

Happy Thanksgiving



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 NOVEMBER

Why Thanksgiving?

“Give thanks to the Lord for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.”

1 Chronicles 16: 34



The Rev. John G. Paderson, Pastor
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The Beacon
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November 2015

November is best known for one day: Thanksgiving Day. Thanksgiving Day dominates the minds and the stomachs of American public during November. Hours are spent preparing for it and hours are spent recovering from it.

We often think that Thanksgiving Day was established to commemorate the first Thanksgiving celebrated by the Pilgrims in Plymouth, MA. That however is not the case. The Holiday was established to give thanks for the Union victory at Gettysburg during the Civil War and God's providence that established and sustained the nation.

The focus of the holiday was to be on God. Unfortunately the focus shifted over the years from God to food, family, and football. They are all good things, even football especially when the Eagles and UD win. Yet they are not the most important blessings to be thankful for.

The most important are God's spiritual blessings. They include the gift of His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ; the gift of forgiveness of sins through faith in Him, the gift of His presence through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and the gift of the promise of abundant eternal life through His Resurrection from the grave.

As we gather this thanksgiving let us remember those gifts in our prayers. Let me share with you a prayer that you might want to include in your own prayer around your Thanksgiving table. It comes from a book called *Common Order*. It is the worship book of the Church of Scotland. It was written for Sunday morning worship but seems very appropriate for Thanksgiving worship. Here it is:

*Loving God,
We give thanks for your goodness
and love towards us:
for the joy of home and family;
for the companionship
of friends and neighbors;
for the activities that fulfill our lives;
for the strength that supports us
and the love that surrounds us,
both when our joy is complete
and when it is touched by pain.*

*We give thanks for your Son Jesus Christ:
for the glory of his humble birth,
for the graciousness of his selfless life,*

*for the obedience and trust
that led him to the cross,
and for the triumph
of his resurrection and ascension.*

*We give thanks for your Holy Spirit
at work in your Church and in our hearts,
revealing your truth, renewing our lives,
and bringing us to your eternal kingdom.*

*God of love and power,
We pray for St. Andrew's
and your Church throughout the world,
that through the courage and faith of your people,
your word may be preached and lived.*

*We pray for our community, our country,
and the nations of the world,
that, following the ways of truth and justice,
they may be free from bitterness and strife,
and by the power of your love live in peace.*

*We pray for all those who are in trouble,
that those who are sick may be cared for,
those who are lonely sustained,
those who are oppressed strengthened,
those who mourn comforted,
and that those who are close to death
may know their risen Lord.*

*We give thanks
For those who have died in the faith,
especially those known to us,
who have entered into the joy and peace
of your nearer presence.
Grant that we may follow their example,
and come to share with them
the glory of everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who with the Father and the Holy Spirit
is worshipped and glorified forever. **Amen***

Happy Thanksgiving,

John

To: The Session of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

From: The Rev. John G. Paderson

Subject: Report for September 2015

Date: October 10, 2015

A. Service of the Lord's Day and Occasional Services

- Prepared and led worship all four Sundays in September. Mission Co-worker Jeff Boyd preached the fourth Sunday while I led worship. I also commissioned the Sunday School teachers that Sunday.
- Administered the sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday September 6th
- Conducted a memorial service for Paul Fominyen (Celestine Atangcho's brother who passed away suddenly in Cameroon) at the Atangcho home on the evening of the 18th.

B. Visits and Contacts (Pastoral and other)

- **Home Visits:** 3
- **Hospital and Rehab Facility Visits:** 2
- **St. Andrew's Open Charity Golf Tournament:** Played in the tournament (badly I might add)

C. Administration

- Wrote a message for the October Beacon
- Moderated the September 13th session meeting.

D. Christian Education

- Attended the kick-off of the Sunday Evening Program on the evening of the 27th.

E. Ecumenical Activities

- Attended a ministerium meeting at Kingswood UMC on September 15th.

F. Denominational Activities

- Welcomed Mission Co-worker Jeff Boyd to St. Andrew's and met with him during his visit.
- Had to cancel attending the Presbytery meeting in Georgetown on the 22nd in order to meet my deadlines for doctoral work. I intended to go but never got there.

G. Things to Think About

The Nature of the Church and the Unity of the Church in Reformed Theology

I just completed writing a chapter for my doctoral project on the Reformed understanding of the Church, her unity and her holiness. I would like to share with you what I learned.

The Reformed confessional consensus is that the Church is the communion of believers elected by God through faith. A good summary statement about the Church from our confessional heritage is found in the *Heidleberg Catechism*. It reads:

54. What do you believe concerning the "Holy Catholic Church"?

That out of the whole human race, from the beginning to the end of the world, the Son of God, by His Spirit and Word, gathers, defends, and preserves for Himself unto everlasting life a chosen communion in unity of the true faith; and that I am and forever a living member of this communion.

The key words and phrases in this definition are "from the beginning of the world", "Spirit and Word", "chosen communion", and "true faith." The key concepts are who gathers preserves and defends the Church and by

what means. Jesus “gathers, defends and preserves” the Church. The way that Jesus gathers, defends, and preserves His Church is by “His Spirit and Word.”

Central to the Reformed understanding of the Church is that she is a divine creation and a human necessity. John Calvin wrote that human limitations such as “ignorance”, “sloth”, and “fickleness of disposition” require the Church and the helps that she provides “to beget and increase faith...and advance it to its goal” (*Institutes* 4.1.1). Without the Church human beings would be lost.

The outward helps that the Church has been given by Christ and empowered by the Spirit are embodied in what are known as the Reformation Notes of the Church. The *Scot’s Confession* provides a good summary:

The notes, therefore, of the true kirk [Church] of God, we believe, confess, and avow to be first, the true preaching of the Word of God, in which God has revealed himself to us as the writings of the prophets and apostles do declare. Secondly, the right administration of the sacraments of Christ Jesus must be annexed unto the Word and promises of God to seal and confirm the same in our hearts. Last, ecclesiastical discipline uprightly ministered as God’s Word prescribes, whereby vice is reprovved and virtue nourished.

The thing to note is that the Notes are all related to the Word of God. The reason that the Word of God takes such a pre-eminent position is because it is through the Word of God that the Holy Spirit gives birth to, nourishes, and sustains saving faith.

The Word of God makes the Church and continues the Church as the Church. *The Ten Theses of Bern* (1528) state that:

The holy catholic church...has been begotten from the Word of God, in which it continues.

And *The French Confession* (1559) explicitly states that where the Word of God is not present then neither is the Church:

...we protest that when the Word of God is not received, and when there is no professed subjection to it, and where there is no use of the sacraments, if we speak properly, we cannot judge that there is any church

One last thing regarding the Reformation Notes of the Church is that they produce the Marks of the Church found in the Nicene Creed. The Word rightly preached, the sacraments rightly administered according to the Word, and the Church discipline administered as God’s Word prescribes through the power of the Spirit makes the Church and keeps the Church one holy catholic and apostolic.

So what is it that unites the Church in the Reformed understanding of the Church? Ultimately It is the Word of God. The unity of the Church is a unity of faith and faith comes from hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). The unity of the Spirit mentioned in Ephesians 4:3 is a unity of the Word of God that the Spirit inspired to be written.

It is no surprise then that every time the Church has strayed from the Word of God in regard to her faith, her relationships, or her practices, division has been the result. That was true for the first great schism in AD 1054, the Reformation, and it is still true today.

Let me know if you would like a copy of the chapter to read in its entirety.

Yours at the foot of the Cross,

John

NOTE: Session did not have a quorum at their October 11th meeting. Therefore they were unable to vote or make any decisions.

From the Deacons for November

Coats for Hope

The deacons will continue to collect good-condition, cold-weather clothing through November. Coats, jackets, sweaters, trousers, long-sleeve shirts, hats, mittens, shoes are needed for men, women and children. Blankets and wool socks are especially welcomed.

Please bag your donations and label the bags “Coats for Hope.” Leave the bags in the narthex. The deacons will distribute your donations at Hope Dining Room. Collections end after November.

If you need a pickup, call Pam Crowe, 302–738–4794, or Charlotte Walker, 302–547–5706. Thank you.

Red Kettle Ringers

The Salvation Army has reserved November 27 and December 5 for St. Andrews’ bell ringers at the former College Square Pathmark, now owned by Acme. Signup sheets for two-hour slots between 9:00am and 9:00pm on above dates will be in Fellowship Hall on November 8.

Food Pantry Needs for November and December

We will soon be filling Thanksgiving food baskets. We will need turkeys in addition to the usual pantry items—watch for sales.

Our needs:

- Potatoes (boxed or canned)
- Cranberry sauce
- Boxed desserts (cake mixes, etc.)
- Gravy
- Stuffing
- Turkeys

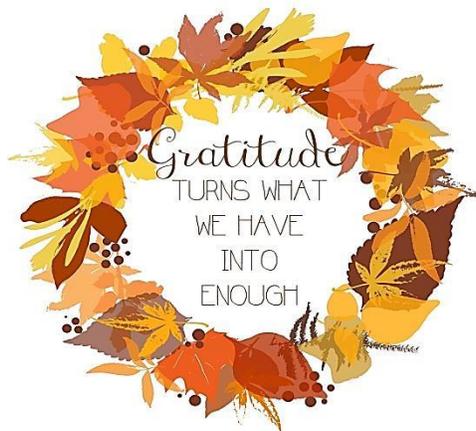
Items we’re low on that are nice to include:

- Canned peas
- Applesauce
- Jelly
- Peanut butter
- Cereal

Please leave your donations in a basket in the narthex on any Sunday, and please put turkeys in the freezer. Remember we cannot use outdated food.

Thank you again for your support.

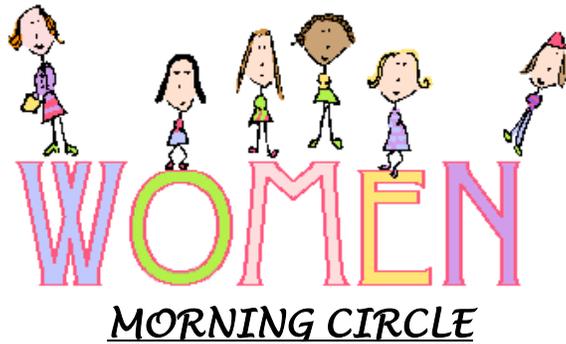
Next Deacon’s Meeting: November 1 after worship.





Youth News

The youth group has started back strong once again this fall. The Sunday night program is stronger than ever. Why don't you come out and see what you're missing? We enjoy a great dinner with fellowship before we break into our groups. We have programs for all ages including the adults. Here's what the youth have done already this fall. We assisted in loading household items, clothes and furniture for people in WV, PA and KY. We held another Italian Buffet that raised over \$300 for the church. Did you miss the Italian Buffet? No worries, we will be holding one more Italian Buffet this year on Saturday December 5th. Come out and joins us to end the year with a splash. On Sunday October 18th we enjoyed a bon fire at The Furry's house to celebrate another great year. See all the fun you're missing. I ask you to prayerfully consider joining us on Sunday evening. All ages from 4 and up are welcome.



Our next meeting will be Thursday Nov 4 at Betty Winter's home. Betty has made many crochet items which will be offered for sale this fall. Our ladies also plan to sell Claxton fruit cakes for sale, coming soon. Tell your friends!

NAOMI CIRCLE

News Flash! Naomi Circle Selling Rada Cutlery

Are you ready for all the cooking you will be doing for the upcoming holidays? Do you wish you had some better knives or serving pieces? Do you want to put a better edge on the knives you already have? Maybe you help out in someone else's kitchen and wish they had better knives. Need some stocking stuffers? Naomi Circle will come to your rescue. We have available for sale (at very modest prices, considering the quality) an assortment of Rada Cutlery. Check us out during coffee hour. Our next meeting is Tuesday November 17th.

RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth circle will meet on Monday November 16th.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2015

1 Sunday	Blended Service with Communion Youth Sunday/Food Collection Sunday Coffee/juice hour Deacon's Meeting Church of Service Worship Sunday Night Dinner, Faith Club, Youth Group And Adult Bible Study	10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
4 Wednesday	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
5 Thursday	Morning Circle Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	10:00 a.m. 6:30/7:00 p.m.
6 Friday	Church of Service Youth	6:00 p.m.
8 Sunday	Blended Service Coffee/juice hour Church of Service Worship Session Meeting Sunday Night Dinner, Faith Club, Youth Group And Adult Bible Study	10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
11 Wednesday	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
12 Thursday	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.
13 Friday	Church of Service Youth	6:00 p.m.
14 Saturday	Church of Service Prayer Service	7:00-9:30 p.m.
15 Sunday	Blended Service Coffee/juice hour Church of Service Worship Sunday Night Dinner, Faith Club, Youth Group And Adult Bible Study	10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
16 Monday	BEACON DEADLINE Ruth Circle Meeting	
17 Tuesday	Naomi Circle Meeting	
18 Wednesday	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
19 Thursday	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.
20 Friday	Church of Service Youth	6:00 p.m.
22 Sunday	Blended Service Coffee/juice hour Church of Service Worship Sunday Night Dinner, Faith Club, Youth Group And Adult Bible Study	10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
24 Tuesday	Thanksgiving Eve Service	7:00 p.m.
25 Wednesday	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
26 Thursday	<i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	
27 Friday	Church of Service Youth	6:00 p.m.
29 Sunday	Blended Service Coffee/juice hour Church of Service Worship Sunday Night Dinner, Faith Club, Youth Group And Adult Bible Study	10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.

Imagine if when you woke up, the only things you had were the things you had thanked God for...



- 2 -- Darrell DiStefano
- 4 -- Jeff Fisher
- 6 -- David Strickland
- 8 -- Sherman Colbert
- 14 -- Joyce Sparks
- 15 -- Gary Strickland
- 16 -- Anna Carr
- 20 -- Mackenzie Connors
- 22 -- Pam Crowe
- 22 -- Brooklynn Coleman
- 25 -- Jere Ebert
- 27 -- C. C. Wood, Sr. (Woody)
- 27 -- Jake Wood
- 29 -- Wendy Furry
- 29 -- Nancy Mann



- 5 -- Randy and Michelle Johnson
- 22 -- Pete and Ellen Stiltz

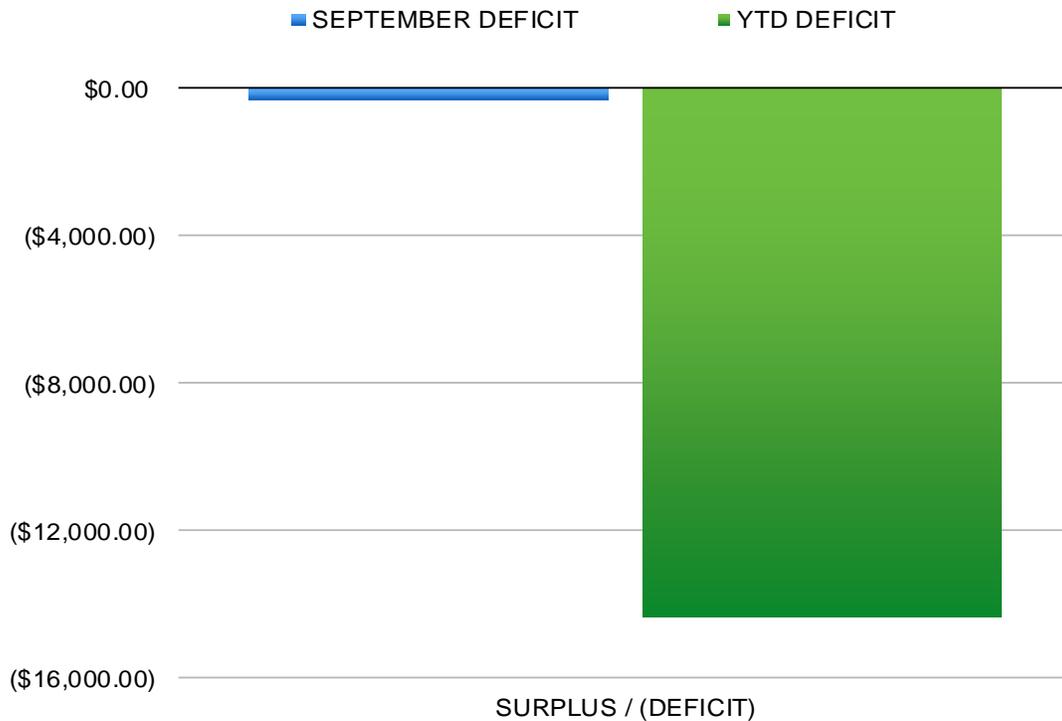
DOLLARS AND SENSE - THE BOTTOM LINE

In September, St. Andrew's received \$12,308.46. That amount is \$1,041.53 less than the income budgeted for the month. Budgeted income for the month was \$13,349.99. We spent \$12,612.56 in September, which is \$1,535.27 less than was budgeted for the same period. This has resulted in a deficit for the month of \$304.10.

For 2015, through the end of September, St. Andrew's received \$108,221.70 compared to a budgeted income of \$120,149.91. This is a shortfall of \$11,928.21. On the expense side, through September, we have spent \$122,544.30. Budgeted expenses year to date are \$127,330.47, which means we have spent \$4,786.17 less than we thought we might. The bottom line is, so far this year, through September, we have spent \$122,544.30 and received \$108,221.70 for a deficit of \$14,322.60.

ST. ANDREW'S SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL POSITION - ACTUAL VS BUDGET

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET	YTD INCOME	YTD BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET
SEPTEMBER	\$12,308.46	\$13,349.99	-\$1,041.53	\$108,221.70	\$120,149.91	-\$11,928.21
	EXPENSE	BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET	YTD EXPENSE	YTD BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET
PASTOR	\$7,014.69	\$7,177.64	-\$162.95	\$65,839.90	\$64,598.76	\$1,241.14
STAFF	\$3,805.83	\$3,966.90	-\$161.07	\$34,662.27	\$35,702.10	-\$1,039.83
PROGRAM	\$203.84	\$733.31	-\$529.47	\$3,202.77	\$6,599.79	-\$3,397.02
BLDG GRDS	\$1,588.20	\$2,269.98	-\$681.78	\$18,839.36	\$20,429.82	-\$1,590.46
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$12,612.56	\$14,147.83	-\$1,535.27	\$122,544.30	\$127,330.47	-\$4,786.17
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(\$304.10)	(\$797.84)		(\$14,322.60)	(\$7,180.56)	



Thank You GOD
 For Blessing Me
 Much More Than
 I Deserve.



All you can eat Italian Buffet

Saturday December 5, 2015 6PM-8PM

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

200 Marrows Road

Newark, DE 19713

\$12 Adults \$ 6 children

St. Andrew's Youth Group will be holding an All You Can Eat Italian Buffet. Come on out and show your support!

Malachi 3:10 *Bring the full amount of your tithes to the Temple, so that there will be plenty of food there. Put me to the test and you will see that I will open the windows of heaven and pour out on you in abundance all kinds of good things.*



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

27th Annual Cookie Walk

Home made Cookies! \$6 and \$12
Vegetable Beef and Chicken Corn
Soup - \$8/Qt.

Lunch – soup, sandwich, chips &
drink - \$10

December 11, 2015

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
200 Marrows Road
Newark, DE

11:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Pre-orders, take-out
available

Contact:
302-738-4331



Upcoming Marriage Encounter Weekends



November 6-8, 2015

Comfort Inn in Easton, MD
Experience the warm hospitality of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Open to both Lay and Clergy couples. Located on US-50, 40 miles southeast of Annapolis. The weekend will be coordinated by the United Methodist Expression of M.E.

January 21-23, 2016

The Vandiver Inn, Havre de Grace, MD is host to a Thurs – Sat. “weekend” designed for Clergy Couples only. The session is interdenominational and costs are reduced by an Endowment grant.

February 19-21, 2016

A beautiful location & open to both Lay & Clergy couples – the Vandiver Inn in Havre de Grace, MD. The weekend will be coordinated by the Presbyterian Expression of M.E.

All faith expressions are welcome!

Weekends run Friday 7pm to Sunday 5pm (except January Clergy Weekend).

November and January weekends, contact:

Clay & Georgeanna Holland 302-540-0106 or clay@agapefarm.com

Brent & Carole Burdge 302-529-9261 or bctandem@aol.com

For more information or to complete an application visit: www.encounter.org

February weekend, contact:

Greg & Shirley Hills at solchvary@hotmail.com or 302-453-9538

For more information or to complete an application visit: www.presby-me.org