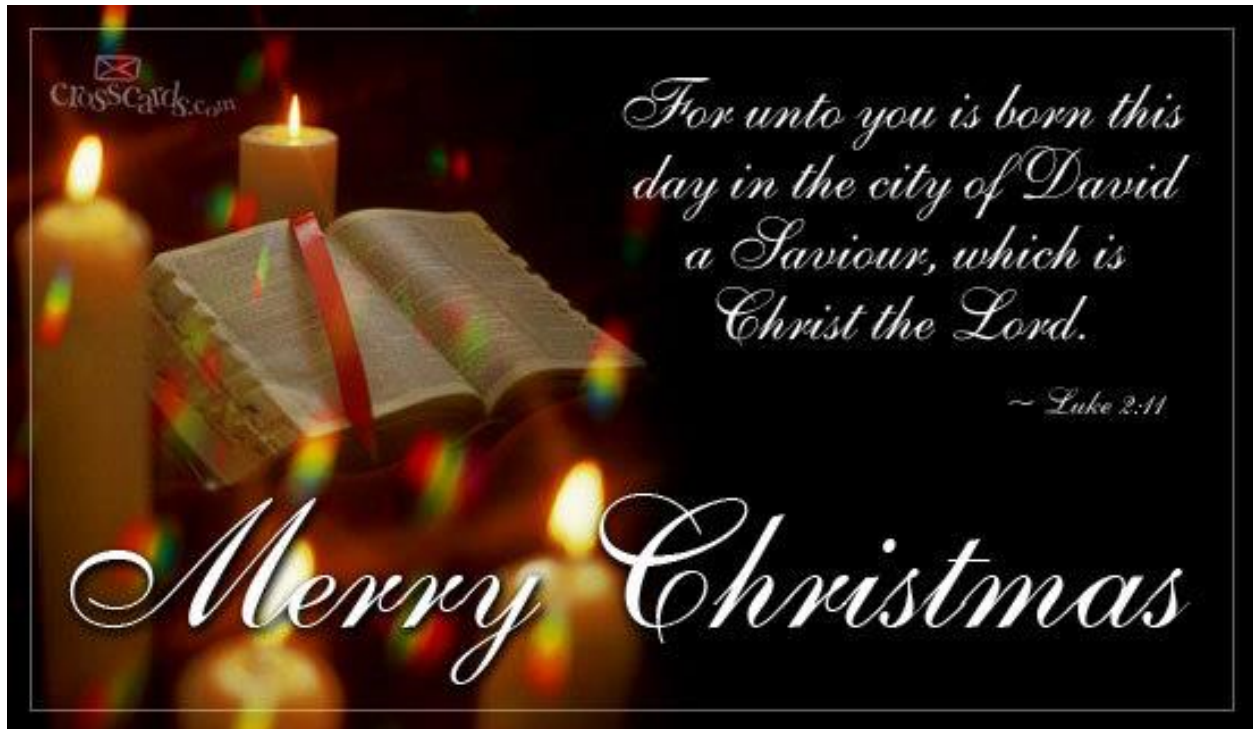




The Beacon

December 2016



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

Follow the Star to Find Him

" We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2:3b

Give Someone a Gift that Makes a Difference



Most of us are now getting in the mail a boatload of catalogs almost every day because, like it or not, we are already in the midst of the Christmas shopping season. However much we may rue the fact, for many people, Christmas is more about shopping than it is about Jesus' birth. It is a perennial struggle to keep our focus on Jesus and the real reason for the season amidst the heavy commercialization of this time of the year. And, let's face it, even most of us who want to keep Jesus first at this time of the year can still wind up spending quite a bit of time looking for gifts and spending money on gifts that, quite likely, those for whom we're buying them don't really want or need. So, instead of that frustrating use of time and money, allow me to make a suggestion.

For a few years now, Nancy and I have bought gifts for our loved ones that those who are dirt poor in other countries can really use. We have purchased a goat and sheep, for instance, from the World Vision Gift Catalog (<http://donate.worldvision.org/ways-to-give/gift-catalog>) for people in poor countries and have done so *in the name of* my mother and my brother, neither of whom really needs anything (but who still enjoy the fruit basket or whatever other little things we send them!). Through World Vision or Compassion (<http://www.compassion.com/catalog.htm>) or some similar organization, you can get something for someone in another country who has little to nothing. Buying them a couple of chickens provides a steady supply of eggs, milk and meat to feed their children and help these families carry on. Buying them a sheep will provide them with highly nutritious milk for essential protein, vitamins and minerals, plus give them plenty of wool to knit warm sweaters and blankets. And, of course, it's the perfect way to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Lamb of God.

So, perhaps you want to consider giving a cow, pig, goat, ox, sheep or chicken (or some combination thereof) to those in poor countries in the name of one of those people on your Christmas shopping list who doesn't really need anything. Save that person the trouble of taking your gift back the day after Christmas or pretending it's what they always wanted when they'll probably shove it in a drawer or closet, never to be seen again! In addition to farm animals, you can also send an impoverished girl to school, purchase a sewing machine for someone in need in another part of the world, or get someone a bike to get to school. If you have a larger budget, you can even purchase a safe home for a struggling single mom and her kids in some African country, or you can purchase for a small amount a share of such a home. There are a myriad of ways you can give to those in impoverished parts of the world (including parts of the US), from food, clothing, education and housing to Bibles and other necessities. The person in whose name the gift is made (in my case, my mom and brother) receives a personalized card with every gift you purchase. That person will feel good knowing you got something that really makes a difference in another's life.

The virgin Mary said in her song, traditionally known as the Magnificat, "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." She goes on to speak of how far God's mercy has extended to the needy, lifting up the humble and filling the hungry with good things (Luke 1:47-53). In Jesus God does indeed give us the living bread that satisfies our soul, but how privileged we can also be to help to provide sustenance for the basic physical needs of people around the world.

Peter Pan



Christmas Tidings

Advent and Christmas are always a special time at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. We hope you will make a special effort to come and join in the celebration of the incarnation of the Son of God for us and our salvation. We also encourage you to invite a friend to be blessed, as well.

On Sunday, Nov. 27, St. Andrew's will celebrate the first Sunday of Advent with the traditional lighting of the first Advent candle. Rev. Otto will begin a series of Advent messages from the book of Isaiah. We will also administer the sacrament of baptism.

On Sunday, Dec. 4, St. Andrew's will celebrate the second Sunday of Advent with the lighting of the Advent candles, the message for the day from Isaiah, and the Lord's Supper.

On Sunday, Dec. 11, St. Andrew's will celebrate the third Sunday of Advent with the lighting of the advent candles, the message for the day from Isaiah.

On Sunday, Dec. 18, for the fourth Sunday of Advent, the St. Andrew's choir will present a cantata featuring carols from around the world.

On Saturday, Dec. 24, our Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be at 7 PM. Please join us for the beauty and splendor of this celebration of the greatest gift of all, the gift of God incarnate, Jesus Christ!

On Sunday, Dec. 25, we will have our usual 10 AM worship for Christmas Day, with the lighting of the Christmas candle, a message on the centrality of Christ, and the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.



ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATED SESSION MEETING
OCTOBER 8, 2016

Rev. Dr. Randy Otto opened the meeting with prayer at 4:10 pm

Elders present: Darrell DiStefano, Mary Anne Colbert, Julie Guns, Florence Fonjweng, Flora Atangcho,

Elders not in attendance: Emmanuel Ndifor, Brenda Saulsbury, Jane Wright and Cindy Arnold.
Quorum present.

Adoption of Docket was approved.

Minutes from Sept. 11, 2016 were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report was approved pending audit. Total revenue for Sept. 2016 was \$12,630.90. Total expenses for Sept. 2016 were \$15,555.50. Net revenue over expenses for Sept. 2016 was -\$2,924. For the YTD total revenue was \$114,344.18. Total expenses for the YTD were \$119,208.02. Net revenue over expenses for the YTD was -\$4,863.84.

Clerk's Report: An email vote was unanimously approved to allow Rev. Son to use St. Andrew's for the funeral of one of the members of KCOS.

Church attendance for the 4 Sunday's in September was 293 people.

Motions received, seconded and approved:

- Receive all committee reports including Darrell Distefano's Presbytery Commissioner's Report (Sept 13, 2016), and all Committee (Team) Reports.
- Darrell DiStefano is authorized to spend up to \$400 to enter into a contract with either Clean DE, Inc. or Valley Protein for the cleaning out of the the grease traps in the kitchen.
- A "**Church Clean Up Day**" on November 12th from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. All are welcome to come and give any amount of their time and help with minor repairs, clean up and beautification of our church. Lunch will be provided!
- Funding for the **Cameroon Pastors' Retreat**. \$10,000 is being requested from the NCPresbytery's Mission Development Unit. An offering will be collected by St. Andrew's to help with this funding on a Sunday to be determined at a future meeting.
- A **Stated Congregational Meeting** will be held on Sunday, November 20th immediately after worship to elect officers for next year.
- Pay for the cost of the Session Basket created by Jane Wright for the Silent Auction held during this year's Golf Outing at Back Creek Golf Club.
- To Adjourn this meeting at 5:17pm.

Meeting was adjourned with prayer. The next Stated Session Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 13, 2016 at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen B. Hunt, Clerk of Session

FROM THE DEACONS

December 2016

Holiday Helper Tree

Your donations through the Holiday Helper Tree will provide Christmas gifts for two families in need. Either a dollar amount or a specific gift to buy is written on each of the ornaments that decorate the tree in Fellowship Hall. Pick an ornament from the tree to make a donation.

- Money donations will be collected on Nov. 27, Dec. 4 and Dec. 11.
- Gift donations need to be brought to church *unwrapped* and placed under the tree by Dec. 18. Please *return the ornament* you selected with your gift. This will help us get your gift to the right person.

Christmas Pantry Needs

We are low on or out of all the foods listed below. We have enough canned vegetables. We will also need about 12 turkeys.

- Potatoes (boxed or canned)
- Cranberry sauce
- Boxed desserts (cake mixes, etc.)
- Gravy
- Stuffing
- Applesauce
- Jelly
- Peanut butter
- Cereal

If you are donating a turkey, please put it in the freezer and notify a deacon. Remember we cannot use outdated foods.

Thank you for your Thanksgiving food donations and your ongoing support for this ministry.

“Just Socks” Drive

To the homeless new socks can be more important than food. Without clean, dry, warm socks, feet can become injured through infections, dampness or cold. People with hurting feet cannot walk to get food. We would like to fill the “Just Socks” box in the narthex with new socks to distribute at Hope Dining Room. Can you help?

Why “just socks”? Because we are not asking for money donations, just new socks. Our goal is to collect 100 pairs of men’s, 50 pairs of women’s and 25 pairs of children’s socks. We will be collecting through January.

Coats for Hope

We will continue the Coats for Hope collection through January. On Oct. 31, we delivered the clothing you donated, and recipients were grateful. We hope to return in December with more donations, including new socks, so keep rooting through your closets and buy new socks.

Remember that we need winter clothing at this time of year. *No summer clothing*, please.

Laundry for the Lord

Donations in October totaled \$236. Thank you for your support.

Red Kettle Campaign

Thank you to all the St. Andrew’s bell ringers.



Morning Circle

Our next meeting will be Thursday Dec 1st at 10 AM.

Naomi Circle

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday Dec 20th at 7 PM.

Ruth Circle

Our next meeting will be on Monday December 19th at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall.

The 28th Annual Cookie Walk will be held on Friday December 9, 2016. Volunteers are needed in all areas. Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall. Please bake extra cookies as we ran out the past two years.



Youth Group

So I'm sure you've already heard that the Youth won the World Series of Kick Ball against the adults. The adults are hard training for the rematch next spring. We are holding try outs if any adults are interested. Just kidding but please come out and enjoy the fun at the next game.

We held our annual Thanksgiving feast on Sunday November 20th. We also made 112 GO BAGS to donate to the Newark Empowerment Center. We're going to try and make 125 GO BAGS in January to help the less fortunate in our community.

The youth have started to plan their 7th annual New Year's Eve lock -in. What a way for the youth to celebrate and bring in the New Year. So make sure to tell your friends and neighbors. All are welcome from age 4 to 19 years old. The lock in will start at 7pm on Dec. 31st and will end at 10am New Year's Day. If any adults are looking for something to do, we can always use chaperones.

Last but not least, on December 4th the youth as well as the adults from the Sunday Night Groups will be once again baking cookies for this year's 28th annual Cookie walk. We will be starting at 4:30pm on December 4th. What a great opportunity to come enjoy dinner, fellowship and interact with the youth of the church.

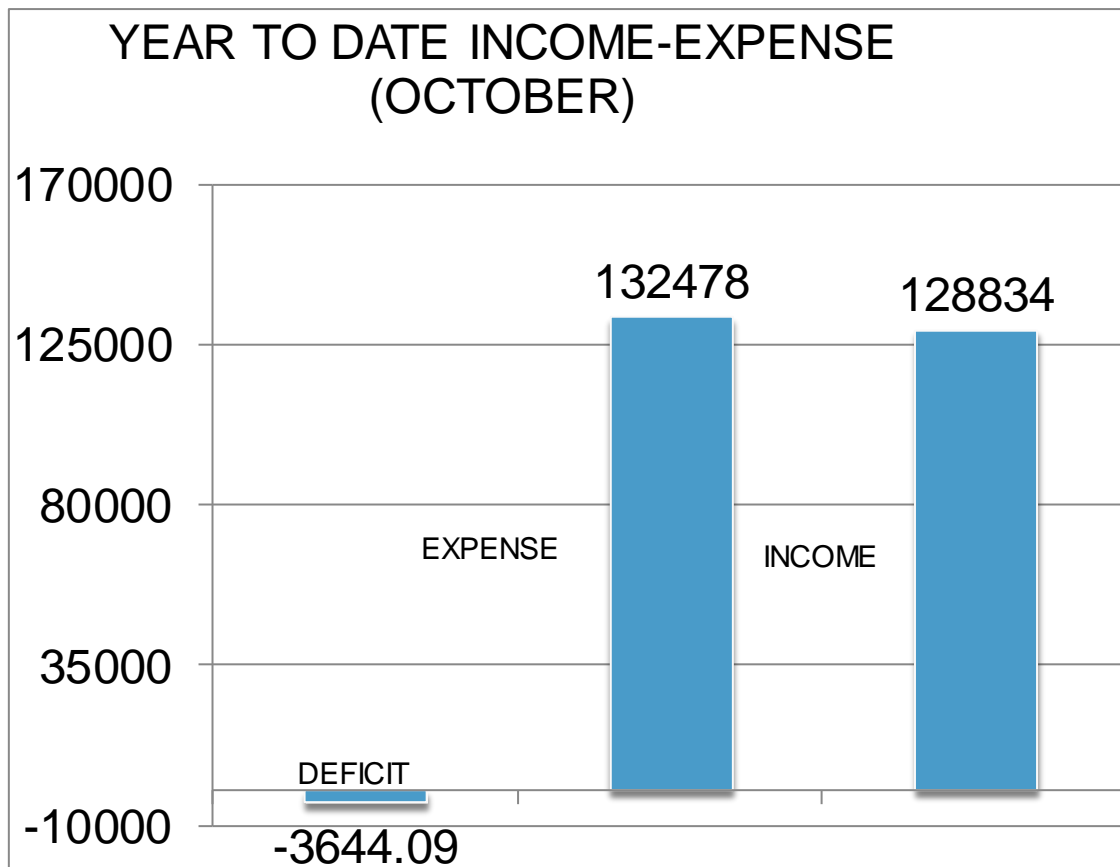
PS If you haven't checked out the website lately I recommend it. The site is being updated weekly.

Blessings,
Cliff Wood, Youth Director

DOLLARS AND SENSE - THE BOTTOM LINE

In October, St. Andrew's received \$14,489.76. That amount is \$476.43 more than the income budgeted for the month. Budgeted monthly income in 2016 is \$14,013.33. We spent \$13,270.01 in October, which is \$726.14 less than the budgeted expenses of \$13,996.11. The surplus for the month was \$1,219.75. Year to date, through October, St. Andrew's has received \$128,833.94 and spent \$132,478.03 resulting in a deficit of 3644.09.

ST. ANDREW'S OCTOBER FINANCIAL POSITION - ACTUAL VS BUDGET						
MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET	YTD INCOME	YTD BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET
OCTOBER	\$14,489.76	\$14,013.33	\$476.43	\$128,833.94	\$140,133.20	-\$11,299.26
	EXPENSE	BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET	YTD EXPENSE	YTD BUDGET	ACTUAL VS BUDGET
PASTOR	\$6,825.00	\$7,266.64	-\$441.64	\$64,837.74	\$72,666.40	-\$7,828.66
STAFF	\$4,187.15	\$3,966.90	\$220.25	\$40,433.26	\$39,669.00	\$764.26
PROGRAM	\$572.14	\$220.83	\$351.31	\$1,827.81	\$2,208.20	-\$380.39
BLDG GRDS	\$1,685.68	\$2,219.99	-\$534.31	\$22,483.47	\$22,199.90	\$283.57
PER CAPITA	\$0.00	\$321.75	-\$321.75	\$2,895.75	\$3,217.50	-\$321.75
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$13,269.97	\$13,996.11	-\$726.14	\$132,478.03	\$139,961.00	-\$7,482.97
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$1,219.79	\$17.22		(\$3,644.09)	\$172.20	



On Sunday, Dec. 18, please join members of the St. Andrew's choir and the youth as we go out to share the joy of Christ's coming in singing the carols of the season to some of our homebound members and friends. We will meet at the church at 5 for a light dinner and then head out to share God's Word in song. Come and sing his praises!

This is the day the Lord has made; let us *rejoice* and be glad in it.

PSALM 118:24



Merry Christmas



©Peggy Meiske

December 2016

				1 Morning Circle 10 AM Praise Band Rehearsal 6 PM Choir Rehearsal 7 PM	2 KCOS Youth 6PM	3 Presbytery Meeting 8 AM – 4 PM
4 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 4:30-7 PM BAKING COOKIES Second Sunday of Advent	5	6	7 Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10:00 AM KCOS 7:30PM Pearl Harbor Remembrance day	8 Praise Band Rehearsal 6 PM Choir Rehearsal 7 PM	9 KCOS Youth 6PM 28TH Annual Cookie Walk 11AM – 1:30 PM 	10
11 Blended Service 10:00 AM Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM Session Meeting 4:00PM Sunday Night Activities 5-7 PM Third Sunday of Advent	12	13	14 Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10:00 AM KCOS 7:30PM	15 Praise Band Rehearsal 6 PM Choir Rehearsal 7 PM	16 KCOS Youth 6PM	17
18 Blended Service 10:00 AM Cantata Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM Sunday Night Activities Caroling 5-7 PM Fourth Sunday of Advent	19 Beacon Deadline Ruth Circle 6PM	20 Naomi Circle 7PM	21 Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10:00 AM KCOS 7:30PM Winter begins	22 Praise Band Rehearsal 6 PM Choir Rehearsal 7 PM	23 KCOS Youth 6PM	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m. Hanukkah begins at sundown
25 Blended Service w/ Communion 10:00 AM Church of Service Worship 12:30 PM 	26	27	28 Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10:00 AM KCOS 7:30PM	29 Praise Band Rehearsal 6 PM Choir Rehearsal 7 PM	30 KCOS Youth 6PM	31 NEW YEARS EVE YOUTH LOCK-IN 7:00 PM – 9:00 AM 



2-Linda DiMartine
 8-Karen Johnson
 8-Jim Sparks
 17-Janet Bugher
 30-Sarah Avenarius




Happy
 Anniversary

30-Myron & Marianne Hardesty
 30-Celestine & Flora Atangcho

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2016

1 Thursday	Morning Circle	10:00 a.m.
	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.
2 Friday	Church of Service Youth	6:00 p.m.
3 Saturday	Presbytery Meeting	9:00a.m.-4:00 p.m.
4 Sunday	Blended Service with Communion	10:00 a.m.
	Youth Sunday/Food Collection Sunday	
	Coffee/juice hour	
	Deacon's Meeting	
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
	Sunday Night Dinner, Faith Club, Youth Group	
	And Adult Bible Study BAKING COOKIES	4:30 p.m.
7 Wednesday	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
8 Thursday	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.
9 Friday	28 th Annual Cookie Walk	11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
	Church of Service Youth	7:00 p.m.
11 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	5:00 p.m.
14 Monday	Ruth Circle	7:00 p.m.
15 Tuesday	Naomi Circle	7:00 p.m.
14 Wednesday	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
15 Thursday	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.
16 Friday	Church of Service Youth	6:00 p.m.
18 Sunday	Blended Service/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 CAROLING	5:00 p.m.
19 Monday	Beacon Deadline	
	Ruth Circle	7:00 p.m.
20 Tuesday	Naomi Circle	7:00 p.m.
21 Wednesday	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
22 Thursday	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.
23 Friday	Church of Service Youth	6:00 p.m.
24 Saturday	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7:00 p.m.
25 Sunday	Merry Christmas	
	Blended Service with Communion	10:00 a.m.
	Coffee/juice hour	
	Church of Service Worship	12:30 p.m.
28 Wednesday	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	Church of Service	7:30 p.m.
29 Thursday	Praise Band Rehearsal/Choir Rehearsal	6:30/7:00 p.m.
30 Friday	Church of Service Youth	6:00 p.m.
31 Saturday	NEW YEAR'S EVE YOUTH LOCK IN	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 a.m.



*St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
28th Annual Cookie Walk
Friday December 9, 2016
11:30 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*

*St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
200 Marrows Road
Newark, DE 19713*

*Preorders/takeout available
Contact 302-738-4331*





SAVE THE DATE

Friday, December 16, 6:30-8:30 pm

Let's spread holiday cheer in our Community!
All are welcome to join in the fun.
Cocoa and cookies after we sing!

*PS: Don't forget to dress for the weather & walking.
Bring a flashlight and wear your Santa hat!*

Sign up on our events page on facebook

St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church

**COUNTRY
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

at

Rock Church

**On Rock Church Road just off Rte. 273
West of Fair Hill**

Saturday, December 3, 2016

9:00 AM 'til 2:00 PM

Start your Christmas shopping early!

*Beautiful and unique holiday decorations,
Christmas ornaments, gifts, wreaths, delicious
home-baked goods and much, much more!*

*AND a delicious lunch will be served at the
"Top of the Rock" café!*

Bring your friends and family!!



Upcoming Marriage Encounter Weekends!

Held at the beautiful
Vandiver Inn
Havre de Grace, Maryland



For more information and
Registration

Contact:

Greg & Shirley Hills

solchvary@hotmail.com

or

302-453-9538

All faith expressions are welcome!

Weekends run Friday 7pm to Sunday 5pm

February 24-26, 2017

A Marriage Encounter weekend will make your marriage better, improve communication with your spouse and deepen your intimacy. All faiths welcome! Open to both Lay couples and Clergy couples.

March 2-4, 2017

Thursday – Saturday
“weekend” designed for
Clergy Couples and
Church Workers. The
session is
interdenominational and
costs are reduced by an
Endowment grant.

Both weekends are hosted by the Presbyterian Expression of M.E

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
200 Marrows Road, Brookside, Newark, Delaware 19713
www.standrewsnewark.org

Dr. Randall Otto, Pastor
E-mail: pstrstandrews@aol.com
E-mail: SECSTANDREWS@aol.com

Dear Friends in Christ,

Each year at St. Andrews there is a designated person who stands before the congregation and asks for their help in building up the church through stewardship. This year I am that person. I stood up and have been asking for pledges, talents and time.

This year as in previous years our church is in a deficit. The building is getting older and is in need of some major repairs and updates. Unforeseen repairs have developed, and decisions were made to make the much needed repairs and updates so far. But much more is needed.

Stewardship is not alone about the financial need but also about the talents that people have and the dedication of time to help take care of some of these needed items. Please in addition to the financial pledge consider donating your talent and/or time.

Please remember to bring your Pledge card with you to church on Communion Sunday, December 11th. As well as joyfully committing to your pledge for 2017, if you could please indicate on the back of the pledge card if you're willing to serve on a fundraising committee to help raise funds for St. Andrew's during 2017.

My hope is that 2017 is a blessed year for St. Andrews Church and all of its members and visitors.


Julie Guns
Chairperson Stewardship Committee