

## THE HISTORY OF ST. ANDREW'S THRIFT SHOP

I found the following information in the files in the thrift shop. The headline of the time-worn The Argus-Champion newspaper article reads, "25 Years Ago-March 18, 1965". NEW LONDON – The new St. Andrew's Thrift Shop will be open on Gould Rd., March 22. It will be located in a wing adjoining the parish house...The shop's proceeds benefit the building fund of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church." I believe this coincides with the construction of the church as it is today.

And another "report" states that "A thrift shop does not survive more than 7 or 8 years because it is not possible to get the volunteers to staff it." "This is what we were told when we started St. Andrew's Thrift Shop 30 years ago." I'm not sure what date this report was written, but it certainly was a precursor to the longevity of our little shop. It isn't that hard to get volunteers!

And another church article dated December, 1987, reads, "A hearty thank you to all the hardworking ladies who have volunteered their time and effort during the past twenty-seven years for the benefit of St. Andrew's Church and the community. Their devotion and loyalty over the years (and some have been with the shop since it began in the building that now houses The Menagerie) have resulted in many tangible gifts as well as monetary support." I have been told that the shop was a community thrift shop located where the current restaurant, "Hole in the Fence" is now on Main Street.

I am not the expert to tell what the actual date of the opening of the thrift shop was, although I do believe that it was March 22, 1965. I am hoping that when the congregation reads this, someone can come forward with more concrete dates and information. So we've passed the milestone of 50 years. Wow!

For now, I have to add my sincere "thank you" to our many volunteers who have continued the tradition started so many years ago of manning the shop five days a week in order to provide monetary assistance and needed clothing items not only to St. Andrew's Church, but also to many local outreach organizations and those less fortunate in our area. We made it through the Covid-19 Pandemic and came out the other side getting back to a vibrant, exciting shop. New volunteers are always welcome and needed. And if you haven't been in the thrift shop, please make an effort to check out the wonderful bargains during our open hours of Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00 – 1:00. I think you'll be surprised and impressed!

Jackie Thompson, Manager  
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