



The Beacon

September 2017



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 SEPTEMBER

Who do you trust in times of trouble?

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.”

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

Another Batch of Questions

I have another batch of questions from the pastor's press conference held a couple of months ago. I'm trying to group the questions into some common themes where possible so there is some coherence to what is shared. More questions remain, so if yours has not been answered yet, stay tuned! It will be!

More Questions?

feel free to ask, anytime :)

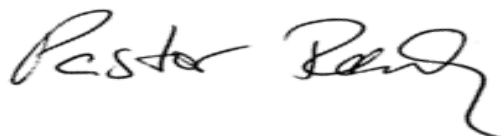
"How many times is the word sin used in the Bible?" There are a variety of words translated "sin" or something similar (e.g., "transgression," "iniquity," etc.) in the Bible. Much of the info you might be looking for on that can be found in a Bible dictionary. The word occurs so much because it is our biggest problem as human beings. Sin is defined in 1 John 3:4 as "lawlessness." The Shorter Catechism says "sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God" (Q. 14). Hence, no matter how good we might think we are or how favorably we may compare ourselves with others, we are all, spiritually speaking, criminals, for we have all broken God's law. The only one who did not was the Lord Jesus Christ. "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21). Here is the great exchange found in the gospel: when we come to Christ, he imputes all of our sin to Christ's account and reckons all Christ's righteousness to our account, so that we stand not simply as those who are forgiven, but as those who have a positive righteous standing. This righteousness, what Martin Luther termed "an alien righteousness" (because it belongs to another, though it is given to us), comes to us as a gift of God's grace and is nothing we deserve in any way. This is what is involved in justification: "Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed unto us, and received by faith alone" (Shorter Cat., Q. 33).

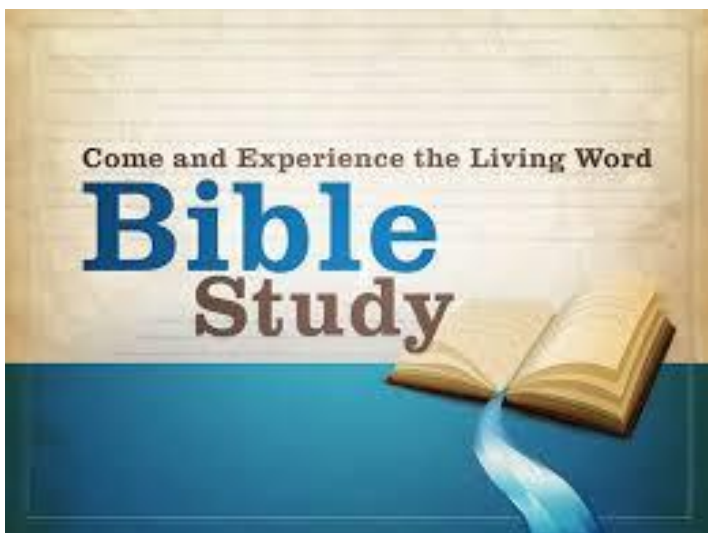
"How would you address a teen/young adult who is struggling – feeling that they are always being told how sinful they are." I would encourage anyone, whatever their age, to see a consciousness of sin not as bad, but good, because it should cause us to recognize our utter and complete need of the Savior, since there is nothing in ourselves to merit salvation and we cannot be saved by anything we do. In short, the recognition of our sinfulness should cause us to cast ourselves at the mercy and grace of God in Christ! "The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 5:20-21). God gave us the law so that we would realize our sinfulness, our inability to please him or live up to his requirements on our own, to show us that we are helpless and hopeless apart from him. A realization of our sinfulness should make us sad and feel guilt over our inability to please God, but that bad news is more than compensated for and overcome by the good news that God has done all that is required in Christ for our acceptance with God; moreover, we who believe in Christ are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live in such a way that we may fulfill the law more fully, though we do still through our weakness fall into sin. The apostle Paul, after lamenting his own frailty and inability to do what he wants in fulfillment of God's law, rightly says, "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" His answer and his steadfast hope must be ours, as well: "Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord" we have the victory over sin and death so that we may be steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord (cf. 1 Cor. 15:55-58). We should bemoan our sins, but rejoice all the more in the grace of God that saves us and equips us for his use and thus devote ourselves to him in thanks.

"With the horrendous goings on in the world, how do we keep our youth safe & away from joining the bad things. How do we change this world back to the Christian world we grew up in?" Parents have a great responsibility and privilege with their children and youth, namely of molding their lives for Christ.

To do so effectively, they must not simply encourage their children to live in a certain way, but must model that before them. This means that they must make their own walk with Christ a primary concern. Unfortunately, many do not. It sometimes seems that children and youth have a greater interest in knowing and worshiping God than their parents do. Parents sometimes think that they'll let their children be "neutral" till they can grow up to an age when they "can make their own decision," but there is no neutrality about God and Jesus. Jesus said, "he who is not with me is against me" (Matt. 12:30). Thus, to fail to bring our children up in the way they should go, in the fear and nurture of the Lord (Prov. 22:6; Prov. 1:7ff.; Eph. 6:4), is to allow weeds to grow in the garden of their lives. The British Romantic poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge had a friend named Thelwall who thought it very unfair to influence a child's mind by inculcating any opinions before he had come to years of discretion to choose for himself. Coleridge showed him his garden, and told him it was his botanical garden. "How so?" said he; "it is covered with weeds." "Oh," Coleridge replied, "that is only because it has not yet come to its age of discretion and choice. The weeds, you see, have taken the liberty to grow, and I thought it unfair in me to prejudice the soil towards roses and strawberries." Our children's lives are a garden, and little plants need special care and protection till they are strong enough to stand up amidst the harsh elements of life.

The world has never really been "Christian," though there was certainly a greater outward and public acceptance of Christian mores in earlier generations than is presently the case. The West has lost its moorings in Scripture and is now adrift in a sea of relativity. As such, there are few things that are seen as absolute, right or wrong. Each does what is right in his own eyes, as we read repeatedly in the book of Judges. How can we change the world? We must live on the basis of the Word of God as that standard of truth that we know it to be (cf. John 17:17), no matter what others say or do. We must be so committed to following Christ that we are willing to lay our lives down for him, which is what the early church did and what many Christians do each day around the world. Those who see such fervor and devotion will be more likely to reconsider their own sinful ways and accept the gospel. We can then see the world changed little by little, one by one, as people come to faith in Jesus and are transformed from living for self to living for him and loving others as they've been loved by God, with the love that comes from God.





Wednesday Morning Bible Study Resumes Sept. 13

The Wednesday morning Bible study, for both men and women, will resume on Wed., Sept. 13 at 10 am. The study will be of the Pastoral Epistles (1 and 2 Timothy and Titus) in the New Testament and study guides are available now from Pastor Otto. Please join us and bring a friend along, as well.

Pastor's Report for June and July, 2017
Prepared for Session Meeting of Aug. 6, 2017
Rev. Randall Otto

- A. Service of the Lord's Day
 - a. Prepared and led worship on 8 Sundays
 - b. Administered sacrament of Lord's Supper on June 4 and July 2
 - c. Sunday night activities—attended concluding picnic at Furrys' on June 4
- B. Visits and Contacts (Pastoral and other)
 - a. Home visits: 14 (communion with Bressler and Pasapanes)
 - b. Hospital visits: 4
 - c. Picked up Trevinos on two Sundays for worship
- C. Administration
 - a. wrote the pastor's page, other items for Beacon
 - b. moderated session June 25
 - c. did updating of church website and Facebook page
 - d. returned baby bottles to A Door of Hope on June 8
 - e. met with financial guy on June 8 about possible help either with my own portfolio or with member concerns
 - f. mission study committee meeting on June 14
 - g. lunch with Asher on June 22
 - h. quarterly interim report to COM chair sent on June 29
 - i. attended Membership Comm meeting on July 23
- D. Community outreach/church connections
 - a. VBS meeting on June 20, July 16, came to VBS on two nights briefly but let go as participation was not needed due to good volunteer response
 - b. Led Reflection Session 2 on June 25
 - c. Resourced and participated in Mission Study committee meeting after Reflection 2, meeting on July 19
 - d. Attended Katie Hardy graduation party on July 9
 - e. Prepared and led Judy Fisher memorial service on July 15; Olive Fisher funeral at Delaware Veterans' Cemetery on July 21

Sunday Night Activities Resume Sept. 17

Youth group and Adult study will resume on Sunday, Sept. 17, with a potluck dinner at 6 pm, followed by the groups and their studies. All children ages 5 to 12 are welcome for Faith Club. Children ages 13 and up are welcome to join our youth group that meets at the same time. Adults will focus on how to share one's faith, using Campus Crusade for Christ videos. All groups conclude by 8 pm.



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Stated Session Meeting
June 25, 2017

Meeting opened with prayer by moderator Rev. Dr. Randy Otto at 4:02 pm.

Elders present: Flora Atangcho, Dave DiMartine, Cliff Wood, Jane Wright and Julie Guns.

Elders not in attendance: Florence Fonjweng, Darrell DiStefano and Myron Hardesty.

Quorum was present and **Docket** was approved.

Minutes from the May 7, 2017 Session Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved pending audit. Revenue from May 2017 was \$10,139. Expenses from May 2017 were \$13,491.01. Net revenue over expenses for May 2017 was -\$3,351.71. For the YTD revenue was \$61,139.64. Expenses for the YTD were \$64,544.64. The deficit for the YTD was -\$6,405.63.

Clerk's Report: The complete set of reports, Stated Session Meetings and Congregational Meetings were turned into Donna Scully at NCP for their annual review and binding.

The 3rd and final "Reflection Session" will be held in Fellowship Hall after worship on August 20th.

The commissioner's Report from May in Salisbury, Md was shared by Randy Otto.

Motions made, seconded and approved:

- All received reports
- Approved the **Standing Rules** with no changes. They must be approved during 2 consecutive stated session meetings and then approved at an upcoming Congregational Meeting.
- Meeting adjourned with prayer by Randy Otto at 4:30 pm.

The next regularly scheduled Stated Session Meeting will be held on Aug. 6, 2017 at 5:00 pm. Session will meet at 4:00 pm that same day with COM Ginny Jones at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen B. Hunt, Clerk of Session

Hello everyone from the Mission Study committee,

We wanted to thank everyone for their participation in the three reflection sessions. I know it's difficult to give up time and wanted to truly thank those that took time from their busy schedules to share their thoughts and opinions. We will be putting them to good use soon as we construct our report.

At our next few meetings, we will be discussing the various activities, programs, services, and causes of our church. We will be evaluating as things we would like to preserve (keep with few to no changes,) strengthen (continue, but with significant changes,) and change (by eliminating or starting.) We invite all members and friends of St. Andrew's to contribute to this conversation, by either sending your thoughts via email to Marybeth at mbteachesme@gmail.com or talk to any of the committee members such as Julie, Jake, Jane, Jim, Rob, or Tracy.

FROM THE DEACONS SEPTEMBER 2017

Adopt-a-Student

The Deacons collected school supplies each Sunday in July for Brookside Elementary School. Many bags of school supplies were delivered to the school in August. Also, thanks to monetary donations from the congregation along with funds from the Deacons for the Adopt-A-Student Program, 23 backpacks were purchased. Thank you for your support of this program.

Church Picnic, September 10 at Lums Pond

The church picnic is scheduled for September 10 at Lums Pond. We hope to see you there to share good food, fun and fellowship. Remember to sign the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall by Sunday, August 27, if you plan to attend.

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.

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' Meeting: September 3rd.



DOLLARS AND SENSE - THE BOTTOM LINE

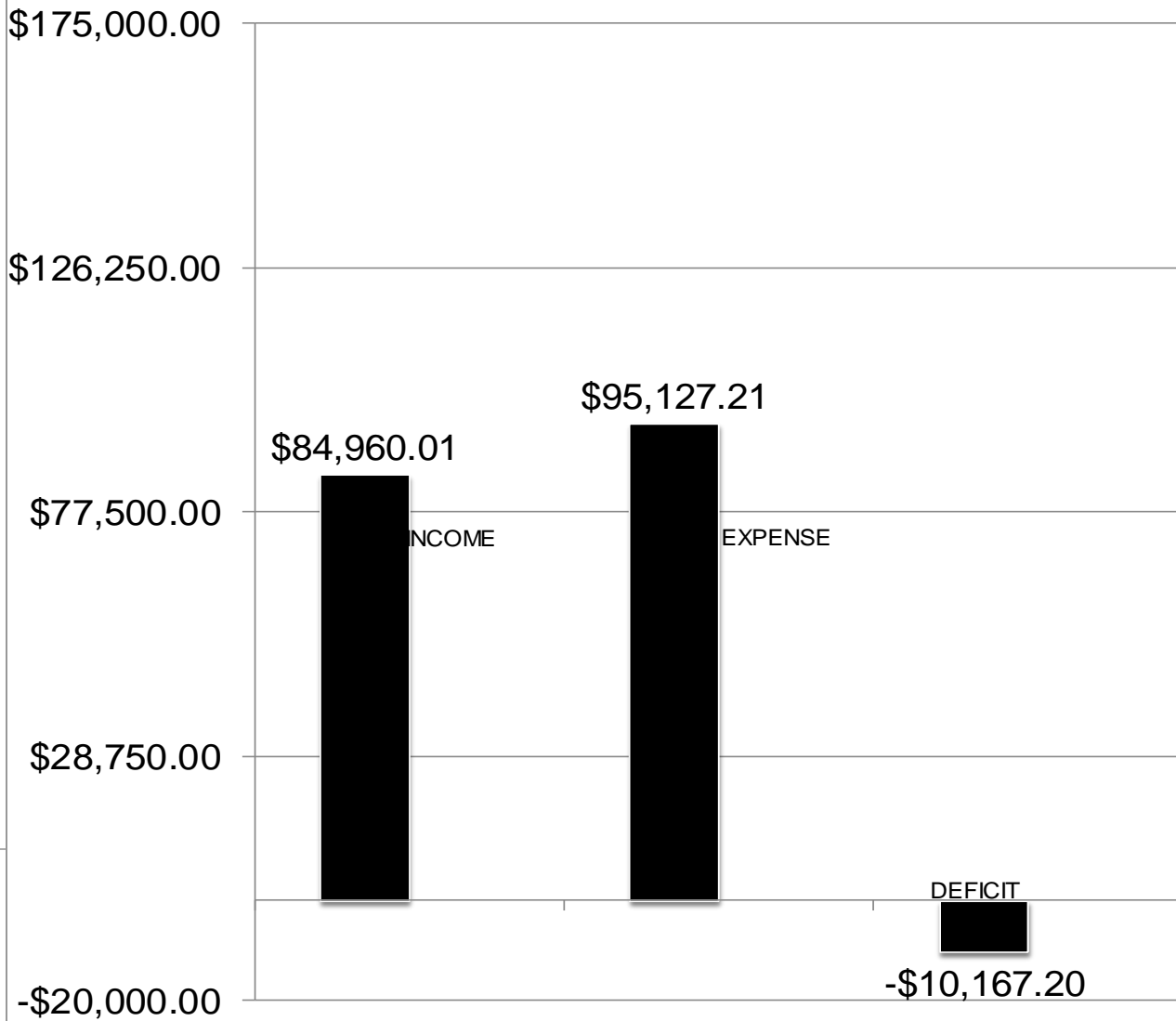
In July, St. Andrew's received \$12,427.00. That amount is \$681.00 less than the \$13,108 budgeted for the month. We spent \$13,260.42 in July, which is \$853.60 less than the budgeted expenses of \$14,197.35. The deficit for the month was \$833.42. The deficit for the year is \$10,167.20.

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 JULY FINANCIAL POSITION - ACTUAL VS BUDGET

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET	YTD INCOME	YTD BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET
JULY	\$12,427.00	\$13,108.00	-\$681.00	\$84,960.01	\$91,756.00	-\$6,795.99
	EXPENSE	BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET	YTD EXPENSE	YTD BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET
PASTOR	\$7,387.06	\$7,249.99	\$137.07	\$49,938.04	\$50,749.93	-\$811.89
STAFF	\$4,130.79	\$3,983.57	\$147.22	\$27,732.39	\$27,884.99	-\$152.60
PROGRAM	\$55.45	\$312.48	-\$257.03	\$939.77	\$2,187.36	-\$1,247.59
BLDG GRDS	\$1,687.12	\$2,269.98	-\$582.86	\$14,553.64	\$15,889.86	-\$1,336.22
PER CAPITA	\$0.00	\$298.00	-\$298.00	\$1,788.45	\$2,086.00	-\$297.55
MISSIONS	\$0.00	\$83.33	-\$83.33	\$174.92	\$583.31	-\$408.39
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$13,260.42	\$14,197.35	-\$853.60	\$95,127.21	\$99,381.45	-\$4,254.24
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(\$833.42)	(\$1,089.35)		(\$10,167.20)	(\$7,625.45)	

YEAR TO DATE INCOME-EXPENSE (JULY)



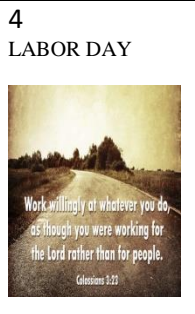


3- Harry & Doris Davidson
 6- Bill & Wendy Furry
 11- Kevin & Diane Bart
 21- Mike & Julie Guns
 29- Ron & Carol Jamison
 30- Jim & Joyce Sparks

1
2

3
Blended Service 10:00 AM
w/ guest speaker Jake Wood

Youth Sunday
Food Collection Sunday
Deacon's Meeting 11:00 AM
Church of Service Worship
12:30 PM



5

6
KCOS 7:30PM

7
Praise Band
Rehearsal 6PM
Choir Rehearsal
7PM

8
9

10
Blended Service w/ Communion
10:00 AM
Lums' Pond Pavilion 4
Fellowship, food & fun
CHURCH Picnic
Church of Service Worship
12:30 PM
HAPPY GRANDPARENT'S DAY!



12
Ruth & Naomi
Circles meeting
Fellowship Hall
6 PM

13
Wednesday
Morning Bible
Study 10AM

KCOS 7:30PM

14
Morning Circle
10AM

Praise Band
Rehearsal 6PM
Choir Rehearsal
7PM

15
16

17
Blended Service 10:00 AM
Church of Service Worship
12:30 PM

Session Meeting 4:00 PM
Sunday Night Activities
6-8 PM



19

20
Wednesday
Morning Bible
Study 10AM

KCOS 7:30PM

21
Praise Band
Rehearsal 6PM
Choir Rehearsal
7PM



23

24
Blended Service 10:00 AM
Church of Service Worship
12:30 PM

Sunday Night Activities
6-8 PM

25
BEACON
DEADLINE

26

27
Wednesday
Morning Bible
Study 10AM

KCOS 7:30PM

28
Praise Band
Rehearsal 6PM
Choir Rehearsal
7PM

29

30



- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Betty Winter | 10 Mary Alice Hopper |
| 3 Mary Anne Colbert | 11 Ben Kuykendall |
| 5 Cindy Stonebraker | 13 Julie Guns |
| 7 Julie Avenarius | 20 Deena & Dottie Ndifor |
| 8 Ruth Burkins | 22 Dusty Robinson |
| 9 Jean Hoffecker | 23 Ann Hardy |
| | 27 Joe Furry |

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

3 Sunday	Blended Service w/ guest speaker Jake Wood Youth Sunday/Food Collection Sunday Coffee hour	10:00 a.m.
	Deacon Meeting	11:00 a.m.
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
4 Monday	Labor Day	
6 Wednesday	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
7 Thursday	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.
10 Sunday	Grandparent's Day Blended Service with communion	10:00 a.m.
	Church Picnic	
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
13 Wednesday	Morning Bible Study Resumes	10:00 a.m.
14 Thursday	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.
17 Sunday	Blended Service Coffee hour	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.
18 Monday	6 th Annual Charity Golf Event & Silent Auction	12:00 p.m.
20 Wednesday	Wednesday Morning Bible Study Church of Service	10:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.
21 Thursday	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.
22 Friday	First Day of Fall	
24 Sunday	Blended Service Coffee hour	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.
25 Monday	BEACON DEADLINE	
27 Wednesday	Wednesday Morning Bible Study Church of Service	10:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.
28 Thursday	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.





"As a new choir member, you must take an oath that you will never appear on 'American Idol.'"

Tired of the same old routine? Wish you could socialize more with your brothers and sisters in Christ? Do you find yourself singing in the car? Then you should join the choir! We are starting rehearsals on Thursday evenings September 7th at 7pm in the sanctuary. Come on out and make a joyful noise.



Morning Circle

Our next meeting will be Thursday September 8th at 10 AM.

Naomi Circle & Ruth Circle

Naomi and Ruth Circles will be having a joint meeting in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday September 12th at 6PM.



www.standrewsnewark.org

Guess What??????



St. Andrew's has entered the 21st 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.

Youth Group

I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer. It's that time of year when our youth go back to school. I'd like to wish all of the youth starting college the best of luck and remember that you're always welcome. I'd like to wish food luck to the rest of youth and teachers as well. Please remember to shine in all that you do and let the world see how God has worked in your life. If you



get a chance be the one that reaches out to that new student or the one that stands up for the kid that everyone picks on. Let them see God's love through your grace and friendship.

It's also time to start Sunday night activities back up. We're going to start back on Sunday September 17th at 6pm. We will enjoy a pot luck dinner from 6 to 630 then break into our groups. Once again we will have the following groups on Sunday Nights. Faith Club ages 4 thru 11(5th Grade) Youth Group ages 12 to 19 to be split up into two groups and an Adult Group.

***** Sunday Night Activities will start at 6pm*****

Please be sure to invite your friends, grandchildren, Nieces & Nephews, Children in the neighborhood, Co-workers children

Any questions or need more details feel free to contact Cliff Wood 856-524-6999 or Cwoods@icloud.com.

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 18th,
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 or complete the registration form below. Entry fee due with registration.

Any questions, contact:

Cliff Wood at cwood@saladworks.com or Darrell DiStefano at 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**