



ST. MATTHEW'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Circuit Rider

May 2021

Volume 58, Issue 5

Come on in! Your seat is ready!

St. Matthew's will open its doors
to the congregation on

Sunday, May 2

for the 10 a.m. worship service!

*The service will also be broadcast
on Facebook and Zoom.*

Up to 70 people may attend.

Advance registration is required.

Beginning Wednesday, April 28,
register to attend online at

<http://bit.ly/StMatts-service-signup>

or contact Jane Thessin at

JaneThessin@stmatthews-bowie.org or call her at

the number listed in the church directory.

COVID-19 guidelines must be followed:

- Masks
- Social distancing
- Temperature checks
- Singing is *not* permitted

Sign-up for future Sunday services will be available
the Wednesday prior. Questions? Contact Jane
Thessin at JaneThessin@stmatthews-bowie.org.

Counting the Weeks until July 1

To reflect the diversity in the creation of humanity and the United Methodist Church, we celebrate the many gifts God has given us in so many ways. Each Sunday we will hear from a variety of preachers who will share with us their approach to God's love and grace. Let us celebrate this opportunity in preparation for Rev. Park's arrival July 1, 2021.

- | | |
|---------|--|
| May 2 | Dr. Johnsie Cogman
<i>Drive-Through Communion</i> |
| May 9 | Minister Delilah Parham
<i>Mother's Day</i> |
| May 16 | Rev. Galen Menne
<i>Ascension Sunday</i> |
| May 23 | Dr. Johnsie Cogman & Guest
<i>Pentecost, Heritage Sunday</i> |
| May 30 | Dr. HiRho Park
<i>Trinity Sunday, Peace with
Justice Sunday, Memorial Day</i> |
| June 6 | Dr. Johnsie Cogman
<i>Drive-Through Communion</i> |
| June 13 | Minister Hilda Macauley
<i>Graduation Sunday</i> |
| June 20 | Minister Gregory Parham
<i>Father's Day</i> |
| June 27 | Dr. Johnsie Cogman
<i>5th Sunday after Pentecost</i> |

St. Matthew's Administrative Council Report



Pastor Vacancy

With great anticipation, Rev. JW Park, will begin his time with us on July 1. Dr. Johnsie Cogman (our District Superintendent) will continue as our interim pastor until then, and we are blessed to have a group of preachers filling our pulpit through June (see page 1). You may continue to reach out directly to Dr. Cogman ("Dr. C") at jcogman@bwcumc.org or 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@stmatnews-bowie.org, respectively.

Catalyst/360 Initiative

Initial actions involve the creation of a diverse worship support team to reimagine and build on our current worship experience as we work to redefine SMUMC for the future!

Missions/Outreach

Dan Blades and Bob Fuller picked up 200 boxes each of hand sanitizer and soap from Mission Central, and all have been distributed. See page 7 for details.

Christian Formation/Family Ministry

ASP is scheduled for July 25-31 with the destination TBD. Look for separate notifications for meeting information and additional details.

Dr. Cogman will be hosting two new Bible studies beginning in May, on Monday and Tuesday evenings. The study books will be *Really Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs and *Romans* by N.T. Wright. More information can be found on page 4.

Trustees

The Trustees have approved two revenue opportunities for others to use our facilities. Neither of these activities impacts our non-profit status, but

both result in monthly rental income for SMUMC:

- A Beta House resident who lost her teaching job during COVID will be using our church kitchen during some daytime weekday hours for some of the assembly work associated with her baking business.
- The Acton Academy of Patuxent will be utilizing room 222/224 for their one-room schoolhouse from September-June. Contract review is currently underway. Other activities scheduled for this space will be moved to avoid conflict.

Financial Status

Offerings were \$68.9k for March, which is \$18.7k over budget for the month, thanks to a generous \$20k one-time donation. YTD total income is \$184.9k, which is \$5.2k under budget. Total expenses for March were \$67.3k, which is \$4k over budget. YTD total expense is \$182.4k, which is \$7.7k under budget. There was an operating gain of \$13.6k for March, with a YTD gain of \$2.5k. Additional cost savings will be recognized with a new 5-year copier lease beginning in April. YTD the investment account balance is up \$34.9k. No funds have been transferred from the investment account this year. The mortgage balance decreased \$71.4k in March to \$348.6k. It will be below \$300k by the end of April. Copies of the March financial reports are available in the Narthex.

Thank you for your continued support, which enables St. Matthew's to continue to function during this challenging time. As St. Matthew's is reopening for in-person worship on May 2, I look forward to seeing you there!

Lisa Wilson

Acting Chairperson, Administrative Council

Thank You from Chelsea

St. Matthew's,

I write to share with you that on May 10th I will graduate from Wesley Seminary with my Masters in Divinity! Five years ago, you all said yes to this young woman moving from Detroit. You knew that I would begin seminary down the road, and yet you took a chance on me. I am forever thankful for your “yes”; because of you my life, my call will never be the same.

You may not know this, but you all are what kept me in school that first year. I had so many questions about how seminary and work were going to go together. I was not sure if I could do it, and frankly I was not sure if I wanted to. Time after time you all reminded me of my call when I was unsure of it myself. School was never theoretical for me, because you, St. Matthew's, were real. You were my people, and you allowed me to grow into one of your pastors. It was with you that I found my call and from the place of pastor, I fell in love with the church.

You joked that I didn't need seminary, and yet from day one, you all have been my biggest cheerleaders. You allowed me to change my office hours. You excused me from meetings to be in class. You helped purchase books. You asked about my paper writing and my favorite authors. You commiserated about homework. You never questioned this part of my journey, but instead you supported it. You have prayed for me. You have blessed my backpack. You have delivered food during finals. You have tested liturgy I wrote for class. You have listened to me complain about professors and papers. The list goes on and on.

The last year and a half have been crazy for you and for me. I hope that you know that even from a distance you all have been on my heart and in my prayers. There is not a week that goes by that I don't think about you, check in on you from a distance, and hold you in prayer. School completely online is not how I envisioned my last year and a half of seminary, and yet on the days I felt like hitting pause I thought about all of you. You kept me going and here we are!

When I walk across the stage (yes graduation is in person—for graduates only) on May 10, I want you to know that I carry you all with me. I am who I am because of you. I am graduating seminary because you were a part of my village. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

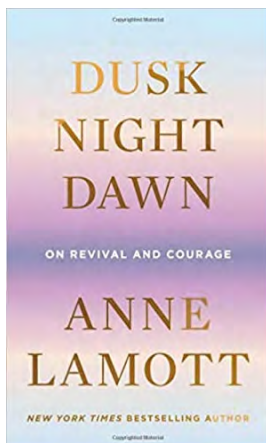
I miss you immensely and pray for you often.

With Deep Love and Gratitude,

Chelsea Spyres



Christian Book Club

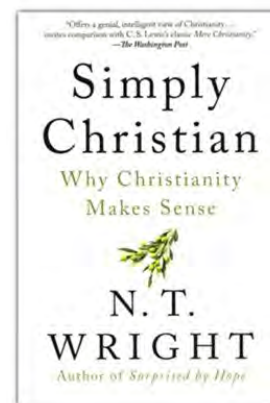


The Christian Book Club will meet on Tuesday, May 18, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

The book for May is Anne LaMott's latest book, *Dusk Night Dawn: On Revival and Courage*.

For the summer months of June, July, and August, the group will meet on the third Tuesday of each month.

We will discuss N.T. Wright's latest publication, *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*. This book is divided into three sections, so we will treat the first section in June, the second in July, and the third in August.



Two New Book Studies Offered in May

Dr. Johnsie Cogman will lead St. Matthew's in two new book studies via Zoom in the month of May. Please register in advance for each study using the links below.

Mondays - May 3 - June 7, 2021, 7 p.m.

Book: *Really Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs

Eight of the Bible's most notorious females strut across the pages of *Really Bad Girls of the Bible* with troubles that still hit home in the twenty-first century.

Registration link: <http://bit.ly/MayMondayStudy>

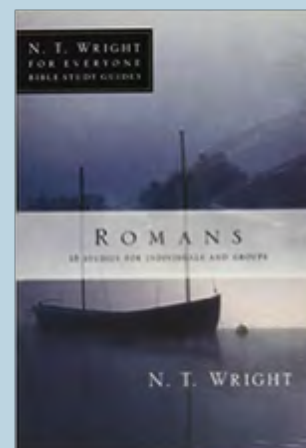


Tuesdays, May 4, 11, 18 at 7 p.m., and Wednesday, May 26, 7:30 p.m.
(following the Simple Prayer Service)

Book: *Romans* by N.T. Wright

With a scholar's mind and a pastor's heart, Tom Wright walks you through Romans in this guide designed especially with everyday readers in mind.

Registration link: <http://bit.ly/TuesdayBookStudy>



May Communion Offering for Peace with Justice

Moved by Christ's love to pursue reconciliation and peace, honoring the dignity of every individual made in God's image, The United Methodist Church is unwilling to turn a blind eye to injustice.

When you give to our May Communion Offering, Peace with Justice, your gift makes possible our critical kingdom work in the world. Because you give:

- United Methodists spearhead a peace ministry uniting Arizona border communities
- United Methodists in Liberia are being equipped to implement the denomination's Social Principles to address social justice issues
- Pennsylvania students are educating their community about sex-trafficking at home and abroad

These initiatives, and hundreds of others, are possible because of your gifts.



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 of Wisdom: When you are afraid, be still and know that God is real, and you are His beloved Son in whom He is well pleased. It is hard to understand what "The Kingdom of Heaven is within you" really means ... the word 'within' is unnecessary. The Kingdom of Heaven is you. Loving God, we pray for peace in the world through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

May Prayer Leaders: (In week order) Irene Schneider, Pastor Galen Menne, Mary Jennings, Peter Saderholm.

Looking for folks to join our Team of Prayer Leaders; please contact Irene Schneider.

We hope you will join us soon. "May peace prevail on Earth."

, Irene Schneider, Prayer Team Coordinator

May International Prayer Focus



In **Central America**, two things are driving more and more refugees trying to cross the **United States** border: gang violence and increasing food shortage. **Guatemala** has the sixth highest rate of chronic malnutrition in the world. Read more stories [here](#).

Seek the power of prayer and witness God's presence as healing prayers are answered.

UMW Meetings

Friendship Circle

Friendship Circle is **still** ever optimistic although we were also **chilly** at our April meeting in the garden. But it was great to see one another in person even at a distance, and we will try it again for our next meeting on **Monday, May 10**. We will meet in the garden, weather permitting (or on Zoom if necessary), gathering at 12:30 for social time and at 1 p.m. for the business meeting. Look for an email with a Zoom link or a confirmation of the outdoors plan. (We may end up calling on George Huffman for a better forecast since when the call was made last time the Saturday before, the forecast looked much better than the 56 degrees we encountered!)

Koinonia Circle

Monday, May 17, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Lisa Klein for an invitation to attend.



Farewell to Rev. Katy Hinman

St. Matthew's was blessed to have Rev. Katy Hinman as our preacher for one month, then two, then four. For her last Sunday we celebrated her time here with notes of appreciation, a suspiciously church-like planter, and a drive-through farewell.



Social Justice Coffee Chats

St. Matthew's has voted to become a Reconciling congregation . . . now what?

Grab your favorite beverage and join the Social Justice Sub-Committee for LGBTQIA+ for monthly Coffee Chats to talk about what it means to be an ally, and how we as a congregation can live out our calling. Our first chat will be **Sunday, May 16, at 2 p.m.** via Zoom. The link will be coming out in the weekly updates, so be on the lookout and we hope to see you there!



St. Matthew's in Mission

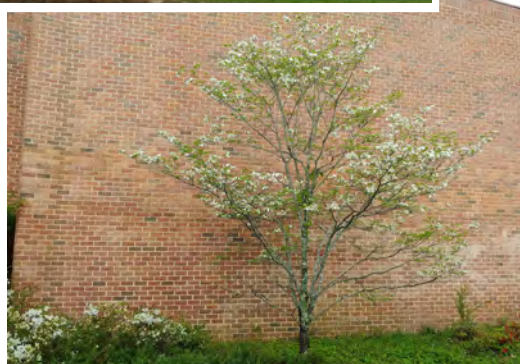
Keeping Bowie Safe

On a recent trip to Mission Central in Pennsylvania, we were able to get 200 boxes of hand sanitizer and foaming soap (that's 1200 bottles of each!). With the cooperation of the Missions and Outreach Committees, St. Matthew's was able to distribute them to the EEC, the Bowie Food Pantry, all 14 schools in Bowie, 3 child centers, 4 churches including Bowie UMC, Meals on Wheels, our own LFP, and the ASP team, and still have about 100 bottles to give out to our neighbors. Our thanks to Dan Blades for being there to unload the church truck and to those who drove by for Communion on Easter Sunday and picked up a box or two.

Now that things are opening up, we believe our purpose to make many people safer was realized.

Marian Eisinger (Missions) and Pat Clunies (Outreach)

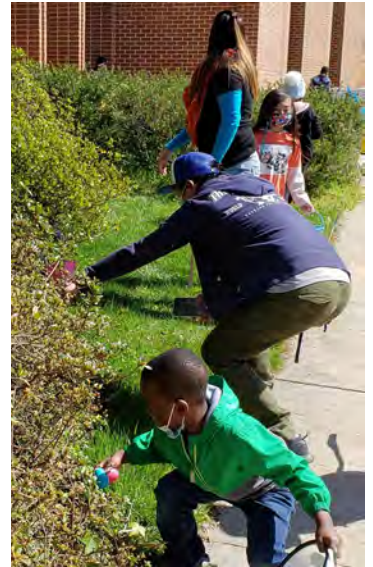
Springtime at St. Matthew's





Easter Eggs!

One happy sign of emerging from the long Covid-19 shutdown was the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Fortunately, the weather was sunny, if chilly (hey, it's still early Spring, after all). Many thanks to Becky Roper and her volunteers for organizing.



EEC Corner — Help Us Appreciate Our Teachers!

Dear St. Mathew's Church Family,

Teacher appreciation week is fast approaching and the EEC Board would like to invite you to help us celebrate the wonderful staff of the St. Mathew's Early Education Center. As you know, this year has been particularly challenging for our teachers. They have adapted and adjusted the learning environment in order to keep students happy, engaged, and safe during this difficult time.



We love and appreciate our teachers every day, but would like to take the time to make them feel extra special during the week of **May 3-7, 2021**. COVID restrictions have forced us to think outside of the box when it comes to planning a special week for teachers. We cannot do it alone and so we are asking for help from our church family to make this week extra special. Members can consider sending in a special note expressing gratitude or small token of appreciation to the EEC Office.

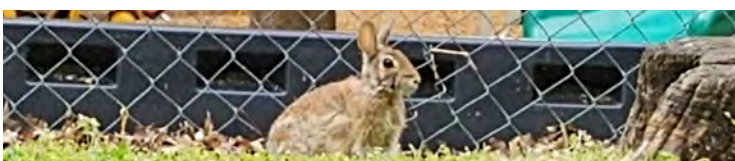
The staff has worked harder than ever this year to maintain a safe and fun learning environment for students. The Board would like to thank you for your unwavering support this school year and for helping us celebrate our amazing teachers.

Sincerely,

Leticia Gay, EEC Board Chair

eecboard1965@gmail.com

Easter!



Lectionary Readings for May 2021

May 2 – 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40; Psalms 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

May 9 – 6th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day

Acts 10:44-48; Psalms 98
1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

May 16 – 7th Sunday of Easter Ascension Sunday

Acts 1:1-11; Psalms 47
Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

May 23 – Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21; Psalms 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27,
16:4b-15

May 30 – Trinity Sunday Peace with Justice Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalms 29
Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

More Easter!



Life Changes

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

Betty Thompson	May 4
Jane Lee	May 15
Margie Dague	May 23
Martha Sallet	May 26



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.

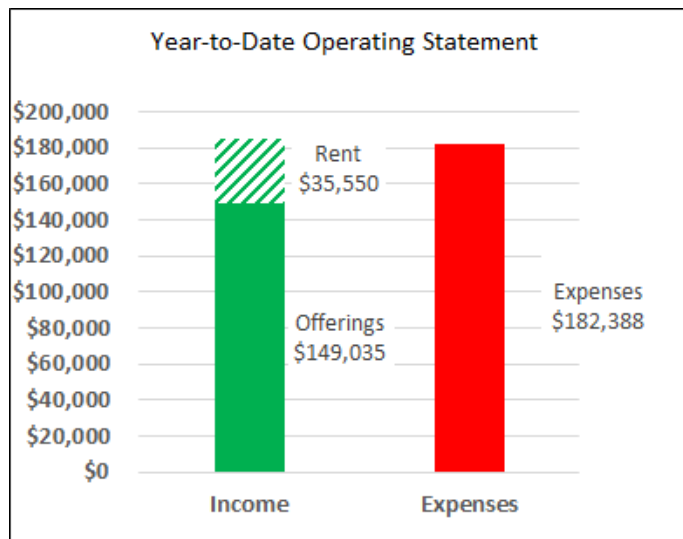
Please call to verify receipt of any faxed articles.

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

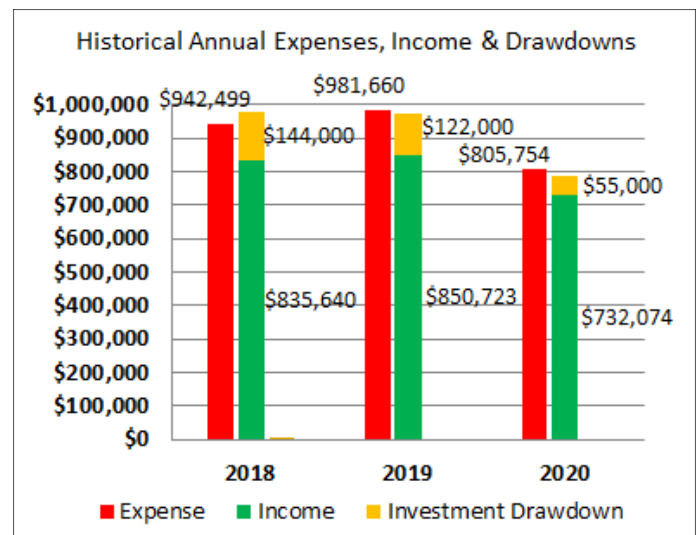
St. Matthew's Finance Committee works very hard to prepare reports for the Administrative Council. It is the Council's desire to share our financial status with the congregation on a monthly basis. Please direct any questions to our Finance Chair, Ray Orocco-John, at finance@stmatthews-bowie.org.

Click here for
Online Giving

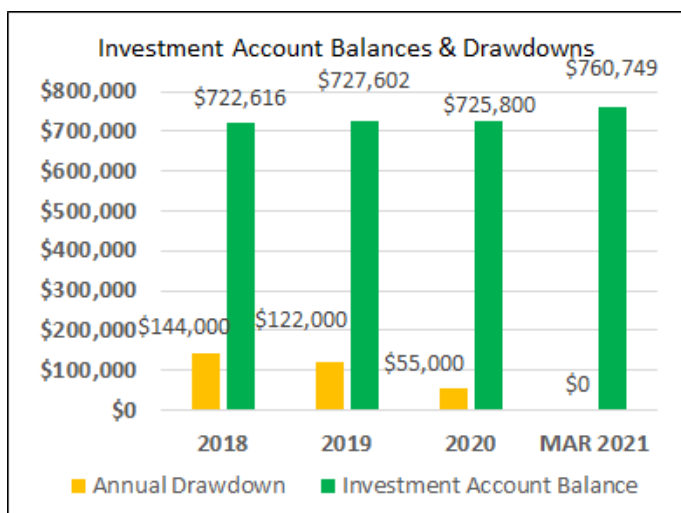
ST. MATTHEW'S FINANCES IN GRAPHS (March 2021)



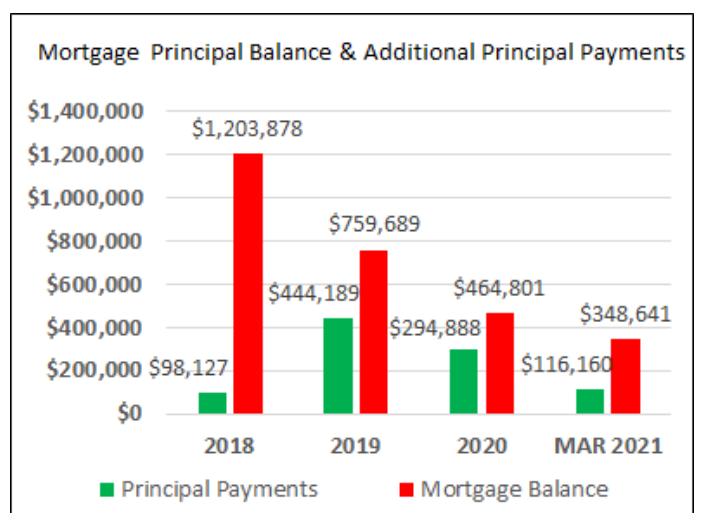
GOAL: Operating income should be greater than or at least equal to operating expenses



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



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Bowie, Maryland 20715-1898
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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.