



# *The Beacon*

## *October 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 OCTOBER

Whether it's leaves changing in your backyard or you changing your clock for Daylight Saving Time, autumn reminds us that nothing stays the same forever. Change is one of the few constants in life, but that's okay. God has perfect timing, and He has a purpose that stretches into eternity.

*"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven."*  
Ecclesiastes 3:1



## The Times, They Are A'Changin'! Or Are They?

Bob Dylan famously wrote about how the times are “a-changin’”! My response to that would be along the lines of Alphonse Karr’s equally famous retort: “the more things change, the more they remain the same.” That is to say, though the times change as to people and events, the human condition and human need remain the same. As we consider more questions from the Pastor’s Press Conference held earlier in the year, this may become evident.



One question asks, “Many of the changes in our denomination have been justified as ‘being in keeping with modern times.’ What is God’s view of time?” God is the creator of all things, including time and space which, in Einstein’s relativity theory, are a continuum, sometimes called a fabric of sorts. I don’t think that cosmology is the focus of the question, however; rather, the question seems concerned with changes in religious standards that seem to be based on relative and changing cultural norms. I certainly can appreciate the concern here, which is one I myself share. Changes occur in modern life as a result of scientific studies and technological advances, but religion sometimes appears to resist some of these changes, which then creates a tension based on commitments. Some, who can even be known as modernists, insist that religion, in our case Christian faith, must accommodate itself to revised cultural norms or risk alienating people and losing market share and relevancy in the world. This is most strikingly seen in the clash over sexual ethics and ordination standards in the church. Others, who are sometimes spoken of as fundamentalists, insist that the Protestant principle of Scripture alone as “the only rule for faith and practice” must be upheld, since Scripture is the inspired and unchanging Word of God revealed to humanity for how to live. Therein lies the real tension that has upset the church particularly since the sexual revolution of the 1960s. It asks each to weigh the significance of what “Scripture alone” as the “only rule for faith and practice” means in dealing with changing human perspectives. It asks what it means to be led by Scripture and the confessions in the life of the church— are these relative standards limited in their meaning and significance by times that are long past or are they standards that evince the infallible superintendence of the Spirit, in the case of Scripture, and the consistent voice of the Spirit throughout history in the case of the confessions? There are those on both sides of this matter and therein lies the struggle.

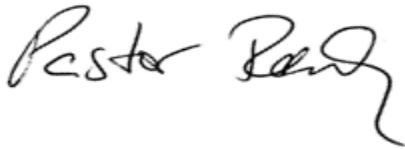
Another question asks, “If we are not to be judgemental [sic], and are taught that through Christ, why are we so judgemental? What can the church do to really teach that principle?” Perhaps here it is necessary to distinguish between “judging” and “being judgmental,” as some would think they are the same. Despite what some may think, Jesus actually commanded that we judge: “Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment” (John 7:24). The last portion of that verse is a present active imperative in Greek, literally “be regularly judging righteous judgment.” He was responding to challenges to his having healed on the Sabbath by saying that works of love and mercy may be done without violating the Sabbath, as they themselves would circumcise a child on the Sabbath.

We *must* make judgments in order to know what is right and wrong and how we are to live. The question is, what is the basis for those judgments? Is it Scripture and a systematic coherent understanding thereof or is it something else, like cultural views, personal perspectives, or human traditions? We are all familiar with the words of Jesus in Matt. 7:1 which some would think militate against any judgment: “Do not judge, or you too will be judged.” The context indicates, however, that Jesus is speaking of superficial or hypocritical judgment, a double-standard of judgment: “For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you” (7:2).

We can't have one set of standards for ourselves and another for others, though we sometimes do. That is where we become censorious and potentially hypocritical, i.e., judgmental. Being judgmental is being overly harsh, hypercritical, unfair. It would seem to ask for mercy for one's own faults but not for those of others. It is thus precisely what Jesus warns against in Matt. 7. The church can teach impartial judgment best by invoking the principle that Jesus spoke of in the words that follow in Matt. 7:3-5 about getting the plank out of our own eye before looking at the speck in another's. Jesus is not saying we shouldn't challenge others in how they may be living or thinking, but that we should take up the challenge to get our own life and thought in order first so that we can then see how best to help the other.

Another question asks, "How can I forgive when your heart is still in pain?" It's hard to respond to this in general, but I think we should cry out to God, as the Psalmist often does, even in all our pain and bitterness, releasing our anguish to God. He's big enough to take it and he knows what is on our hearts anyway, so why hold it in? When we release that pain of pent up frustration to him, we are then able at some point able to be renewed by his healing love, to be filled with his love and peace. No one was more grieved or anguished than Jesus on the cross, yet he gave up harboring his resentment to the Father when he said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). That is not to say all were thereby forgiven, but rather that Jesus no longer harbored the anger of being wronged, but gave it to God.

Another question from the same person asks, "If Jesus was supposed to die for our sins, did Judas actually help to achieve that?" Jesus *was* supposed to die for our sins according to the eternal plan of the Father, in what Reformed theology speaks of as the covenant of redemption whereby he died for the sins of those the Father had given him, the elect. Judas did help to bring that about by his betrayal, but this is not to his credit any more than the crowds who cried out "crucify him." Rather, this simply shows the sovereign plan of God includes all facets of human existence, including the most virulent evil, in order to accomplish his greatest good. Yes, the greatest evil in human history, the crucifixion of the Son of God, the attempt of humanity to kill the Creator, was used by God to accomplish the greatest good, the salvation of God's elect, all according to God's set purpose (Acts 2:23-24). Hallelujah!



Pastor's Report for August, 2017

Prepared for Session Meeting of Sept. 17, 2017  
Rev. Randall Otto

- A. Service of the Lord's Day
  - a. Prepared and led worship on 3 Sundays, preached on 2 of them
  - b. Administered sacrament of Lord's Supper on Aug. 6
- B. Visits and Contacts (Pastoral and other)
  - a. Home visits: 6
  - b. Hospital visits: 2
- C. Administration
  - a. wrote the pastor's page, other items for Beacon
  - b. moderated session Aug. 6 and attended rounding interview on that date
  - c. did updating of church website and Facebook page
  - d. led third and final reflection session after worship on Aug 20
  - e. mission study committee on Aug. 23
- D. Community outreach/church connections
  - a. Attended White Clay revival event on Aug. 19

## St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

### Stated Session Meeting August 6, 2017

**Moderator, Rev. Dr. Randy Otto** opened the meeting with prayer at 5:10 pm

**Members in attendance:** Myron Hardesty, Darrell DiStefano, Florence Fonjweng, Julie Guns and Jane Wright.

**Members not in attendance:** Cliff Wood, Flora Atangcho and Dave DiMartine.

**Quorum present and docket approved.**

**Minutes from the June 25, 2017 meeting** were approved with one minor change.

**Treasurer's Reports** were reviewed and approved pending audit. Revenue from June 2017 was \$11,394. Expenses for June were \$14,322.15. The deficit for the month of June was -\$2,928.15. The deficit for the year 2017 was -\$9,333.78. For the month of July 2017, the income was \$12,427. The expenses for July were \$13,260.42. The deficit for July was -\$833.42. The deficit for the year 2017 so far is -\$10,167.20.

#### **Clerk' Report:**

- There was no Stated Session Meeting scheduled for July 2017.
- **MEGA SPORTS CAMP VBS** was held at St. Andrew's Church from Sunday evening, July 30-Aug. 3rd
- A memorial service was held for Judy Fisher on July 15, 2017.
- Longtime member Olive Fisher (membership number 792) passed away on July 13, 2017. Service was private.
- Rev. John Groth was our guest minister on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The **completed Session Minutes for the year 2016** were turned in to NCPRESBYTERY for their annual review and binding. They were received at the 837<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery on Sept. 19, 2017 and signed by the Presbytery Representative, Donna Scully and returned to St. Andrew's.
- A check for \$500.31 was collected and donated to The Door of Hope.

#### **Motions made, seconded and approved:**

- To receive all Committee reports.
- To pay for the repair of the church air conditioner up to \$3,000.
- Standing Rules as is for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive stated Session Meeting. It will now be presented at the next Congressional Meeting for a vote with the date to be determined.
- Pending the presentation of their insurance coverage, approve the request for Girl Scout Troop 1112 to use our church for their meetings with no charge.
- Adjourn this meeting with prayer at 6:10 pm.

The next scheduled Stated Session Meeting will be held on Sunday, Sept. 17, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen B. Hunt, Clerk of Session

## FROM THE DEACONS October 2017

### Quilts for Comfort

Please come to the quilting bee in Fellowship Hall on October 14 from 9:00 to 3:00. You don't need to know how to sew to help make colorful quilts that will be given to at-risk babies and children, as well as cancer and dialysis patients. Bring a dish to pass and stay for lunch if you can, but we're grateful for any amount of time you can give.

### Coats for Hope

The deacons will be collecting blankets and good, used, winter clothing from October through December to distribute at Hope Dining Room. The greatest need is for adult clothing. Your donations help people in need stay warm through the winter. Please donate *only winter clothing* and ensure the items you donate are clean. Bag your donations and label the bag "Coats for Hope." Leave bags in the narthex. Thank you.

### Just Socks

We will be collecting new socks again this year for the folks at Hope Dining Room. Last year we initiated the Just Socks drive with the goal of collecting 175 pairs of new socks. We ended with over 350 pairs of socks and all given away.

If you would like to help, please donate *new* socks (for health reasons). New socks may seem ho-hum to us, but to the homeless new socks provide comfort and warmth for feet that may have to walk many miles a day in any kind of weather. Put socks you donate in the box in the narthex labeled "Just Socks," separate from any other donations. Thank you.

The Just Socks and Coats for Hope drives will run concurrently, from October through November.

## Pastor Otto's Reformation Presentation



Pastor Otto will share the slides and memorabilia of his Reformation trip to Germany after worship on Sunday, Oct. 29 in fellowship hall. This is so those who may not feel comfortable about coming out at night can still see and hear about this wonderful trip. Please plan on staying for no more than an hour after worship on Sunday, Oct. 29 and learn more about the places and people involved in the inception of our Reformation heritage.





### Morning Circle

Our next meeting will be Thursday October 12th at 10 AM in the home of Betty Winter.

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## Youth Group Resumes!

Can you believe it? School has been back in session for about a month and the Sunday Night activities have started. I hope all the students and teachers had a good first month.

We are having a blast on Sunday nights. Do you know of children in your neighborhood or maybe nieces and nephews or grandchildren that are looking for something to do? We

would love to have them join us on Sunday nights. We provide a pot luck dinner, fellowship, games & activities and of course lessons that will help grow you closer to GOD.

Our Second Annual World Series of Kick Ball will be held on Sunday night October 8th. This year the adults will be looking to avenge their loss to the youth. So, adults come out and play.

We will be providing pizza for dinner that night. Last year's event was a lot of fun!

If you know someone that may need a little encouragement to join us on Sunday nights let Cliff Wood know so he can reach out to them.

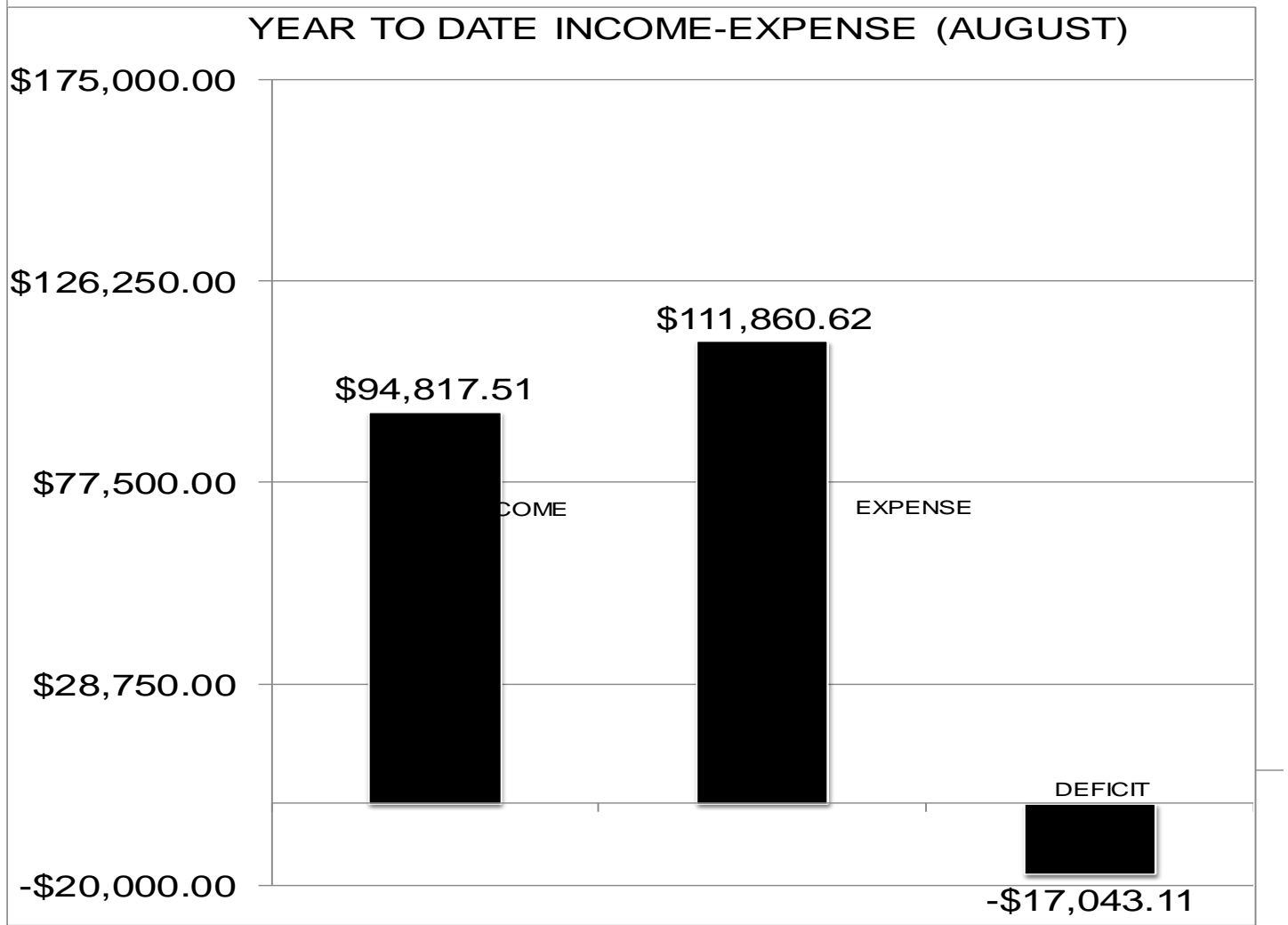
Check us out on the church website, Facebook and Instagram

## DOLLARS AND SENSE - THE BOTTOM LINE

In August, St. Andrew's received \$9,857.50. That amount is \$3,250.50 less than the \$13,108 budgeted for the month. We spent \$16,733.41 in August, which is \$2,536.06 more than the budgeted expenses of \$14,197.35. The deficit for the month was \$6,875.91. The deficit for the year is \$17,043.11.

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 AUGUST FINANCIAL POSITION - ACTUAL VS BUDGET						
MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET	YTD INCOME	YTD BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET
<b>AUGUST</b>	\$9,857.50	\$13,108.00	-\$3,250.50	\$94,817.51	\$104,864.00	-\$10,046.49
	EXPENSE	BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET	YTD EXPENSE	YTD BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET
<b>PASTOR</b>	\$7,725.00	\$7,249.99	\$475.01	\$57,663.04	\$57,999.92	-\$336.88
<b>STAFF</b>	\$4,033.60	\$3,983.57	\$50.03	\$31,765.99	\$31,868.56	-\$102.57
<b>PROGRAM</b>	\$214.83	\$312.48	-\$97.65	\$1,154.60	\$2,499.84	-\$1,345.24
<b>BLDG GRDS</b>	\$4,759.98	\$2,269.98	\$2,490.00	\$19,313.62	\$18,159.84	\$1,153.78
<b>PER CAPITA</b>	\$0.00	\$298.00	-\$298.00	\$1,788.45	\$2,086.00	-\$297.55
<b>MISSIONS</b>	\$0.00	\$83.33	-\$83.33	\$174.92	\$583.31	-\$408.39
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	\$16,733.41	\$14,197.35	\$2,619.39	\$111,860.62	\$113,197.47	-\$1,336.85
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	(\$6,875.91)	(\$1,089.35)		(\$17,043.11)	(\$8,333.47)	





- 1 - Brenda Saulsbury
- 3 - Cindy Arnold
- 4 - Kascha Coleman
- 5 - Mikey Guns, III
- 10 - Myrtle Arnold
- 11 - Wayne Wright
- 13 - Grant Hardy
- 15 - Bowen Atangcho
- 16 - Delphine Ndifor
- 18 - Joanne Rager
- 22 - Caleb Coleman
- 24 - H. Ronald Mann
- 24 - Cliff Wood, Sr.
- 25 - Jasyah Cooper



<p>1 Blended Service 10:00 AM Communion/Youth Sunday Food Collection Sunday Deacon's Meeting 11:00 AM Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM Sunday Night Activities 6-8 PM</p> 			<p>4 Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10AM</p> <p>KCOS 7:30PM</p>	<p>5 Praise Band Rehearsal 6PM Choir Rehearsal 7PM</p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Blended Service 10:00 AM Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM Session Meeting 4:00PM Sunday Night Activities 6-8 PM</p>	<p>9</p> 	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10AM</p> <p>KCOS 7:30PM</p>	<p>12 Morning Circle 10AM</p> <p>Praise Band Rehearsal 6PM Choir Rehearsal 7PM</p>	<p>13</p> 	<p>14</p>  <p>Quilts for Comfort 9AM - 3PM</p>
<p>15 Blended Service 10:00 AM Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM Sunday Night Activities 6-8 PM</p>	<p>16 BEACON DEADLINE</p> 	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10AM</p> <p>Mission Study Committee 6:30 PM</p> <p>KCOS 7:30PM</p>	<p>19 Praise Band Rehearsal 6PM Choir Rehearsal 7PM</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Blended Service 10:00 AM Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM Sunday Night Activities 6-8 PM</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> 	<p>25 Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10AM</p> <p>KCOS 7:30PM</p>	<p>26 Praise Band Rehearsal 6PM Choir Rehearsal 7PM</p>	<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Blended Service 10:00 AM Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM Sunday Night Activities 6-8 PM</p> <p>Pastor Otto will share the slides and memorabilia of his Reformation trip to Germany after worship in fellowship hall.</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>Hope Dining Room 11 AM</p>	<p>31</p> 	 <p>5 - Grant &amp; Tracy Hardy</p> <p>10 - Norman &amp; Nancy Jackson</p> <p>25 - Rev. Herb &amp; Doris Hoeflinger</p>			



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2017

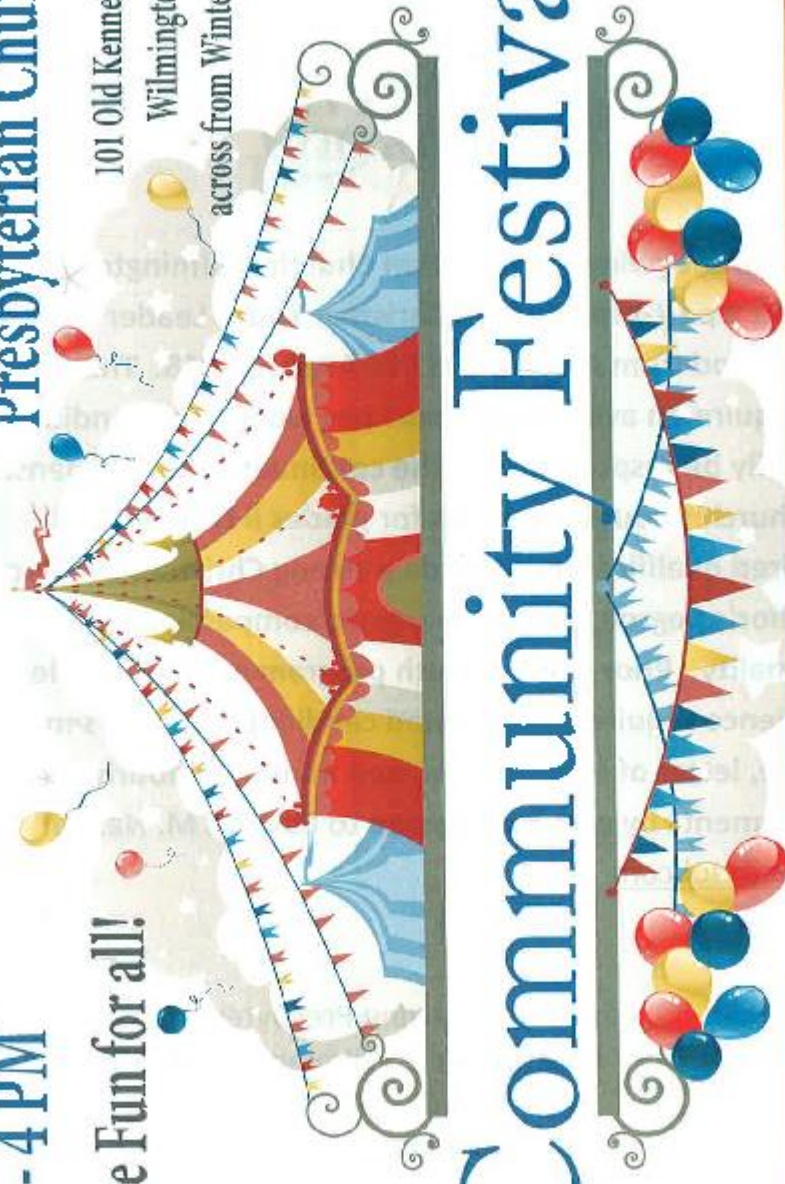
1 Sunday	Blended Service w/ Communion	10:00 a.m.
	Youth Sunday/Food Collection Sunday	
	Coffee hour	
	Deacon Meeting	11:00 a.m.
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
	Sunday Night Dinner, Faith Club, Youth Group	
	And Adult Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
4 Wednesday	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
5 Thursday	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:00/7:00 p.m.
8 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.
9 Monday	Columbus Day	
11 Wednesday	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
12 Thursday	Morning Circle	10:00a.m.
	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.
14 Saturday	Quilts for Comfort	9:00 a.m.
15 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.
16 Monday	BEACON DEADLINE	
	National Boss's Day	
18 Wednesday	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	Mission Study Committee	6:30 p.m.
	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
19 Thursday	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.
22 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 Tuesday	United Nations Day	
25 Wednesday	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
26 Thursday	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.
29 Sunday	Blended Service	10:00 a.m.
	Pastor Otto will share the slides and memorabilia of his Reformation trip to Germany after worship in fellowship hall.	
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
	Sunday Night Dinner, Faith Club, Youth Group	
	And Adult Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
30 Monday	Hope Dining Room	11:00 a.m.
31 Tuesday	Halloween	

**Saturday, October 7, 2017  
12 - 4 PM**

**Lower Brandywine  
Presbyterian Church**

**Free Fun for all!**

101 Old Kennett Rd.,  
Wilmington, DE  
across from Winterthur.



# Community Festival

**JOHN FLYNN-FOLK SINGER • FREE FOOD • CRAFTS • CASTLE • GAMES • KYLE & KELLY MAGIC**

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