



# *The Beacon*

## *November 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 NOVEMBER

**What are you thankful for?**

*“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

**1 Thessalonians 5:18 NIV**

**As we gather with friends and family for Thanksgiving answer this question: What are you thankful for, and why?**

## Last Questions from the Pastor's Press Conference

The remaining questions from the pastor's press conference will finally be answered! We have a question on the descent into hell passage of the Apostles' Creed, another on a very difficult passage that is related in 1 Pet. 4, as well as one on Jesus' use of "hate" and one on the place of works in Christian life.



The descent passage of the Apostles' Creed is a difficult one to understand. It should first of all be recognized that the Apostles' Creed was not written by the apostles. As the introduction to the Creed in our Book of Confession observes, "although not written by apostles, the Apostles' Creed reflects the theological formulations of the first century church." The Creed began as a Roman baptismal confession in the late second century to which later additions were made to clarify certain questions that subsequently arose. The clause in question, "He descended into hell," was the last added, "in Gaul, in the fifth century," according to the Book of Confessions introduction. The creed attained its final form by the eighth century.

I myself became interested in this particular article when worshiping in a PCA church which always "omitted the descent into hell," as the pastor would say each time we recited the Creed. While at Westminster, I took the opportunity to write a paper for a course on the ancient church on this clause and that paper was later published in the *Westminster Theological Journal* ("Descendit in Inferna: A Reformed Review of a Creedal Conundrum," *WTJ* 52 [1990]:143-150). Without getting too involved in minutia, my concern about the clause is that there is no really clear meaning to it. If we don't know what it is supposed to mean, why should we say it? The creeds are supposed to be statements of faith that are universally believed in the church. The problem with the "descent into hell" passage is there is no agreement on what it means. It did not appear in the Roman baptismal formulation till late in the fourth century when it was used to explain the burial of Christ. At that point, it served as a substitute for and explanation of Christ's burial. The descent was added *along with the burial* apparently around the fourth century among rather questionable circumstances and with an uncertain intent and meaning.

What has it been said to mean? There are several possibilities, but in essence three: a descent of Christ into an underworld (for what purpose?), his suffering on the cross, or his burial. The first option is the interpretation having the greatest antiquity. Some early churchmen suggested that, on the basis of 1 Pet. 3:18-20, Christ descended into hades (the transliteration of the actual Greek word) to proclaim the gospel. There are serious difficulties with such a view, for those of the old covenant who were already justified by faith needed no additional proclamation of the gospel and those who had not believed cannot be thought to have been given another opportunity to repent and believe, since Scripture is clear that after death is the judgment (Heb. 9:27). There was no second chance for the rich man in the parable of Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). Ideas of universal salvation inherent in another interpretation of the descent must also be rejected, for Scripture is clear that not all will be saved.

John Calvin acknowledges, "it appears from the ancient writers that this phrase which we read in the Creed was once not so much used in the churches" (*Institutes of the Christian Religion* 2.16.8). Nonetheless, surmising it must have significance, he remarks that it can't be equated with the burial of Christ, since that would be a needless repetition. He supposes that it has to do with Christ's suffering on the cross. This is also how the Heidelberg Catechism (Q. 44) explains it, as well. Consonant as this is with Scripture, it is inconsistent with the placement in the creed after the burial. For the descent to speak of Christ's experiencing hell for us on the cross, it should have been placed after "was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate," not after the burial.

The last meaning associated with the clause is making it equal with Christ's burial, which was apparently the original intent. The Westminster divines thus explain the meaning: "Christ's humiliation after his death consisted in his being buried, and continuing in the state of the dead, and under the power of death till the third day, which hath been otherwise expressed in these words: 'He descended into hell'" (Larger Cat., Q. 50).

The dubious nature of the origin and intent of the clause makes it hard to know what it is to mean. If creeds are to embody the essentials of the faith, and there is no clear meaning to the descent, it is understandable how some, myself included, could advocate its omission. Nonetheless, because there are some scripturally suitable ways to understand the clause, and for the sake of the peace and unity of the church, I have chosen simply to recite it.

Another question: "1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:6 says that the good news was preached even to those who were dead—killed by the flood—so that although their bodies were punished with death, they could still live in their spirits as God lives. Who preached the good news to the dead? What does it mean that those dead could still live in their spirits as God lives?" I myself do not see a reference to the flood in this passage, though it is alluded to at the end of 1 Pet. 3. The immediate context is the pagan life of lust versus the Christian call to holiness and the eventual judgment of all, "the living and dead." "For this reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit." "Those who are now dead" are those to whom the gospel was preached, by whoever (no one is necessarily in mind as the preacher), so that, though they are dead physically with their bodies in the graves, yet they are alive spiritually as a result of having accepted the gospel and thus live in the eternal life God provides. I see that as the essence of this verse.

Another question: "In Luke 14:25-27 Jesus says, 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.' Please explain what Jesus meant. To hate seems contrary to other scripture, such as Mark 12:31 and Deut. 5:16." Here Jesus is using a common means of accenting the need to count the cost of discipleship. He is using hyperbole, exaggeration, to emphasize that nothing can stand in the way of our following Jesus. As important as family is, our devotion to Christ and our spiritual family should be paramount. Thus, Matthew 12:46-50 says, "While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, 'Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.' He replied to him, 'Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?' Pointing to his disciples, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.'" In other words, physical bloodlines pale in comparison to our spiritual lines bought with the blood of Jesus. We belong to him and he must be Lord of all.

Last question: "My grandmother always said, 'Faith, without works, is dead. Does that mean those who are dedicatedly faithful but don't help out at church and community are 'out of luck'?" Your grandmother's words come from James 2:17, 26. James is there contrasting a dead orthodoxy that professes belief apart from any evidence and genuine saving faith that is demonstrated in how one lives in serving others as unto the Lord. Such good works flowing from genuine faith can occur anywhere and need not be specifically focused on some church or community function. Indeed, if we do all we do as unto the Lord, then the entirety of our lives should be one of sacrifice and service unto the Lord so that, whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, we do all to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pastor Paul". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Pastor's Report for September, 2017  
Prepared for Session Meeting of Oct. 8, 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 Sept. 10
- B. Visits and Contacts (Pastoral and other)
  - a. Home visits: 4
  - b. Hospital visits: 1
- C. Administration
  - a. wrote the pastor's page, other items for Beacon
  - b. moderated session Sept. 17
  - c. did updating of church website and Facebook page
- D. Community outreach/church connections
  - a. Church picnic Sept. 11
  - b. Auction dinner on Sept. 18
  - c. Presbytery meeting at First, Newark on Sept. 19
  - d. Mission study committee on Sept. 20
  - e. Submitted 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter interim report to COM on Sept 28



International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Church J

Joint Service with Korean Church of Service, Nov. 5 at 11 am

The focus for the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church this year will be on North Korea, perennially No. 1 on the Open Doors World Watch List as the most difficult place on earth to be a Christian. St. Andrew's will join with the Korean Church of Service on Nov. 5 *at 11 am* to worship God and pray for our Korean brothers and sisters in Christ who suffer under the brutality of the North Korean dictatorship. We will also share in Holy Communion. *Please note the time change for this worship service from the usual 10 am service to 11 am.*



## Praise & Worship Service

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.

## Congregational Meeting on Nov. 12 after worship

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, Nov. 12 after worship for the purpose of electing new officers. The updated and revised bylaws, or Standing Rules, will also be voted on. The mission study committee will also report on its work.



## Community Thanksgiving Service

Our community Thanksgiving Service will be held at St. Andrew's church on Tues., Nov. 21 at 7 pm along with Kingswood Methodist and St. Nicholas Episcopal churches. Please join us in giving thanks to God for his many blessings to us all.

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church**  
**Stated Session Meeting**  
**September 17, 2017**

**Moderator Rev. Dr. Randy Otto** opened the meeting with prayer at 4:00 pm.

**Members in attendance:** Flora Atangcho, David DiMartine, Darrell DiStefano, Florence Fonjweng, Julie Guns, Myron Hardesty, Cliff Wood and Jane Wright.

**Members not in attendance:** Mary Anne Colbert (leave of absence)

**Quorum present and docket approved.**

**Minutes from the August 2017 Session Meeting** were approved with minor changes.

**Treasurer's Report:** was reviewed and approved pending audit. Revenue from August 2017 was \$9,857.50. Expenses were \$16,733.41. Deficit for August 2017 was \$6,875.91. Deficit for the year as of the end of August 2017 was \$17,043.11.

**Clerk's Report:**

- Girl Scout Troop 1112 has shown the appropriate paperwork and insurance and started using our facility on a weekly basis the day after Labor Day.
- Darrell DiStefano will be the representative at the next NCPresbytery Meeting on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> at First Presbyterian Church in Newark.
- Attendance for the month of August was 224 people.
- Member **SHERMAN COLBERT** (member #1266) passed away on May 6, 2017.
- Member **JUDITH DELAHA KUPELIAN** (member #786) passed away on August 19, 2017.
- Membership total is now 109 people.

**MOTIONS MADE, SECONDED AND APPROVED:**

- Receive all reports
- Email vote approving Cliff Wood preaching on August 27, 2017 and Jake Wood preaching on Sept. 3, 2017.
- Email vote moving Communion from first Sunday in September to September 10, 2017.
- **Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for Nov. 12, 2017 for approving Standing Rules, holding nominations and Mission Study Report.
- Approved the **Revised Building Use "Donation Schedule"** as of September 2017.
- Adjourned meeting at 5:50 pm with prayer led by Darrell DiStefano.

Next scheduled Stated Session is to be held on Sunday, October 8, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen B. Hunt, Clerk of Session

## **FROM THE DEACONS November 2017**

### **Coats for Hope**

The deacons will be collecting blankets and good, used, winter clothing from October through December to distribute at Hope Dining Room. 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.

If you would like to help, please donate *new socks* (for health reasons). 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.

### **Pantry Needs for November and December**

Please help us stock the pantry with foods on the list below. Place your donations in the basket in the narthex on any Sunday. Remember: *we cannot use any outdated foods.*

- Cake mixes
- Cereal
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Canned meats
- Cranberry sauce
- Gravy
- Jelly
- Mac and cheese
- Canned meats
- Pasta
- Peanut butter
- Potatoes (instant)
- Rice
- Soups
- Spaghetti sauce
- Stuffing
- Applesauce

We also need 9 turkeys for Thanksgiving by Nov. 12. Place turkeys in the freezer and sign the "Turkey Donations" sheet posted on the freezer.

Thank you for your ongoing support for this ministry.

### **Quilts for Comfort**

Thank you to all who helped at the Quilts for Comfort bee on October 14.

**Next Deacons Meeting: Nov. 5, 2017**



## BREAKING NEWS:

The adults beat the youth in kickball. The final score was 13-12. It was a great evening of fun. We had a pretty good turnout. Debbie Stowell played a huge role in the adult's victory and Pastor Randy scored the winning run. Way to go Randy..... We hope to get an even bigger turnout at the next game.

I'd like to thank Pastor Randy and the youth that went out into the community to invite adults and youths to Sunday night activities. We plan to make this a monthly project. Do you know any youth in your community? We have flyers that you can hand out.

### **Important Dates:**

**Sunday Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>** 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. We will still have the potluck supper starting at 6pm as well as youth group. Come out and join us and bring your children, grandchildren, nieces & nephews or your neighbor's kids. It will be a great night of fellowship praise and worship.

**Sunday Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>** The youth will hold an all you can eat Italian Buffet from 6-8pm. \$12 - adults \$6 - children. Please come out and support the youth.

**Sunday Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>** Bon Fire at the Furry's - Come out and join us for our annual Fall bon fire. We will be providing hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks. Please bring a side and your lawn chairs. Rumor has it; we may hold another kickball game.

**Sunday Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>** - Thanksgiving Dinner - Come join us for an early Thanksgiving Dinner. We provide the Turkey and ham; just bring your favorite thanksgiving side dish. After dinner we will be making GO Bags for the Newark Empowerment Center. These bags are given out to help the homeless. It will be a great night of fellowship and outreach.

Don't forget to start reminding all the youth you know about the New Year's Eve lock -in. We will have flyers with all the information.

Check us out on the church website, Facebook and Instagram





# All you can eat Italian Buffet

Saturday November 11, 2017 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.*

---



## Morning Circle

The next meeting will be Thursday November 2nd at 10 AM in the home of Betty Winter.

## Esther circle

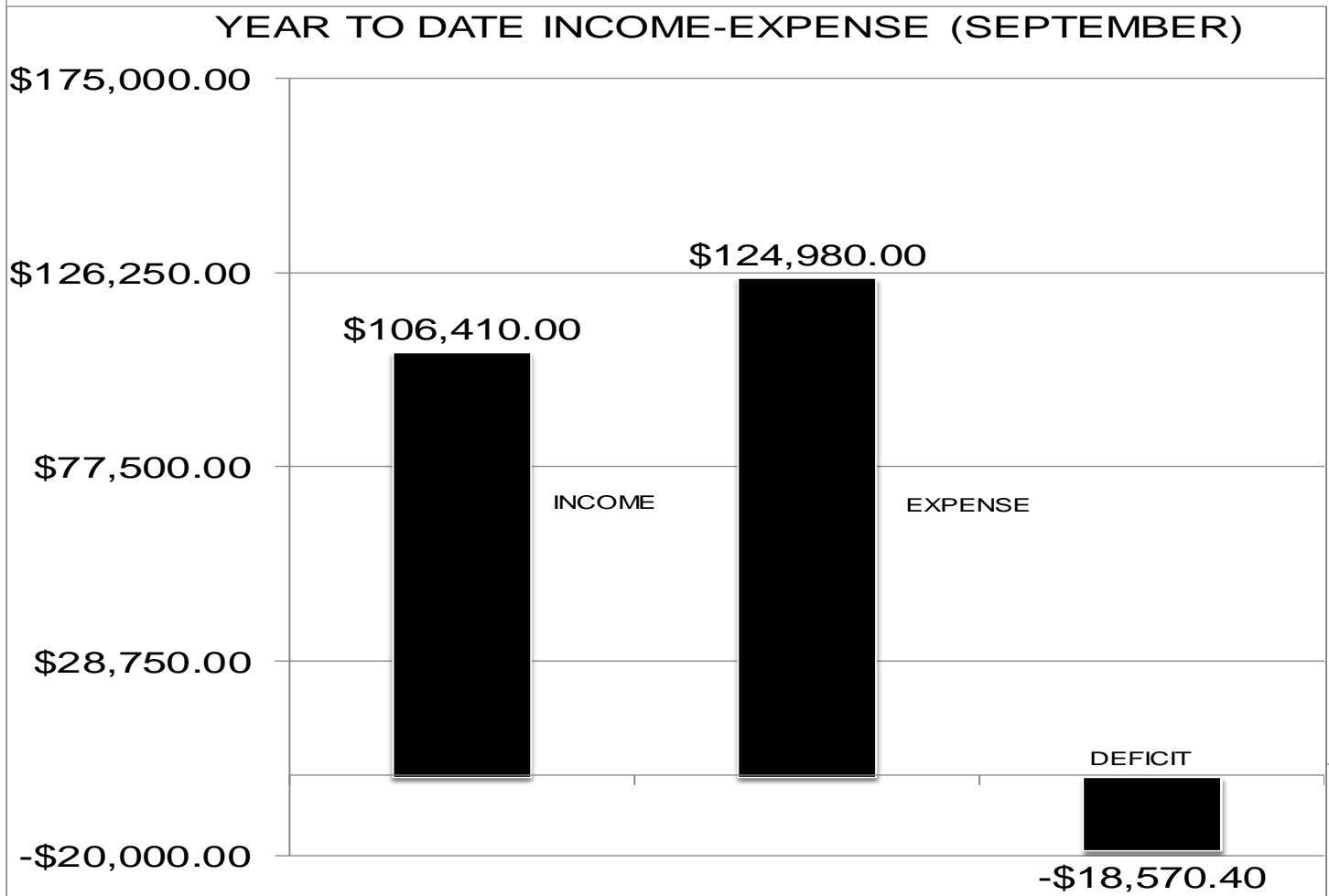
The Ruth and Naomi Circles have combined to become the Esther Circle. They are using 2017-2018 PW/ Horizons Bible Study, *Cloud of Witnesses; The Community of Christ in Hebrews*. The next meeting is Tuesday November 28<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the church. All women are welcome to join.

## DOLLARS AND SENSE - THE BOTTOM LINE

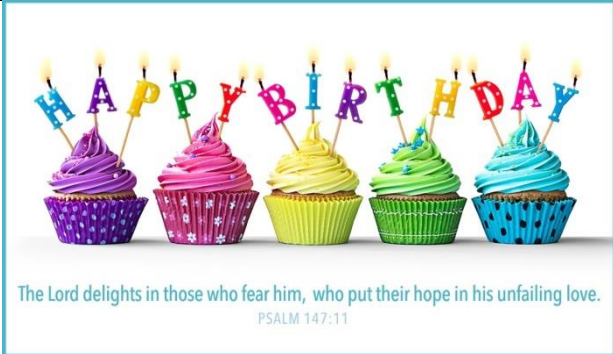
In September, St. Andrew's received \$11,592.50. That amount is \$1,515.50 less than the \$13,108 budgeted for the month. We spent \$13,119.80 in September, which is \$1,077.54 less than the budgeted expenses of \$14,197.35. The deficit for the month was \$1,527.31. The deficit for the year is \$18,570.42.

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 SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL POSITION - ACTUAL VS BUDGET						
MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET	YTD INCOME	YTD BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	\$11,592.50	\$13,108.00	-\$1,515.50	\$106,410.01	\$117,972.00	-\$11,561.99
	EXPENSE	BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET	YTD EXPENSE	YTD BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET
<b>PASTOR</b>	\$6,825.00	\$7,249.99	-\$424.99	\$64,488.04	\$65,249.91	-\$761.87
<b>STAFF</b>	\$4,033.60	\$3,983.57	\$50.03	\$35,799.59	\$35,852.13	-\$52.54
<b>PROGRAM</b>	\$0.00	\$312.48	-\$312.48	\$1,154.60	\$2,812.32	-\$1,657.72
<b>BLDG GRDS</b>	\$1,367.21	\$2,269.98	-\$902.77	\$20,680.83	\$20,429.82	\$251.01
<b>PER CAPITA</b>	\$894.00	\$298.00	\$596.00	\$2,682.45	\$2,682.00	\$0.45
<b>MISSIONS</b>	\$0.00	\$83.33	-\$83.33	\$174.92	\$749.97	-\$575.05
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	\$13,119.81	\$14,197.35	-\$994.21	\$124,980.43	\$127,776.15	-\$2,795.72
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	(\$1,527.31)	(\$1,089.35)		(\$18,570.42)	(\$9,804.15)	



 <p><i>Happy Anniversary!</i></p> <p><b>22 - Pete &amp; Ellen Stiltz</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10AM</p> <p>KCOS 7:30PM</p>	<p><b>2</b> Morning Circle 10AM</p> <p>Praise Band Rehearsal 6PM Choir Rehearsal 7PM</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	 <p><b>4</b></p> <p>TURN CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR Daylight Savings time ends</p>	
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Joint Service with KCOS for the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church w/ Communion 11 AM</p> <p>Deacon Meeting 12 PM</p> <p>Praise &amp; Worship Night 6 PM</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Election Day</p>	<p><b>8</b> Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10AM</p> <p>KCOS 7:30PM</p>	<p><b>9</b> Praise Band Rehearsal 6PM Choir Rehearsal 7PM</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>  <p>Italian Buffet 6-8PM</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Blended Service 10 AM Congregational Meeting Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM Session Meeting 4 PM Sunday Night Field Trip Bon Fire at the Furry's 6 PM</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10AM</p> <p>KCOS 7:30PM</p>	<p><b>16</b> Praise Band Rehearsal 6PM Choir Rehearsal 7PM</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Blended Service 10 AM Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM</p> <p>Faith Club, Youth Group And Adult Bible Study <b>THANKSGIVING MEAL</b> 6 PM</p>	<p><b>20</b> BEACON DEADLINE</p>	<p><b>21</b> Community Thanksgiving Service 7PM</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>KCOS 7:30PM</p>		<p><b>23</b></p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Blended Service 10 AM Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> Esther Circle Meeting 7 PM</p>	<p><b>29</b> Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10AM</p> <p>KCOS 7:30PM</p>	<p><b>30</b> Praise Band Rehearsal 6PM Choir Rehearsal 7PM</p>	



- 2 -- Darrell DiStefano
- 4 -- Helen Rose Atangcho
- 6 -- David Strickland
- 6 -- Alayna Coates
- 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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2017

1 Wednesday	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
2 Thursday	Morning Circle	10:00a.m.
	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:00/7:00 p.m.
5 Sunday	Joint Service with KCOS for the	11:00 a.m.
	International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church w/ Communion	
	Deacon Meeting	11:00 a.m.
	Praise & Worship Night	6:00 p.m.
8 Wednesday	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
9 Thursday	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.
11 Saturday	Veteran's Day	
	Italian Buffet	6:00 p.m.
12 Sunday	Blended Service	10:00 a.m.
	Congregational Meeting	
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
	Session Meeting	4:00 p.m.
	Sunday Night Field Trip	
	Bon Fire at the Furry's	6:00 p.m.
15 Wednesday	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
16 Thursday	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.
19 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 <b>THANKSGIVING MEAL</b>	6:00 p.m.
20 Monday	BEACON DEADLINE	
21 Tuesday	Community Thanksgiving Service	7:00 p.m.
22 Wednesday	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
23 Thursday	<b><i>Happy Thanksgiving</i></b>	
26 Sunday	Blended Service	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
28 Tuesday	Esther Circle Meeting	7:00 p.m.
29 Wednesday	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
30 Thursday	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.



*St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church*

*29<sup>th</sup> Annual Cookie Walk*

*Friday December 8, 2017*

*11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.*

*Homemade cookies! \$6 and \$12*

*Vegetable Beef and Chicken Corn Soup  
\$8/Quart*

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

*Preorders/takeout available*

*Contact 302-738-4331*

*St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church*

*200 Marrows Road*

*Newark, DE 19713*

# Thanksgiving Boxes



**Call-in Registration**  
**Monday, November 6, 2017**  
**Beginning at 9 a.m.**

*Sunday Breakfast Mission*  
110 N. Poplar Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
Phone: 302-656-8542



***What you need to do:***

- Do not call sooner than Nov. 6th!
- Call beginning at 9:00 a.m. (Calls are taken until spaces are filled.)
- Have a pen or pencil and paper ready to write down your appointment day & time.
- Make only one appointment per call.
- Make only one appointment per household.

***You will need on the day of your appointment:***

I.D. is Required on Pick-up Day!

***Please Note:***

- Boxes will be distributed by appointment on Monday & Tuesday, November 20th & 21st.
- Clients will be at the Mission at least 30-60 minutes on pick-up day!