



# *The Beacon*

## *July/August 2017*

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### 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 JULY/AUGUST

**Our Nation: "Under God"**

*"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance."*

**Psalm 33:12**

# Thinking about our Faith

On Sunday, June 11, in lieu of the sermon, I took questions from the congregation and answered as many as I could in the available time. Many questions remain from those submitted, and a few more will be answered here and in subsequent newsletters. If you ever have a question and don't know where to turn, let me know and I'll offer what I can or try to steer you to a place where you can look further yourself.

I do not seek to understand in order that I may believe, but I believe in order that I may understand ... if I did not believe, I would not understand.

**ANSELM OF CANTERBURY**

A few questions had to do with time, in some way or another. "Since there is evidence that the earth existed millions of years ago, how do we know that God made it?" Actually, the evidence is that the earth existed *billions* of years ago, 4.5 billion. The universe is gauged to be about 13.8 billion years old. "How do we know that God made it?" Simply put, there really isn't any other good explanation! How else could something have come from nothing? Contemporary cosmology tends to speak of the Big Bang as a "singularity," which simply means a unique occurrence. It does not say how this occurred, only that it did, after which cosmologists can mathematically pinpoint what ensued in tiny fractions of seconds. The notion of singularity seems to me to be a naturalistic way of invoking the essence of miracle apart from allusion to God. There is no other reasonable way of explaining how things came to be than that God called them into being. Ultimately, of course, we know God created by faith (Heb. 11:3), as his Word opens with these words ("In the beginning God created," Gen. 1:1) and our own awe and wonder at the grandeur and complexity of it all so confirm.

After God created humanity, unique from all that preceded because made in the image of God, there is in Gen. 3 the big test. Would Adam and Eve obey God and be confirmed in righteousness or would they fail? A question was asked, "Was God's intention to test humans when the tree was placed with the forbidden fruit? Why would he purposefully set the human race to fail?" The second question seems to affirm the idea of a test, which was indeed the intention of God in setting the bounds of obedience. Humanity was created by God to love him and we demonstrate love for God by obedience to him. This is how love is exhibited in the Bible, obedience from the heart. Mere outward obedience is insufficient, as that was the arrogant legalism decried in the Pharisees and Sadducees. To love God means the commandments "are to be upon your hearts" (Deut. 6:6). Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command" (John 14:15). Adam and Eve did not obey God, so there was a corruption of their goodness as a result of their exaltation of themselves, for in deciding whether to obey their Creator or Satan, they placed themselves above both as if they themselves were divine. This was nothing less than an inversion of the Creator-creature relationship, supposing themselves to be as gods instead of the creatures they knew themselves to be. This continues to be the fundamental problem for humanity, the sinful nature we all must deal with and be redeemed from through faith in Christ.

Was God surprised at the fall of humanity in Adam? I don't think so. I don't think anything surprises God. God knows all, not simply as possibilities, but as what will actually occur because he himself has planned it all out from the beginning, indeed from before the beginning. That is the consistent teaching of the Reformed faith as expressed in our confessions. The Westminster Confession says, e.g., "God from all eternity did by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass; yet so as thereby neither is God the author of sin; nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures, nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established." If God "chose us in him [Christ] before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight" (Eph. 1:4), then God obviously foreknew both the fall of humanity and the salvation of his elect in Christ, particularly since it was according to "God's set purpose [predestination] and foreknowledge" that Christ was put to death by the hands of wicked men in being nailed to a cross.

This gets us to a debated area of Reformed theology known as lapsarianism, the relation of God's decree of election to the lapse or fall of humanity, for which there are two basic views. One, supralapsarianism, says God foreordained the fall of humanity, along with all else that occurs in the unfolding of the universe, before he created anything and that he chose whom he would save prior to creating anything. Certainly that is what Eph. 1:4 seems to say. The other, sublapsarianism, says God chose a people unto himself after the fall, which he allowed but did not necessarily foreordain. Both views were held by representatives at the Westminster Assembly and have been held throughout the history of Reformed theology. We needn't get into the fine points of the debate itself here. Suffice it to say that God "does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him, 'What have you done?'" (Dan. 4:35). Indeed, God "works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory" (Eph. 1:11-12). All God does is ultimately for his glory to be magnified. He ordains and allows all that occurs so that we who repent and believe the gospel will acknowledge and praise him here for his grace and majesty and he ordains and allows others to be condemned in order that his purpose and power might be exalted (see, e.g., Rom. 9:10-29). God ordained and allowed humanity to fall in order to exalt his amazing grace to his elect in delivering from sin, death and condemnation through the person and work of his Son, Jesus Christ, that they might be to the glory of his grace. God does not exist to exalt us; we (and all things) exist to exalt him!



Pastor's Report for May, 2017  
Prepared for Session Meeting of June 25, 2017  
Rev. Randall Otto

- A. Service of the Lord's Day
  - a. Prepared and led worship on 3 Sundays
  - b. Administered sacrament of Lord's Supper on May 7
  - c. Sunday night activities-- teaching on world religions concluded
- B. Visits and Contacts (Pastoral and other)
  - a. Home visits: 5
  - b. Hospital visits: 2
  - c. Graveside service on May 10 and memorial service May 12
  - d. Mother's Day breakfast attended May 14
- C. Administration
  - a. wrote the pastor's page, other items for Beacon
  - b. moderated session May 7
  - c. did updating of church website and Facebook page
- D. Community outreach/church connections
  - a. Wed. morning Bible study concluded till Sept. 13 when we'll begin Pastoral Epistles
  - b. VBS meeting on Sat., May 6
  - c. Led Reflection Session 1 on May 21
  - d. Resourced and participated in Mission Study committee meeting after Reflection 1 on May 21
  - e. Presbytery meeting in Salisbury MD on May 20
  - f. Lunch meeting with Presbyterian pastor colleagues May 24

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church**  
**Stated Session Meeting**  
**May 7, 2017**

Meeting opened with prayer by moderator Rev. Dr. Randy Otto at 4 pm.  
Quorum present and docket was approved.

**Elders present:** Julie Guns, Cliff Wood, Jane Wright, Dave DiMartine, Myron Hardesty and Darrell DiStefano

**Elders not in attendance:** Mary Anne Colbert, Florence Fonjweng, Flora Atangcho

**Minutes** from the April 9, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Treasurer's Report** was reviewed and approved pending audit. Total revenue for April was \$14,550.60. Total expenses were \$13,460.61. Net revenue over expenses was \$1,089.99. For the YTD total revenue was \$50,999.71. For the YTD expenses were \$54,053.63. For the YTD net revenue over expenses was -\$3,053.92.

**Mission Study Committee:** 52 surveys were turned in, data was tallied and results were compiled. There will be 2 or 3 "REFLECTION SESSIONS" with the congregation in small groups after church services in Fellowship Hall. Child care will be provided. It is the Committee's hope that the Mission Study Report will be done by the end of the summer.

**Motions made, seconded and approved:**

- Hold a joint communion service with KCOS on June 7, 2017 at 11:00 am.
- To invite Jake Wood to preach on May 28<sup>th</sup> in Randy's absence. Cliff Wood will be Lay Leader.
- Randy Otto will be on vacation the final week of July (July 24-July 31).
- To conduct a secret ballot to vote on extending Rev. Otto's contract for the next year.
- Based on the results of the secret ballot, Randy's contract will be extended for one more year until July 31, 2018.
- All reports were received.
- VBS will be held the week of July 30<sup>th</sup> to Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> at St. Andrew's from 4:30-8:00 pm.
- Meeting was adjourned with prayer at 5:10 pm.

The next regularly scheduled Stated Session Meeting scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> has been postponed until June 25<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen B. Hunt, Clerk of Session

## FROM THE DEACONS July/August 2017

### **Adopt-a-Student**

The Adopt-A-Student Program is designed to encourage a positive attitude towards school by helping with the supplies students need to achieve success. The deacons will be collecting school supplies for Brookside Elementary School on the following Sundays: July 9, July 16, July 23 and July 30. Brookside students specifically need backpacks, pencils, crayons, scissors, black composition notebooks and washable markers.

Please place your donations in the wicker basket in the narthex. Monetary donations can be given to any Deacon.

Thank you for supporting this program.

### **Church Picnic, September 10 at Lums Pond**

Save the date. We hope to see you at Lums Pond to share good food, fun and fellowship. Watch for bulletin updates and a signup sheet in Fellowship Hall.

### **Quilts for Comfort, October 14**

Mark your calendars. We'll need your help making quilts for at-risk babies and children, as well as cancer and dialysis patients. Sewing skills are not required. We have tasks for anyone willing to help.

### **Camp Donegal**

Three students will attend Camp Donegal this summer. Each will receive \$308 for their camp fees, donated by PW, the women's circles, the deacons and New Castle Presbytery.

### **Help Restock the Pantry**

Donations needed: cereal, canned fruit, jelly, mac and cheese, canned meat, pasta, peanut butter, canned vegetables, rice, soup, and spaghetti sauce.

Place your donations in a basket in the narthex on any Sunday. *Remember we cannot use outdated foods.*

We appreciate your support for this ongoing ministry.

**Upcoming Deacons' Meetings: Aug. 20 and Sept. 6.**

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**[www.standrewsnewark.org](http://www.standrewsnewark.org)**



Dear ladies of St. Andrew's PW,

Just received confirmation that our \$500 donation to the Kliptown Youth Program was received. Please share the letter below with your circles. Thanks everyone for the support of this program. Money well spent.

Winnie

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Women,**

*I am writing this email to thank you so much for your amazing support to our organization, thank you so much for believing in the work we do and for your donation to the work of helping young people rise out of poverty.*

*This email also serves to confirm that we have received your donation of \$500 that you made through OWCF.*

*Our deepest gratitude for your helping hand and opening your hearts in making a difference to others.*

*With warm regards,*

*Thulani*

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Betty Winter is in need of baby wool and 4 ply yarn. If anyone has any to donate, please drop it off to her or bring it to church. Thank you!

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UPDATE FROM KAREN JOHNSON: 10 mats of various colors have been made for the homeless. FYI: 1 bag makes 4 strips, 4 strips makes 12 stitches, 7,440 stitches makes 1 mat. It takes approximately 620 bags to make one mat. So far 6,200 bags have been used. Thank you for all of the donations of bags and please keep them coming. Anyone interested in helping out should contact Karen 302-442-3362.



Wow, I can't believe its summer already. I'd like to say a special thanks to all the youth of St. Andrews that participates in the Youth Group, Faith Club and Sunday Night Activities. I'd also like to thank Bill Furry, Mike Guns, Jane Wright, Tracy Hardy and Randy Otto for their help in making Sunday Nights so successful.

We had four youth graduate High School; Katie Hardy (University of Delaware), Imere Miller (Goldey Beacom College), Delma Ndifor (Wesley College), Willem Avenarius (Pittsburgh Technical College) and two from college; Aschille Tenkaing & CJ Wood. Please make sure to congratulate them.

We'd like to do some activities this summer at the church to draw more people in. We're looking at a fun fair and back to school night. We need volunteers. Please see Cliff Wood if you're able to assist.

Do you know someone that needs help this summer? Please let us know maybe the youth and other members of the church can come together to help in the community.

Please enjoy your summer.....





**Guess What??????**

## **St. Andrew's has entered the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Are you tired of writing checks? Do you like to earn cash back or frequent flyer rewards? You can now use your credit card to give your tithing. That's right you can now go to the church's website and automatically donate using your credit card. I'm sure you're wondering if it will be credited to you for tax purposes. The answer is yes. You will still receive a copy of your donations at the end of the year. In today's times people like the ability to pay using their plastic. We'd like to remind you of one thing, the church does have to pay a processing fee so keep that in mind when you give your tithing. We don't expect you to cover that cost but turn it down. If you have any questions about how this works please see Cliff Wood. Let your tithing start earning you rewards.



## **DOLLARS AND SENSE - THE BOTTOM LINE**

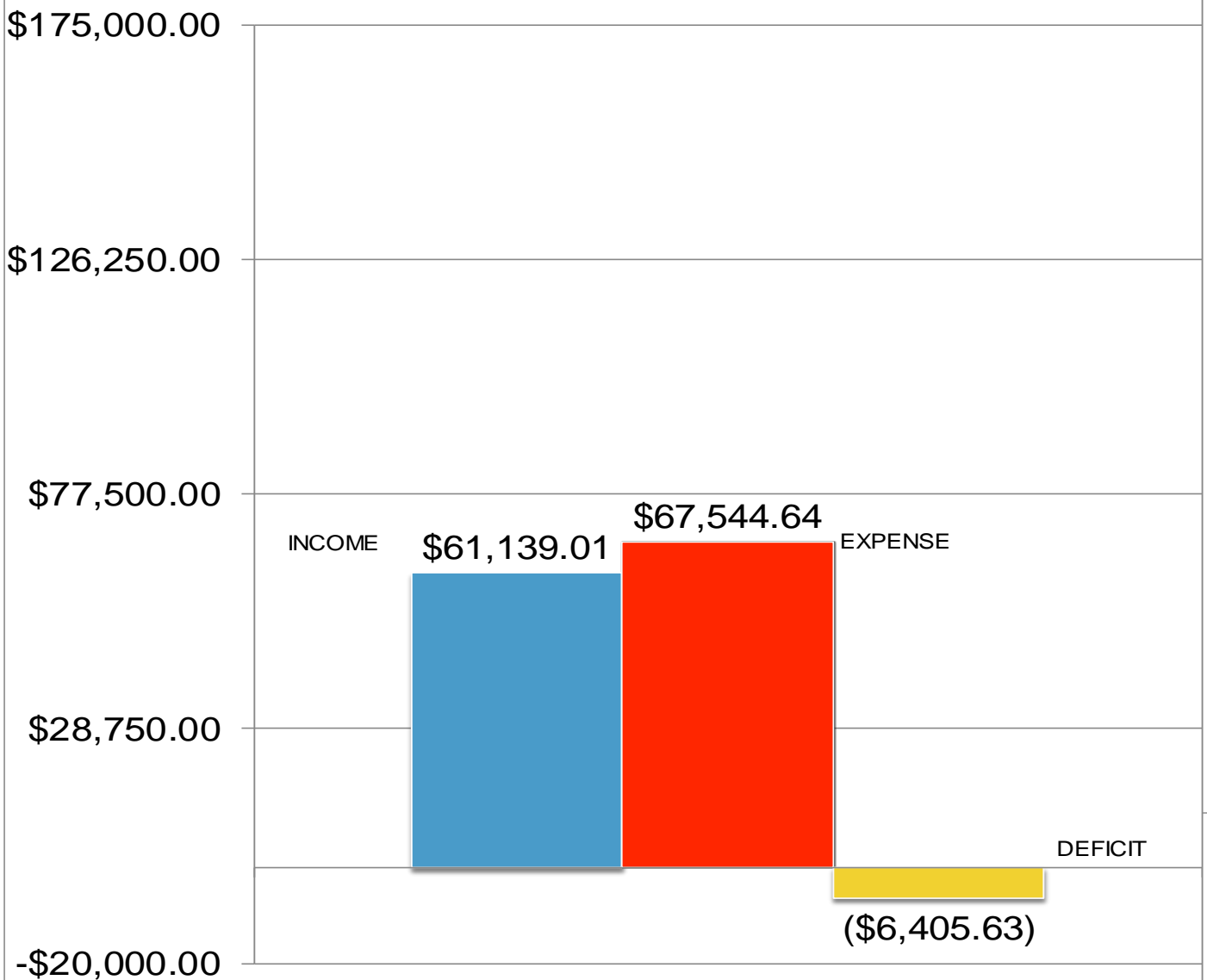
In May, St. Andrew's received \$10,139.30. That amount is \$2,968.70 less than the \$13,108 budgeted for the month. We spent \$13,491.01 in May, which is \$706.34 less than the budgeted expenses of \$14,197.35. The deficit for the month was \$3,351.71. The deficit for the year is \$6,405.63.

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 MAY FINANCIAL POSITION - ACTUAL VS BUDGET

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET	YTD INCOME	YTD BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET
<b>APRIL</b>	\$10,139.30	\$13,108.00	-\$2,968.70	\$61,139.01	\$65,540.00	-\$4,400.99
	EXPENSE	BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET	YTD EXPENSE	YTD BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET
<b>PASTOR</b>	\$6,825.00	\$7,249.99	-\$424.99	\$34,825.98	\$36,249.95	-\$1,423.97
<b>STAFF</b>	\$4,033.60	\$3,983.57	\$50.03	\$19,718.00	\$19,917.85	-\$199.85
<b>PROGRAM</b>	\$77.47	\$312.48	-\$235.01	\$832.52	\$1,562.40	-\$729.88
<b>BLDG GRDS</b>	\$2,554.94	\$2,269.98	\$284.96	\$11,098.77	\$11,349.90	-\$251.13
<b>PER CAPITA</b>	\$0.00	\$298.00	-\$298.00	\$894.45	\$1,490.00	-\$595.55
<b>MISSIONS</b>	\$0.00	\$83.33	-\$83.33	\$174.92	\$416.65	-\$241.73
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	\$13,491.01	\$14,197.35	-\$623.01	\$67,544.64	\$70,986.75	-\$3,442.11
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	(\$3,351.71)	(\$1,089.35)		(\$6,405.63)	(\$5,446.75)	

YEAR TO DATE INCOME-EXPENSE (MAY)





# JULY 2017

						<p> <b>2 - Nancy Weeden</b>  <b>5 - Ny'asiah Coleman</b>  <b>10 - Addison Kuykendall</b>  <b>13 - Neil Fairchild</b>  <b>16 - Ginny D'Ambro</b>  <b>23 - Diane Bart</b>  <b>29 - Flora Atangcho</b> </p>	1
<p>2</p> <p>Blended Service 10:00 AM Communion/Youth Sunday Food Collection Sunday Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM</p>	3	<p>4</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>KCOS 7:30PM</p>	<p>6</p> <p>VBS Meeting 6:30</p>	7	8	
<p>9</p> <p>Blended Service 10:00 AM Adopt-A-Student Collection Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM</p>	10	11	<p>12</p> <p>KCOS 7:30PM</p>	13	14	15	
<p>16</p> <p>Blended Service 10:00 AM Adopt-A-Student Collection Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM</p>	17	18	<p>19</p> <p>Mission Study Commission Meeting 6:30 PM</p> <p>KCOS 7:30PM</p>	20	21	22	
<p>23</p> <p>Blended Service 10:00 AM Adopt-A-Student Collection Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM</p>	24	25	<p>26</p> <p>KCOS 7:30PM</p>	27	28	29	
<p>30</p> <p>Guest Preacher: Rev. John Groth</p> <p>Blended Service 10:00 AM Adopt-A-Student Collection Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM</p> <p>VBS 5:30-8:00 PM</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Hope Dining Room 11:00 AM</p> <p>VBS 5:30-8:00 PM</p>			<p> <i>14 - Cliff and Danielle Wood</i>  <i>16 - Ted and Nancy Weeden</i>  <i>18 - Chet and Jean Pasapane</i>  <i>29 - Gary and Pam Strickland</i> </p>			

## AUGUST 2017

 <p><b>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</b></p> <p>9 – Peter &amp; MaryBeth Schweitzer            11 – Gene and Carol Stiltz            14- Ronald and Nancy Mann            22 – Al and Pam Crowe            26 – Dave and Linda DiMartine</p>		1  VBS 5:30-8:00PM	2 KCOS 7:30PM  VBS 5:30-8:00 PM	3  VBS 5:30-8:00 PM	4	5
6  Blended Service 10:00 AM Communion/Youth Sunday Food Collection Sunday Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM Session Meeting 4:00 PM	7	8	9 KCOS 7:30PM	10	11	12
13 Blended Service 10:00 AM Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM	14	15	16 KCOS 7:30PM	17	18	19
20 Blended Service 10:00 AM Reflection Session immediately following worship Deacon Meeting 11:00 AM Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM	21 <b>BEACON DEADLINE</b>	22	23 KCOS 7:30PM	24	25	26
27 Guest Preacher: Cliff Wood Blended Service 10:00 AM Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM	28	29	30 KCOS 7:30PM	31		

- 3 - Bill Saulsbury
- 5 - CJ Wood
- 6 - Carol Jamison
- 11 - Herb Hoeflinger
- 12 - Grant Hardy
- 15- Jean Pasapane
- 17 - David A. Arnold
- 21 - Norma Fasbener
- 22 - Rick Hardy
- 23 - Nancy Jackson
- 28 - Delma Ndifor
- 29 - John McDaniel



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JULY/AUGUST 2016

### JULY

2 Sunday	Blended Service with Communion Youth Sunday/Food Collection Sunday	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
4 Tuesday	Independence Day	
5 Wednesday	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
6 Thursday	VBS Meeting	4:30 p.m.
9 Sunday	Blended Service	10:00 a.m.
	Adopt-A-Student Collection	
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
12 Wednesday	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
16 Sunday	Blended Service	10:00 a.m.
	Adopt-A-Student Collection	
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
19 Wednesday	Mission Study Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
23 Sunday	Blended Service	10:00 a.m.
	Adopt-A-Student Collection	
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
26 Wednesday	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
30 Sunday	Blended Service	10:00 a.m.
	Adopt-A-Student Collection	
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
31 Monday	Hope Dining Room	11:00 a.m.

### **July 30-August 3 VBS 5:30-8:00**

### AUGUST

2 Wednesday	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
6 Sunday	Blended Service with Communion Youth Sunday/Food Collection Sunday	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
	Session Meeting	4:00 p.m.
9 Wednesday	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
13 Sunday	Blended Service	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
16 Wednesday	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
20 Sunday	Blended Service	10:00 a.m.
	Reflection Session immediately following worship	
	Deacon's Meeting	
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
24 Wednesday	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
27 Sunday	Blended Service	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
30 Wednesday	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.



*SECOND ANNUAL*

# **BANDING TOGETHER TO GLORIFY OUR KING**

*One God*

*One Church*

*One Spirit*



**Keynote Speaker: Frank Shelton** (Billy Graham Ministries)

Local Guest Speakers

Praise Teams

Food Vendors

No admission fee (free will offering)

Join us under the tent at

**White Clay Creek Church**

**15 Polly Drummond Hill Rd, Newark, DE 19711**

**302-737-2100 / [www.wccpc.org](http://www.wccpc.org)**



# BANDING TOGETHER TO GLORIFY OUR KING

*One God    One Church    One Spirit*

May 24, 2017

Dear Evangelical Church Pastors and Church Leaders,

Greetings from the White Clay Creek Church Pastor and Leaders! We invite your church family and friends to join the Body of Christ in worship and prayer for this region. Only Christ can and will break the chains in our hearts, homes and streets.

Come, as we "band our hearts together and glorify Him!"

We encourage you to invite prayer ministers from your church to come to pray with those who have need. Also, bring your church information to share with those who are looking for a church home. Especially, bring your loving hearts for those who need to see the love of Christ in our world.

**IT'S ALL IN ONE PLACE — UNDER THE TENT!**

**Keynote speaker, Frank Shelton from Billy Graham Ministries**

**Local guest speakers sharing the Word of God**

**Prayer for a broken world and broken lives, for revival of God's people**

**Worship & Praise—to God be the glory!**

Here are more details:

**WHO:** The Body of Christ in this region

**WHAT:** Revival

**WHEN:** Saturday, August 19, 2017 from 10am-10pm

**WHERE:** White Clay Creek Church  
15 Polly Drummond Hill Road  
Newark DE 19711

**WHY:** God calls us to be ONE church, His ONE bride. God wants to revive His saints, and raise up leaders for His church!

**ADMISSION:** FREE (free will offerings)

**AVAILABLE:** Food vendors & free parking

This is a rain or shine event

For more information, contact the White Clay Creek Church office at 302-737-2100, or email [wccpc@wccpc.org](mailto:wccpc@wccpc.org).

**Come early — Stay late!  
Join us under the tent!**



# Sixth Annual St. Andrew's Open

(Not THAT St. Andrews!)

## Sponsored by

St. Andrew's  
Presbyterian  
Church

200 Marrows Rd.  
Newark, DE  
19713

Phone:

302-738-4331

When:

Monday  
September 18<sup>th</sup>,  
2018

Where:

Back Creek  
Golf Course  
Middletown, DE

Format:

4-person scramble

Time:

12:00 noon  
check-in  
range open  
1:00 p.m.  
shotgun start

Cost:

\$99/golfer

Package

Includes:

- chick-fil-a sandwich
- Range balls
- Round of golf with cart
- Dinner/Silent Auction
- Prizes for:
  - Closest to Pin
  - Longest Drive
  - Straightest Drive
  - Putting Contest

**EVERY GOLFER  
RECEIVES A FREE  
ROUND AT BACK  
CREEK GOOD TIL  
MARCH 31, 2018!**

**Not a golfer?**

Just Dinner and  
Silent Auction  
for only \$25.

**REGISTRATION  
DEADLINE  
FRIDAY, 9/8/17**

**ALL  
PROCEEDS  
BENEFIT  
LOCAL  
MISSION  
PROJECTS**



To register, go to [standrewsnewark.org](http://standrewsnewark.org) or complete the registration form below. Entry fee due with registration.

Any questions, contact:

Cliff Wood at [cwood@saladworks.com](mailto:cwood@saladworks.com) or Darrell DiStefano at [darrelldistefano@comcast.net](mailto:darrelldistefano@comcast.net)

## REGISTRATION FORM

GOLFER #1 \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE/EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

GOLFER #2 \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE/EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

GOLFER #3 \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE/EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

GOLFER #4 \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE/EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST ANDREW'S. MAIL TO 200 MARROWS RD NEWARK DE 19713  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE - FRIDAY, 9/8/17**