



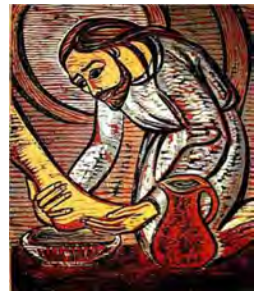
Holy Week Services and Events

Maundy Thursday 7 p.m. (Facebook, Zoom, In-person)

Dr. C. is leading our worship. Those attending in-person are asked to bring their own hand lotion to participate in the service; those at home should have hand lotion nearby.

Zoom link: <http://bit.ly/MaundyService>

Link for in-person sign-ups: <http://bit.ly/StMatts-service-signup>



Good Friday 12 noon and 7 p.m.

Noon: (Zoom Only) The service will be led by Rev. Katy and will be a reflection on the Stations of the Cross through art.

Zoom link: <http://bit.ly/GoodFriday12PM>

7 p.m. (Facebook, Zoom) The service will focus on the Seven Last Words. This will be a collaborative program between St. Matthew's and Bowie UMC led by youth from both congregations.

Zoom link: <http://bit.ly/GoodFriday7PM>



Saturday, April 3 Easter Egg Hunt 11 a.m. (see details on page 3)



Easter Sunday 10 a.m. (Facebook and Zoom)

Sunrise Devotional: This pre-recorded worship devotional will be posted at 6 a.m.

Easter Worship Service: Zoom link: [Easter Sunday Zoom Link](#)

Drive-thru communion: 11:15 a.m.

Wednesday, April 7 Lenten Book Study 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)

Study concludes, led jointly by Isaac and Dr. Cogman. Zoom link: <http://bit.ly/WedsLentStudy>

Update from St. Matthew's Administrative Council

Pastor Vacancy

As previously announced, our newly-assigned full-time pastor, Rev. JW Park, will begin his time with us on July 1. While Dr. Johnsie Cogman (our District Superintendent) is continuing to act as our interim pastor until then, we have been so blessed to have Rev. Katy continue as our "pulpit pastor" through Easter. Beginning in April, St. Matthew's will have a "preaching rotation" of several folks until July. You may continue to reach out directly to Dr. Cogman (who prefers to be addressed as "Dr. C"); her contact information is:

email: jcogman@bwcumc.org

work cell #: 202-365-4994

You may also reach out to Isaac and Becky by calling the church or emailing them at isaacborocz@stmatthews-bowie.org and beckyroper@stmatthews-bowie.org, respectively.

Catalyst Initiative

Thank you to all those who completed the congregational survey regarding the Catalyst Initiative. Results are currently being tabulated and will be shared when they are available, after Rev. Park has joined us.

Missions

Our youth have been working with Missions! Recently, the youth group assembled 40 hygiene kits which were taken to Mission Central. Additionally, our Missions group has received sanitation supplies (soap, sanitizer, etc.) from Mission Central, and is working with several groups to ensure they are properly distributed to those who need them the most.



Worship

The Re-entry Task Force is developing plans to expand in-person worship. Look for additional information via the Mid-Week Messenger and Alerts.

Also, look for separate information in this publication regarding Holy Week services.

Christian Formation

Children's Sunday School is currently following the curriculum "Celebrate Wonder", and classes continue every Sunday. Contact Becky Roper for additional information. All are welcome!

Financial Status

Additional mortgage reduction donations have been received, and the outstanding balance has decreased to \$421K. (See more details elsewhere in this *Circuit Rider*.) St. Matthew's has applied for and received a second Federal PPP (COVID-relief) loan for approximately \$55K! The Early Education Center applied for forgiveness of their first PPP loan, and is awaiting determination. It is anticipated that the EEC will be able to continue to make the normal rent payments to the church while operating at reduced capacity.

No unusual expenses were incurred during February, but offerings remain significantly under budget for the year. Apportionments and all other invoices have been paid. No funds were removed from the investment account in February.

Thank you for your continued support, which enables St. Matthew's to continue to function during this challenging time.

Lisa Wilson
Acting Chairperson
Administrative Council

Children and Youth Happenings

Springtime at St. Matthew's, outside Fellowship Hall



Easter Egg Hunt

On **Saturday, April 3, at 11 a.m.** we will meet in the church parking lot ... in person. Grab your basket, bring a friend, and get ready to hunt!



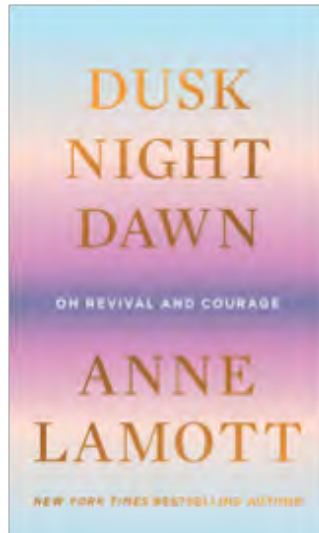
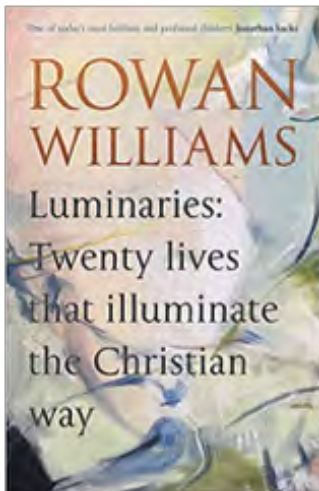
Youth Assemble UMCOR Hygiene Kits

On March 7, nine youth and three alumni from St. Matthew's were joined by three youth from [Bowie United Methodist](#) and three youth leaders for fellowship and missions. Together, they made 40 UMCOR hygiene kits in response to wintry storms in Texas. Supplies were provided by the Merry Methodists and the Missions Committee.



Christian Book Club

The Christian Book Club usually meets on the third Tuesday of each month. On April 20, we will discuss the last book published by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, *Luminaries: Twenty Lives that Illuminate the*



Christian Way. The book for the May 18th meeting is Anne Lamott's newest published work, *Dusk, Night, Dawn: On Revival and Courage*. Please join us for a lively chat at each meeting about these two contemporary works.

1 Timothy 4:12 Scholarship Update

The 1 Timothy 4:12 Scholarship program is well underway. Thanks to the congregation's generous donations to the Christmas Card Fund, two seniors from our neighboring Bowie High School will each receive \$1000 scholarship to support their post-secondary education. Applications are due to St. Matthew's either by email or via postal mail by April 13, 2021. The committee knows that it will be difficult to choose from the pool of students who are service-minded and are already making a difference in the world even though they are young. We plan to share the awardees' photos and short bios in the *Circuit Rider* so that you can become acquainted with these special young persons. We appreciate your support for this worthwhile endeavor.

Beth Obear, for the
1 Timothy 4:12 Scholarship Committee

April Communion Offering

Native American Ministries



April's Communion Offering is for Native American Ministries which nurtures mission with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians.

Throughout the month of April, you may contribute to Native American Ministries by a check to St. Matthew's or online via One Time Gift and specifying Native American Ministries.

Social Justice: LGBT+ Community Breaking Down the Acronym: I

This month, we'll be talking about the I in LGBTQIA: intersex. Intersex people are individuals born with reproductive and/or sexual anatomy that do not fit the conventional definitions of "male" or "female". These variations can include variations in chromosomes, hormones, genetic development, and visible or internal anatomy. Although people are born intersex, some traits may not develop until puberty. Other traits, like chromosomal variations, may not ever be discovered until the individual in question has already passed and their body undergoes an autopsy.



This particular part of the acronym is an extremely complex topic. To understand intersex people, it is immensely helpful to understand the science behind the intersex identity. First and foremost, we need to get rid of the idea that there are only two biological sexes. The two *most common combinations* of sexual chromosomes and reproductive attributes in humans are what we call "male" and "female," but we know now that they are far from the only combinations that occur in the human genome, and that chromosomes are not the only genetic factor that determines biological sex.

Use this [link](#) to a full article to read more about the term intersex and its history.

Beck Hastings

Morning Prayer Call

Morning Prayer Call is a ministry by phone. Begin your day "*remembering who we are and whose we are, one in Christ Jesus.*" Join us for 15 minutes Monday through Saturday at 6:30 a.m. See dial-in instructions on page 12.

Our Prayer for Wisdom: The journey to God is merely the reawakening of the knowledge of where you are always, and what you are forever. Those who offer peace to everyone have found a home in Heaven the world cannot destroy. Loving Lord we pray for peace through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

April Prayer Leaders: (In week order) Bill Greaves, Ray Denmark, Bill Schneider, Ray Orocco-John.

Looking for Prayer Leaders to join our Team— please contact Irene Schneider at imschneider@comcast.net.

We hope you will join us soon. "*May Peace Prevail on Earth.*"

*In Love and Gratitude,
Irene Schneider, Prayer Team Coordinator*

April International Prayer Focus

Hate, violence, and trauma are being played out by military coups. Their presence is seen in **Myanmar, Armenia, Central African Republic,** and **Hong Kong.** Read more stories [here](#).



*The Holy Spirit's Voice is as loud as
your willingness to listen.*

St. Matthew's in Mission

News from Our International Partners

[St. Matthew School](#) (Liberia) sent us a "[Greetings from St. Matthew UMC Feb 2021](#)" email: They continue to pray for us during the pandemic. St. Matthew School has a new worry about the return of Ebola.

[Global Ministries](#) sent us a [Liberia Scholarship Thank You](#) for our contribution to St. Matthew School.

[Impacto Ministry](#) (Guatemala) sent us a [2020 Support Thank You](#).

[Missionary and International Partners Prayer Focus](#) suggests specific situations around the world for which we should be in prayer during April.

News from Our Missionaries

St. Matthew's provided \$300 each for our missionaries: [Princess Jusu](#), [Helen Roberts](#), [Miguel Mairena](#), and [Nan McCurdy](#).

[Global Ministries](#) and the Missions Committee are inviting you to meet United Methodist missionaries in small groups via Zoom. Two of our missionaries are involved in upcoming sessions:

Date/time: April 1, 12 p.m. EDT

Missionaries: Paul Webster, [Princess Jusu](#), Trisha Manns, Vincent Yohanna

Registration link: [Register here for April](#)

Date/time: May 27, 12 p.m. EDT

Missionaries: [Helen Roberts-Evans](#), John Elmore, Mozart Adevu, Warren Alfeche

Registration link: [Register here for May](#)

Mission Community Activities

Donated \$1000 to [UMCOR](#) Disaster Response.

Donated \$250 to [CHAMP House Recovery, Inc.](#)

Donated \$3993 given by the congregation to [Bowie Food Pantry](#) and received a [letter of thanks](#).

Received a [February Thank You](#) from [Mission Central](#) for our Covenant support and being a Hub.

Continued to provide support for the hungry in Bowie via the [Little Free Pantry](#) (LFP). LFP continues to see lots of traffic. Thanks to your donations, we can provide food, hygiene products, and the occasional surprise. Last month, we gave out hats/scarves.



UMW Circle Meetings



Friendship Circle is ever optimistic! We HOPE that for our next meeting on **Monday, April 12**, we can

meet outdoors at the church, weather permitting. Whether outdoors, or on Zoom if necessary, we will gather at 12:30 for social time and at 1 p.m. for the business meeting. Look for an email that day or the day before either with a Zoom link if the weather looks wet or cool or some directions about where to meet on the church property if we are fortunate. If we are indeed outside, you will need to bring your own chair. Feel free to invite others who would like to spend some time with other women of the church. For questions, contact Beth Obear.

Koinonia Circle will meet via Zoom on **Monday, April 19**, at 7 p.m. Contact Lisa Klein for an invitation to attend.

Life Changes

Births:

Henry Rowan Heidenreich, born March 23 to Eric and Becca Heidenreich. He arrived at 8 pounds, 11 ounces and 19 inches long. Hans and Sharon Heidenreich are the proud grandparents.



Deaths:

Calvin Dorn, father of Joyce Dorn. long a part of St. Matthew's family (died March 1)



Rev. McCarl Roberts, former pastor at St. Matthew's from 1974-76. (died March 7)

Please join us in wishing those in our church family who are 80 and older a very Happy Birthday!



Mother's Day Fundraiser

Looking for tasty treats for Mom on Mother's Day? Get delicious treats, nuts, and chocolate from Terri Lynn and help the UMW raise money for their mission projects. Place your order with Terri Lynn now, and it will be here in time to surprise Mom (2-3 weeks).



To order, go to: <https://bit.ly/UMWnutSale>

Amaryllis Price	April 4
Carolyn Goddard	April 15
Mary Goyen	April 23
Marie Comstock	April 24
Jessie Matthews	April 25
Francis Miskowich	April 25
Margie Pekala	April 26

Lectionary Readings for April 2021

April 1 – Thursday of Holy Week

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 2 – Friday of Holy Week / Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalms 22

Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

April 4 – Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43; Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

April 11 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35; Psalms 133

1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

April 18 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Native American Ministries Sunday

Acts 3:12-19; Psalms 4

1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

April 25 – 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12; Psalms 23

1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18



The Bell Choir and Isaac assembled to play *The Palms* for Palm Sunday.
Look for some special choral music on Easter!



The Circuit Rider is published monthly by St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

Editors: George Huffman, Lorri Meadows

Editorial Staff: Sharon Heidenreich, Kim Huffman, Beth Obear

Contact Us: phone: 301-262-1408 fax: 301-262-2148

circuitrider@stmatthews-bowie.org

Articles are due by the 15th of each month. Please e-mail articles to the above address or submit to the church office.

Please call to verify receipt of any faxed articles.

EEC Corner — MSDE Re-Accreditation

St. Matthew's Church Family,

We proudly announce that the EEC will be working towards state re-accreditation over the next few months. For those of you unfamiliar with this term, it's like seeking a seal of approval from a higher governing body, in this case the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Based on **best practices** acknowledged in the field of early childhood education, MSDE has developed a set of standards and expectations for preschools and child care centers to strive toward.

Accreditation is a two-year process that begins with a **self-study**. The self-study is a reflective period where teachers, parents, and administrators use an assessment tool to reveal strengths and weaknesses in our program. From this phase of the process, we will develop a **self-improvement plan** in coordination with an MSDE mentor. Once changes are made and our improvement goals are met, typically we would invite the MSDE accreditation team to visit our school and make its final assessment. However, this year will be different, as is most everything else, and visits will occur virtually.

One of the most challenging, but exciting, parts of this program is the fact that it is cyclical. We go through this process every three years! It is a daunting and rigorous road, but we truly believe that if we are to grow life-long learners among our students, we must actively and affirmatively become partners in that process. Learn and grow. Grow and learn!

We are also involved in another MSDE program initiative called **Maryland Excels**. While our teachers are preparing their rooms for a potential virtual visit, they are also gathering their professional development plans for review. The goal of Maryland Excels is to improve the quality of early childhood education in Maryland through improving the professional development and education of its teachers. This process is called **credentialing** and all our teachers are required to participate in this program. Once part of this program, teachers must complete a preset number of credit hours in 5 different domains of learning every year. Annually, they resubmit their portfolios of professional development work for review, so again, this is an ongoing process to reinforce that self-improvement is not a destination, but a journey.

This is a lot of information to digest and keep track of, but at the core of our professional development is our desire to do our best at providing the community's children with an amazing early childhood education experience. With our teachers' hard work and determination, and the church's continued support, we will quickly meet these goals!



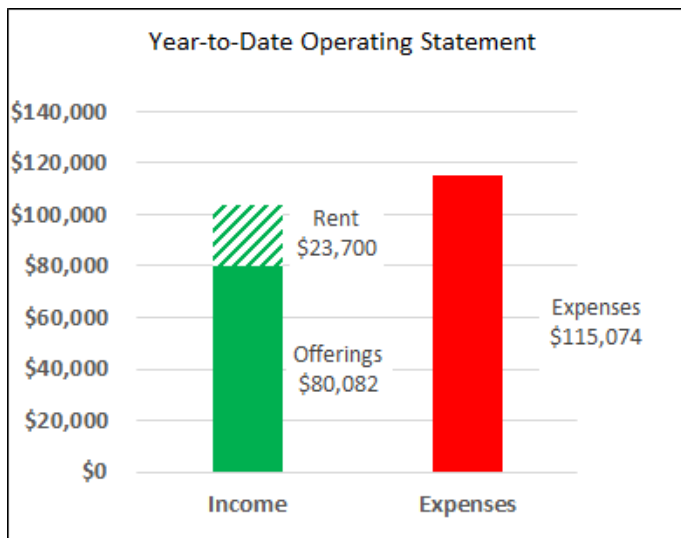
Warm Regards,
Christin Vare, EEC Director

Finance Report: St. Matthew's Finances at a Glance

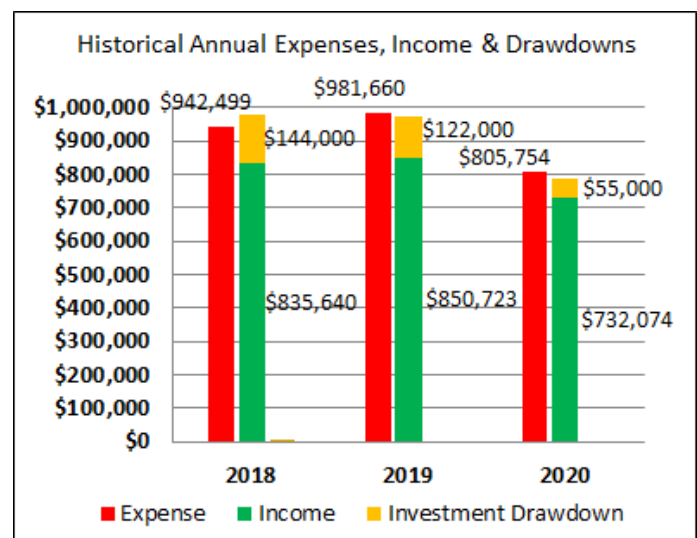
St. Matthew's Finance Committee works very hard to prepare reports for the Administrative Council. It is the Council's desire to share our financial status with the congregation on a monthly basis. Please direct any questions to our Finance Chair, Ray Orocco-John, at finance@stmatthews-bowie.org.

Click here for
Online Giving

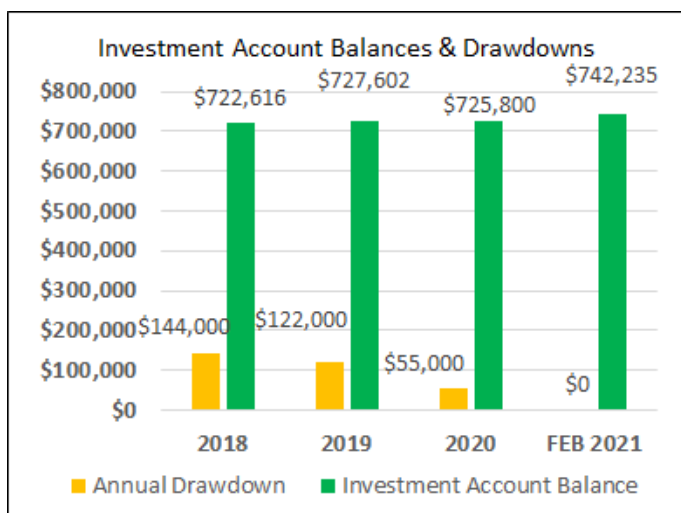
ST. MATTHEW'S FINANCES IN GRAPHS (February 2021)



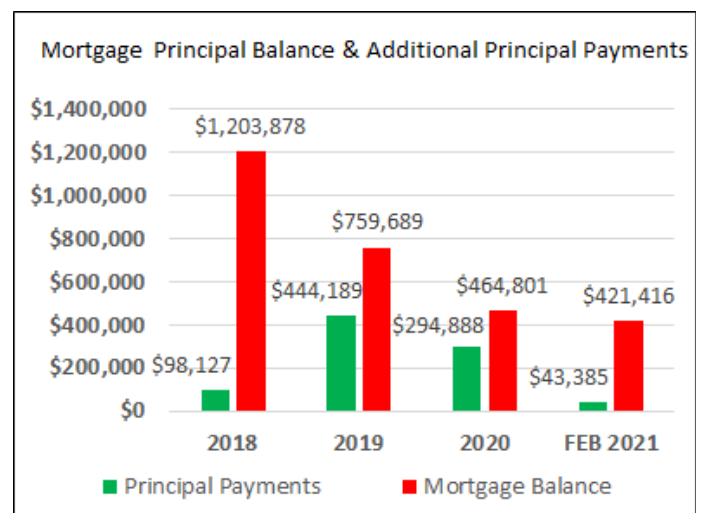
GOAL: Operating income should be greater than or at least equal to operating expenses



GOAL: To not need to draw down our investment portfolio to pay for routine operating expenses

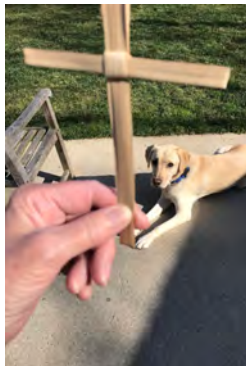


GOAL: To allow our investment portfolio to grow by not needing to use it to pay for routine expenses



GOAL: Mortgage burning party on December 31, 2021

Scenes from Palm Sunday





14900 Annapolis Road
Bowie, Maryland 20715-1898
Phone: 301-262-1408
E-mail: churchoffice@stmatthews-bowie.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
STMATTHEWS-BOWIE.ORG

Facebook: stmbowie

Time Dated Material
Please Deliver Promptly



Weekly Schedule

Sunday 10 a.m. Worship

The Order of Worship is emailed and posted on the web site and Facebook

Live-stream:

- [St. Matthew's UMC Facebook](#)
- [St. Matthew's UMC Website](#)

Zoom: email georgewood@stmatthews-bowie.org

Call-In: 301-715-8592 Mtg ID: 996 0251 9769
Passcode: 14900

Wednesday 7 p.m. Simple Prayer Service

The Order of Worship is emailed/posted as it is for Sunday. Live-stream and Call-in (see Sunday Worship)

Daily

6:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (except Sundays)

Call-in 712-775-7031, code 111-576-270#

Daily Devotional (except Wednesdays)

Posted on Facebook by 8 p.m.

St. Matthew's Welcome Statement

Inclusive Community. Connecting in Christ. Making a Difference.

St. Matthew's UMC is an inclusive church, connected to our community, and committed to welcoming all persons in every phase of church life. We choose to live by Christ's example, affirming that all people are created in the image of God.

We celebrate our diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, age, marital status, nationality, physical abilities, mental abilities and economic position. Through the Spirit we commit to live in the words of John Wesley to "love alike though we may not always think alike."

Wherever you are in your faith journey, you are welcome here.