



The Rev. John G. Paderson, Pastor
302-738-0840

The Beacon
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
200 Marrows Road
Brookside
Newark, Delaware 19713
302-738-4331

December 2014

The Gospel of John begins with these words: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John goes on to tell us that the Word "became flesh and lived among us....full of grace and truth." Those few words summarize the meaning of Christmas for me.

Christmas is all about God coming to us in the Word made flesh, Jesus the Christ. It is all about God coming to us to lift us from our fallen and broken state and re-create us for the new heaven and the new earth that is to come.

The amazing thing and the crazy thing about Christmas is that the all mighty, all powerful, all knowing, all holy God came to us on Christmas morning in a very personal, knowable, and familiar way. He came to us in the person of a little child who grew up and experienced life like us. He came not to just pay us a short visit. He came to pay our debts for us and stay with us forever. WOW, THAT IS SOME GOD!

Unfortunately in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season we can easily miss that God. In the holiday spirit we can get all wrapped up in opening Christmas gifts and miss the greatest gift of all that comes wrapped in love.

The Gospel of John also tells us that "he was in the world...yet the world did not know him." It tells us that "he came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him." Unfortunately that still happens today. Too many people do not yet know or fully appreciate how amazing Christmas really is. They don't know because we don't show our excitement for the person instead of the holiday.

This Christmas, I invite you to show your excitement for Jesus first and the festivities second. If you do, many more will as the Gospel of John puts it: "receive him" and "believe in his name" and be given "power to become children of God" with you.

Merry Christmas,

John

To: The Session of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
From: The Rev. John G. Paderson
Subject: Report for October 2014
Date: November 9, 2014

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

- Prepared and led worship three out of the four Sundays in October. I was on vacation October 19th. Candidate Tom Euston preached in my absence.
- Administered the sacrament of the Lord's Supper on October 5th.
- Conducted a Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Elder Harris Aungst on the evening of October 28th at St. Andrew's.

B. Visits and Contacts (Pastoral and other)

- **Home Visits:** 2
- **Hospital Visits:** 2
- **Other Contacts:** two office counseling sessions

C. Administration

- Wrote a Beacon message for November Beacon
- Moderated October 12th session meeting.

D. Christian Education

- Led three Sunday evening Church History classes

E. Ecumenical Activities

- Attended a Pastors' Support Group Meeting in Baltimore on October 23rd.

F. Denominational Activities

- None

Respectfully Submitted,

John

ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATED SESSION MEETING
OCTOBER 12TH 2014

Elders Present: Cliff Wood, Mary Anne Colbert, Winnie Wagner, Jane Wright, Chet Pasapane, Myron Hardesty, Sue Staudt

Elders Absent: Emmanuel Ndifor

Moderator Rev. John Paderson opened the meeting with prayer at 4:30 pm.
Minutes from the September meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved pending audit. Total revenue for September 2014 was \$13,643.80. Total expenditures for September 2014 were \$12,012.11. Net revenue over expenses for September 2014 \$1,631.69. Total revenue for the YTD was \$116,398.04. Total expenditures for September 2014 were \$127,686.65. Net revenue over expenses for the YTD was -\$11,288.61.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 6:00
The next scheduled meeting will be held November 9th 2014 at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Staudt, Clerk of Session

Youth Report

The youth group during the month of November participated in the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box. We filled 80 shoe boxes full of toys and personal hygiene items. We would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to the boxes, and also a big thank you to those who came out and helped us package the boxes. Many youth were paired with adults to make the boxes, which was a blast. Everyone really enjoyed themselves. On the 23rd we had our annual Thanksgiving dinner. Youth director Cliff Wood provided the turkey and ham and everyone else brought their favorite Thanksgiving side dish or dessert.

On the 21st of December the youth will be holding a free breakfast for the congregation from 8-9:45 as a thank you for all the support you've given us this year. We would also like to thank those that participated in our October calendar fundraiser. We raised 127 dollars from it and the winner of the raffle drawing was Jane Wright. Thanks again for all your support and blessings. We hope for this great year to continue.

December's Deacons Update.....

Thank you to all that volunteered for the two hour shifts of ringing the bell for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign on the Friday after Thanksgiving. We will be ringing again on **Saturday, December 6th** at the Pathmark at College Square. Stop by and cheer on our teams. The funds raised during this campaign provide for crisis assistance to the poor and underprivileged so that they might have a meaningful and satisfying life.

Thank you to all that contributed turkeys and canned and dry goods to our church's food pantry in November. The shelves were wonderfully stocked for Thanksgiving. We delivered baskets to 15 needy families this year. As Christmas will soon be here we are still in need of hams or turkeys to deliver to the same families. We rely on donations from you, our church family, and you always provide.

Our needs are:

Potatoes (boxed or canned)

Cranberry Sauce

Gravy (jar or canned)

Boxed Dessert Mixes

Stuffing

Turkeys or hams

Items that we are low on:

Applesauce

Jelly

Peanut Butter

Cereal

Fruit (canned or jar)

Please remember that we cannot include outdated food in our food baskets.

Thank you again for your support.

The Deacons are supporting 3 families this year with Christmas gifts. Our Holiday Helper tree re-appeared after Thanksgiving with ornaments showing dollar amounts and gift ideas that the families are in need of. Please stop by after the service to contribute a monetary gift or pick out an item you would like to give to the families. All items need to be brought unwrapped to church by December 21st so that we can get them to the families by Christmas.

The Deacons will continue to collect coats, sweaters, socks, hats and other gently used warm clothing through December to distribute to Hope Dining Room visitors. They are very appreciative of all the wonderful items that St. Andrew's has contributed over the years. Many of the visitors are homeless and living in tents through the winter. Contact any deacon if you need help transporting the items. If you bring the items to church, please mark the bag or box with "Coats for Hope".

"Code Purple" is a program supported by the Newark Empowerment Center. In the winter, when temperatures drop to dangerous levels, seven churches in the area open up, in rotation, for overnight housing of homeless people. Volunteers are critical and are needed to support those events. There are a lot of opportunities with varying amounts of time required. This winter is predicted to be another cold one. Please check out the purple flyer in the narthex and consider helping our neighboring churches in this life saving program.

Next Deacons Meeting is Sunday, December 7th following the service.

Deacons: Marianne Hardesty, Gary Strickland, Pam Crowe, Linda DiMartine, Rob Johnson, Matt Kupelian, Jean Pasapane and Charlotte Walker

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2014

3 Wednesday	Church of Service Worship	7:30 p.m.
4 Thursday	Morning Circle Annual Christmas Luncheon	12:00 p.m.
	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
5 Friday	Church of Service Youth	6:00 p.m.
6 Saturday	New Officer Training	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
7 Sunday	Blended Service with Communion	10:00 a.m.
	Youth Sunday/Food Collection Sunday	
	Coffee/juice hour	
	Deacon's 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.
9 Tuesday	PW Meeting	7:00 p.m.
10 Wednesday	Church of Service Worship	7:30 p.m.
11 Thursday	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
12 Friday	ANNUAL COOKIE WALK & LUNCHEON	11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
	Church of Service Youth	6:00 p.m.
13 Saturday	Church of Service Prayer Service	7:00-9:30 p.m.
14 Sunday	Blended Service	10:00 a.m.
	Coffee/juice hour	
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
	Session Meeting	4:30 p.m.
	Sunday Night Dinner, Faith Club, Youth Group	
	And Adult Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
15 Monday	BEACON DEADLINE	6:00 p.m.
	Ruth Circle Meeting	7:00 p.m.
16 Tuesday	Naomi Circle Meeting	6:30 p.m.
17 Wednesday	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
18 Thursday	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
19 Friday	Church of Service Youth	6:00 p.m.
20 Saturday	New Officer Training	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
21 Sunday	FREE "Thank You" Breakfast from Youth	8:00 a.m.-9:45 a.m.
	Christmas Cantata	10:00 a.m.
	Coffee/juice hour	
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
	Sunday Night Dinner, Faith Club, Youth Group	
	And Adult Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
24 Wednesday	Christmas Eve Candlelight Services	
	Family	7:00 p.m.
	Communion	11:00 p.m.
25 Thursday	<i>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</i>	
26 Friday	Church of Service Youth	6:00 p.m.
28 Sunday	Blended Service	10:00 a.m.
	Coffee/juice hour	
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
31 Wednesday	NEW YEAR'S EVE YOUTH LOCK IN	7:00 p.m.-9:00 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR DECEMBER 2014

2 -- Linda DiMartine
3 -- Jamie Sparks
8 -- Karen Johnson
8 -- Jim Sparks
13 -- Noah Fisher
14 -- Tyler James Ulrich
17 -- Janet Bugher
18 -- Lynda Fisher
20 -- Wendy Johnson
27 -- Kelsey Styles
30 -- Chuck Arnold
31 -- Ranelle Groth

30 -- Myron and Marianne Hardesty

Circle News

All ladies of the church are Presbyterian Women, and are welcome to attend any of the meetings.

The Morning Circle will meet Thursday December 4th at Noon for their annual Christmas Luncheon at Chesdel Restaurant.

PW Meeting will be held on Tuesday December 9th at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall.

The Naomi circle will meet on Tuesday December 16th at 7pm in the home of Ruth Burkins.

The Ruth Circle will meet on Monday December 15th at 7pm in the home of Jere Ebert.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Question: What is the Christmas Joy Offering?

Answer: A way to share God's love all year long. That's it in a nutshell. One half of the offering supports the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. The Assistance Program honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers in their time of need by providing funds to help them through life's challenging circumstances. The other half supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. With the burden of their educational debt reduced, today's Presbyterian students and future church leaders are able to receive much-needed scholarship assistance, while they discover and pursue their professional goals. Your gift will allow these schools and colleges to continue the ministries Presbyterians have carried out for decades. Please give generously when we receive the offering on Dec. 21.

Rick Hardy would like to express his thanks "for all the thoughts prayers and cards during my recent surgery. It's comforting to know we have such a caring church family."

Carol Jamison would like to thank everyone for their prayers, calls and cards. The support you all have shown has been a true blessing and means so much to her.

Luke 6:38 *“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

Dear Friends in Christ,

We greet you in the name of our Great Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

For the past four weeks you have heard from me on the Lifestyle of Stewardship. God has been gracious to St. Andrews in 2014. We ventured on our first combined Adult/Youth Mission trip to Webster Springs, West Virginia. We know some may say it was more a challenge than a blessing but we believe it was a true blessing. We have grown our Sunday Night Program into more than any of us could have imagined all because of OUR AWESOME GOD and the stewardship of many members here at St. Andrews.

We hope that you have been enlightened by these awesome gifts from God. We pray that you see fruits of the spirit being poured out onto St. Andrews and its members and continue to praise our Awesome GOD.

We ask that you prayerfully consider your pledge commitment for 2015 remembering the Lord's word in 1 Corinthians 15:58 *“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain”*.

Please bring your Pledge card with you to church on Commitment Sunday, December 14th.

May GOD continue to bless St. Andrews and its members in 2015 as we continue to become more faithful Stewards.

Give God all the Glory

Cliff Wood

Chairperson of the Stewardship Team

WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

The per capita apportionment is a per member assessment from New Castle Presbytery for each active member we have on our rolls. It represents St. Andrew's share of the administrative costs for the Presbytery (\$23.83), Synod of the Mid-Atlantic (\$.75) and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (\$7.07). The per capita for 2013 is \$31.65 per member. This amount reflects a \$1.65 increase from last year.

The Session of St. Andrew's has reaffirmed their decision that only per capita money received from members will be used to pay our assessment in 2013. It will not be an annual budgeted amount.

By using the specially marked envelope found in your box of offering envelopes and paying your share of the per capita apportionment is prudent stewardship. We hope you will see it in that light and consider paying your per capita as soon as possible. Thank you!



Upcoming Marriage Encounter Weekends



November 7-9, 2014

Comfort Inn in Easton, MD

Experience the warm hospitality of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Located on US-50, 40 miles southeast of Annapolis.



January 22-24, 2015

Vandiver Inn in Havre de Grace, MD
Same location as the February weekend, but Thurs – Sat. and designed for Clergy Couples, only (interdenominational).

February 20-22, 2015

Another weekend – open to all couples – at the Vandiver Inn in Havre de Grace, MD. The weekend will be coordinated by the Presbyterian Expression of M.E.



April TBD, 2015

We are planning either another Virginia weekend – this time in Roanoke, VA. This would be only the second Marriage Encounter – United Methodist weekend in VA, after a long absence from this state.

For more information or to register today visit: www.encounter.org
Weekends run from Friday evening at 7pm to Sunday afternoon at 5PM (except Jan.).
All faith expressions are welcome. (UM Clergy will receive 1.5 CEU credits)

For Questions please contact:

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

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

St Andrew's Presbyterian Women **ANNUAL COOKIE WALK SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCHEON**



SUPPORT PW MISSIONS

Vegetable Beef soup

Chicken Corn soup

Cookies

Lunch

DATE: Friday December 12, 2014

**WHERE: St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
200 Marrows Road
Newark, DE**

TIME: 11 AM to 1:30 PM

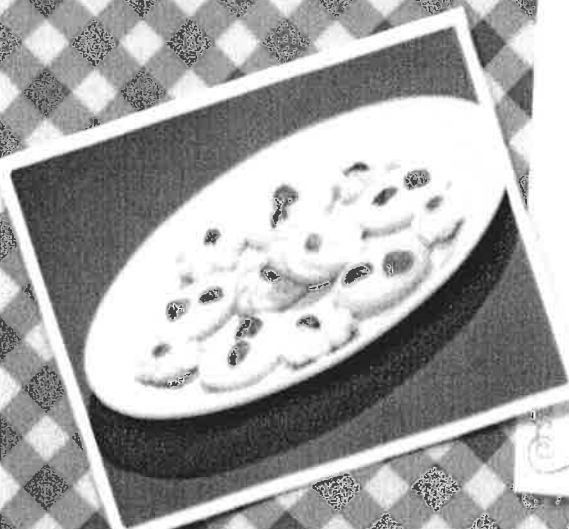
Pre Orders 302-738-4331

Soup: \$7 Quart

Homemade Cookies: \$5 and \$12 Containers

Lunch: Soup, Sandwich, Chips and Beverage \$9

**"LEGACY CHRISTMAS - CD of Nativity Carols and Hymns."
\$15 donation supports Living Waters for the World.**





SAVE THE DATE
AND
INVITE A FRIEND

2015 New Castle Presbyterian Women Annual Retreat

*Being the Light in a
Dark World*

"In the same way, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good works and glorify your
Father in heaven." – Matthew 5:16

When: Fri. April 24 – Sun. April 26

Where: Dunes Manor Hotel
2800 N. Baltimore Ave.
Ocean City, MD 21842

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 DECEMBER The Greatest Christmas Gift

***“For God so loved the world that he gave
his one and only son, that whoever believes
in him shall not perish but have eternal
life.”***

John 3:16

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!

Cookie Walk - Dec. 12th from 11:00-1:30