Before joining Tres Rios, he was the organizing pastor of Iglesia Presbiteriana Canto de Esperanza in the Chicago area, where he grew the congregation from 0 to 144 members in record time.

For more information, view PCUSA's Mission Agency article at:
<http://bit.ly/2BzMcWY>

Preliminary Retreat Schedule:

FRIDAY, March 2, 2018 at the Dunes Manor Hotel

9:00 AM	Registration Begin
10:00 AM	Welcome and Opening Worship w/Bill Carter and the Presbybop Quartet
11:15 AM	Break
11:30 AM	Plenary with Jose Luis Casal speaking
12:15 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM	Workshop Session I
3:00 PM	Break for Tea
3:30 PM	Workshop Session II
5:00 PM	Break
5:30 PM	Dinner
7:00 PM	Worship – <i>Jose Luis Casal</i>
8:00 PM	Pirate Night Party

SATURDAY, March 3, 2018 at the Dunes Manor Hotel and/or First Presbyterian Church-Ocean City

9:00 AM	Checkout of the hotel
9:30 AM	Worship w/ Communion led by Bill Carter and the Presbybop Quartet
10:30 AM	Presbytery Meeting
12:00 PM	Adjourn!

