



ST. MATTHEW'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Circuit Rider

July 2021

Volume 58, Issue 7

Farewell and Welcome

Turning the page on the calendar to July marks a change in leadership for St. Matthew's. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Johnsie W. Cogman ("Dr. C"), has led us as Interim Pastor since January. Thanks to the return to in-person worship, we could thank her personally for steering St. Matthew's through the uncertainty of the gradual return from the pandemic shutdown and leadership transition.



Picking up on this metaphor, Lay Servant Gemina Archer-Davies presented Dr. C with a model ship at the end of the worship service on June 27.

On July 1, Rev. JongWoo Park (JW) will start his appointment as St. Matthew's Senior Pastor. In his Pastoral Pondering on p. 2, JW introduces himself, and you can learn more about him in his [biographical sketch](#) on the St. Matthew's web site. He has had the chance to take part in services several times during the Spring, and we are pleased to have him around full time!



Look for announcements about a series of small-group meetings in which JW and congregation members will have a chance to start getting acquainted as we move into ministry together.

We're Open!



Rev. Park's Pastoral Pondering



Dear St. Matthew's family,

My name is JW Park, your new pastor as of July 1. I am so happy to come to St. Matthew's. It is my joy and privilege to serve God with you, so I am looking forward to meeting all of you and getting to know each other.

God is calling us to serve. I believe that what we do and where we go depends on God. After eight years of serving as a District Superintendent, God sent me to St. Matthew's, and I said yes to the appointment with a glad heart. I served God faithfully during the last eight years and I will dedicate myself to

serving God at St. Matthew's in the years to come.

I came from a non-believing family. I accepted Christ when I was in college, so I understand those who do not believe in Christ. I believe that my experience as a non-believer in my youth helps me effectively bring new people to Christ. My father served in the Korean Army for over 35 years, retiring as a major general, and then serving in the presidential cabinet. My mother was a school teacher. I have three older sisters and one brother, making me the baby of the family. [I don't think I am spoiled rotten, but I'll let you be the judge of that.] I came to the U.S. to finish my MBA, but God called me to the ordained ministry while I studied. This year marks my 29th year in the ordained ministry. My wife, HiRho, is also an ordained elder in the Baltimore Washington Conference, and has been appointed to Bethesda UMC, in Bethesda. She and I have one daughter, Felicia, who is getting married to Jesse.

I came to St. Matthew's to walk with you in our journey together, bringing healing and harmony. I am here to care for you and love you. We have suffered long enough from the pandemic, and we are more than ready to come back in full force to be the body of Christ. I can sense that God is doing something new with us as the prophet Isaiah says,

I am about to do a new thing;

now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:19, NRSV)

I am very excited to serve Christ with you and witness what God can do with us.

Blessings,

JW

Read more about JW in his [biographical sketch](#)

Congratulations to Gemina Archer-Davies!

Gemina is now a Certified Lay Servant!

After completing the required coursework and receiving approval from the District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries, Gemina has been certified as a Lay Servant in the United Methodist Church.



Dr. C (left) and Gemina Archer-Davies greet the congregation on Sunday, June 27.



What does this mean to St. Matthew's?

Gemina will serve St. Matthew's in one or more of the following functions:

- Provide leadership, assistance, and support to church programs.
- Lead meetings for prayer, training, study, and discussion when requested by the pastor.
- Conduct, or assist in conducting, services of worship, preach the Word, or give addresses when requested by the pastor.
- Work with appropriate committees and teams which provide congregational and community leadership or foster caring ministries.
- Assist in the distribution of the elements of Holy

Communion upon request by the pastor.

- Teach the Scriptures, doctrine, organization, and ministries of The United Methodist Church.

Additional information about Lay Servant Ministries can be found on the [Conference website](#).

Is this the same as a Lay Leader?

No, a Lay Servant could be appointed as Lay Leader; however, a Lay Leader may or may not have credentials to be a Lay Servant. A Lay Leader is appointed by the Nominations and Leadership Development Team and elected for a 3-year term at Church Conference.

Our current Lay Leaders are Gary Allen and Marian Eisinger. Our next election for Lay Leaders will be at our upcoming 2021 Church Conference this Fall. If you're interested in becoming a Lay Servant or serving as a Lay Leader, please talk to our new pastor, Rev. Park.

A Lay Leader may also be the Lay Member of the Annual Conference. Responsibilities of both positions include interpreting the actions and programs of the annual conference and the general church, and communicating the vision and needs of the local church to the Annual Conference and general church. These two roles are complementary, yet there are responsibilities unique to each role. The lay leader has a primary focus of linking the local church and community. The lay member of annual conference has a primary focus of linking the local church to the connectional United Methodist Church and God's worldwide church.

Editor's note: Many thanks to Rev. Dr. Johnsie Cogman for her assistance with this article

Our Youth are Heading to WV

St. Matthew's will send three teams of youth and adults to Clay County, WV the week of July 25-31.

They will participate in the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) repairing homes of residents there.

Thank you for your support in making this possible. Please pray for the teams to have safe travels and a productive week letting God's light shine through their work.



New Acolyte Ministry Coordinator

It is a pleasure to announce that Bee Scott will be our new acolyte coordinator! Any adult or youth interested in being an acolyte should contact her.



Information will be forthcoming about an Acolyte Summer Training and Refresher Gathering.

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 am. See dial-in instructions on page 12.

Covenant Prayer by John Wesley:

"I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

July Prayer Leaders: (In week order) Bill Schneider, Mary Jennings, Pastor Galen, Irene Schneider.

If you would like to host a week of Prayer and Reflection, please contact me. We would love to have you work with us as we strengthen our spiritual connection with God through Prayer.

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

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

July International Prayer Focus



A UN Agency, International Labor Organizations, has recently reported that 25 million people in the world are trapped in forced labor.

Read more stories [here](#).

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

Two Conference Events on Racism

There will be two Conference-level events coming up in July to help us to identify racism, confront it whenever we encounter it, and then take actions to change people's lives. All are invited to attend.

Panel Discussion on UM Charter for Racial Justice – July 10

Have you read the [United Methodist Charter for Racial Justice](#) lately? On Saturday, July 10, from 7 to 9 p.m. a panel discussion will be held on Zoom about the Charter, discussing racist language, what it is, and how it affects us on a daily basis. The link will be shared in the Midweek Messenger.

Mission u – Intergenerational Education Opportunity – July 23-24

The theme for the United Methodist Women's annual Mission u program this year is "Learning Together for the Transformation of the World." The inter-generational educational opportunities planned will examine finding peace amid the anxiety of today's world, the culture of violence that

impacts our children in and out of schools, and how we as God's people deepen our moral witness and respond faithfully to events.

Mission u will be held virtually on Friday and Saturday, July 23 - 24. There will be a variety of sessions and activities, including "Finding Peace in an Anxious World" for adults, "Managing Anxiety" for youth in grades 7-12, and, on Saturday afternoon, a panel discussion of *Pushout - Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* for all attendees. *Pushout* is a book and a related video (available free on [Kanopy.com](#) with your library card) about how young Black women are stigmatized and mischaracterized, especially in schools, which then negatively affects their education.

Registration is open now and the cost is \$25 for adults and free for youth. [Complete information can be found here.](#)



Rev. Katy Returns!



Rev. JW Park will be away on Sunday, July 11. We will welcome Rev. Katy Hinman back to St. Matthew's to preach that day!

Come and meet her in person and let her see the

faces of so many who appreciated her messages earlier this year.

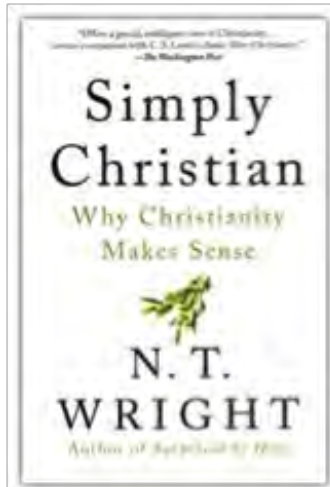
Administrative Council Report

St. Matthew's Administrative Council did not meet in June so there is no report to the congregation this month. The council next meets on Thursday, July 22, the first meeting with incoming pastor Rev. JW Park.



Christian Book Club

For the months of July and August, the group will meet on the third Tuesday. We will discuss N.T. Wright's latest publication, *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*. This book is divided into three sections; the first was covered in June. On Tuesday, July 20, at 7 p.m. the second section will be discussed. We will complete the book in August.



Coffee Chat

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 next chat will be **Sunday, July 18 at 2 p.m.** via Zoom. The link will be coming out in the *Midweek Messenger*, so be on the lookout for it, and we hope to see you there!



Life Changes

Deaths:

Erica Turner, beloved teacher for over 12 years at the EEC (died June 19)

Elizabeth "Betty" Zalewski, long-time member of St. Matthew's. She was active in the handbell choir and Altar Guild and was a staunch member of the Angel Gang (died June 22)

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



July 3	Loring Dague
July 3	Barbara Layton
July 3	Carl Pekala
July 4	Beverly Gingell-Fitch
July 7	Beverly Landymore
July 10	Pete Saderholm
July 12	Tom Price
July 14	Clyde Draughn
July 14	Ginny Hale
July 16	Barbara Haddock
July 17	Bill Day
July 17	Bonnie Walker
July 22	Roland Foskey
July 27	Millie Bechtold
July 29	Claudia Baker

News from Our Missionaries and International Partners

[Helen Roberts](#), Liberia, General Education and Ministry: [Liberia Education Update February 2021](#)

[St. Matthew School, Liberia:](#)

- **Scholarships:** 46 students were given a Bowie scholarship to attend St. Matthew School this year. See [St. Matthew School Scholarship Update and Greetings March 2021](#) for more information.
- **Science Laboratory Update:**
 - ▶ 146 students are currently taking science. See them at work in this [March 2021 video of science students demonstrating electricity](#) video.
 - ▶ Earlier this year, the Liberian Department of General Education's Science Department observed, graded, and praised the students at St. Matthew School. It was the only United Methodist school with students who passed the Liberian national science examination; in fact, all of their students who took the national examination successfully passed. [Helen Roberts](#) was impressed that St. Matthew achieved this.
 - ▶ The science laboratory was established through our congregation's financial assistance in 2018.



[Impacto Ministry](#), Guatemala: The St. Matthew's 2021 mission trip is canceled. Please pray for the people of Guatemala—very few have been vaccinated. Check out [May 2021 What's Happening](#).

Missionary and International Partners Prayer Focus: Temporarily halted.

If you enjoy learning about our missionaries and international partners and would like to be a liaison with them and help connect them with our congregation, please contact missions@stmatthews-bowie.org for more information.



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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.

Missions Community Activities



[Bowie Food Pantry](#): Learn more about what the pantry is doing in the [Bowie Food Pantry Newsletter](#).

[Little Free Pantry](#) Thank You: One morning when Margie Pekala was picking up food donations at St. Matthew's for the Bowie Food Pantry, she saw a man getting food from the LFP box (pictured to the left). He waved and called out, "Thank you so much. I was so hungry." Your contributions to Bowie Food Pantry and Little Free Pantry make a difference to the hungry in our community.

[Champ House Recovery, Inc.](#): During the pandemic, St. Matthew's continued to provide hygiene items and cleaning supplies to Champ House. See what Champ House is doing in this [Champ House Capital Gazette Article 04272021](#).

[Mission Central Hub](#):

- Provided Hand Sanitizer and Foaming Hand Soap to [GiGi's Playhouse](#), a non-profit that provides free educational and therapeutic programs to individuals with Down Syndrome of all ages and their families.
- Churches working together to help our communities:
 - ▶ Faith UMC in Rockville gave us over 250 children's books, which we provided to Laurel Elementary School (a Title I school), along with some sunscreen, which Principal Melinda Lee picked up (pictured to the right).
 - ▶ St. Matthew's forwarded two boxes of books from Mission Central to Glenelg UMC for donation to a Title I School in their area.
 - ▶ Faith UMC in Rockville sent 100 Cleaning Buckets and Parish Nurses of Huntingtown UMC sent 60 Hygiene Kits .
- Gave Parish Nurses of Huntingtown UMC instant cold packs, dry shampoo, hand sanitizer, and foaming hand soap for donation to a shelter they support in southeast DC.
- Received Thank You letters from [High Bridge Elementary School \(March 2021\)](#) and [Tall Oaks](#)



July Communion Offering

The communion offering for the month of July will go to support our Children and Youth Ministries.

More Missions – Men's Shelter Meals

Once a month, St. Matthew's provides the Sunday evening meal for the Prince George's House Shelter for Homeless Men.

2021 Appreciation for completed meals:

January - A gathering of friends; February - Leahy-Thielke family; March - Ogbonna family; April - UMYF; May - Jody Rudd and Linda Cooper; June - Koinonia Circle.

2021 Act 2, the second half of 2021:

July - Agape Circle; August - Friendship Circle; September - Martha Circle; October - Missions Committee; November - UMYF; December - Ray Denmark and United Methodist Men.

In every instance, there are many unnamed hands that prepare the meals and bring them to the church. When UMW circles are providing the meals, they share responsibilities among their members. When a family has offered to prepare the main course, others are invited to fill in the peripherals. Never has a man had to leave the table hungry. Indeed, to my mind Christ is always the unseen guest who is present, and in whose name we serve.

Due to covid-19 restrictions, we have not actually entered the shelter to serve, instead asking for some of the men to come carry the ever-generous meal into the house. We may say a prayer with or for them outside, rather than form the circle with all as we would normally do inside. We hope to return to the actual serving before this calendar year is out.



Linda Cooper, Shelter Meal Coordinator

Lectionary Readings for July 2021

July 4 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost US Independence Day

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalms 48,
2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

July 11 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalms 24,
Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

July 18 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalms 89:20-37,
Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 25 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalms 14,
Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

UMW Announces Upcoming Events

Circles are on summer hiatus; we are looking forward to FINALLY meet in person! Please put the following dates on your calendar as we will gather together beginning in the Fall!

Fall Tea
& Secret Sister
Reveal
September
18, 2 - 4 p.m.



Craft Show
November 6, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Epiphany Brunch
January 8, 10 a.m. - Noon

More of St. Matthew's in Person



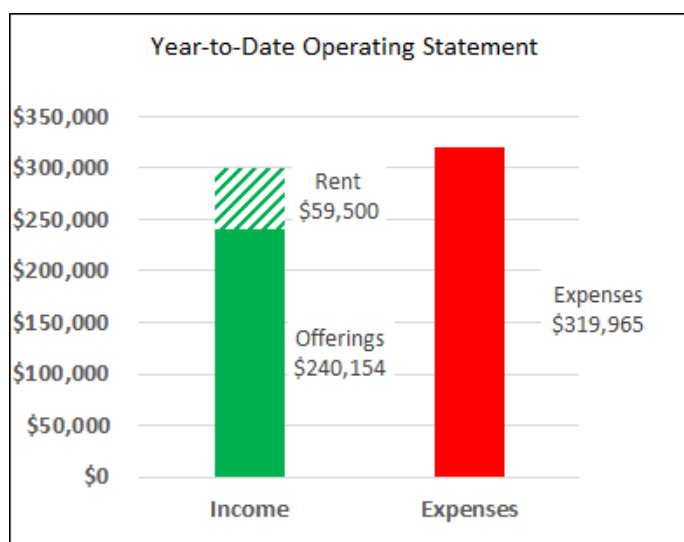
Above and Left - Scenes from the powerful Listening Circle on Sunday, June 6

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

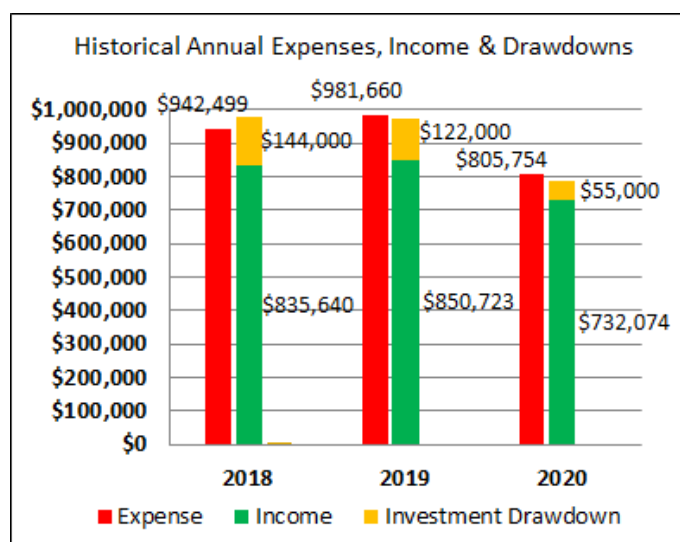
St. Matthew's Finance Committee works very hard to prepare reports for the Administrative Council. It is the Council's desire to share our financial status with the congregation on a monthly basis. Please direct any questions to our Finance Chair, Ray Orocco-John, at finance@stmatthews-bowie.org.

Click here for
Online Giving

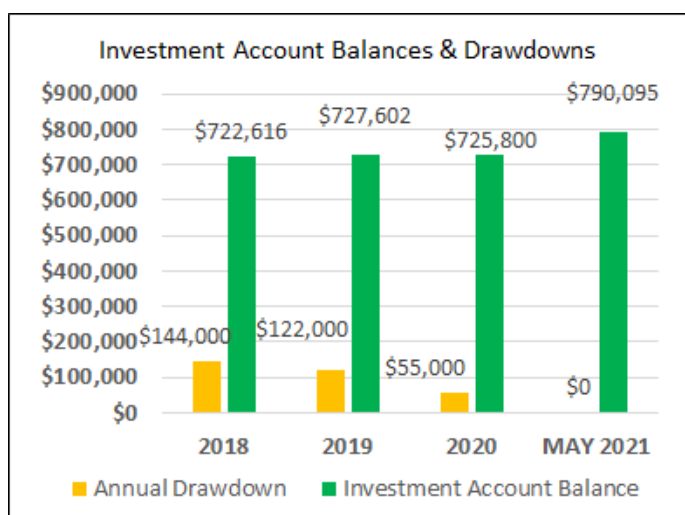
ST. MATTHEW'S FINANCES IN GRAPHS (May 2021)



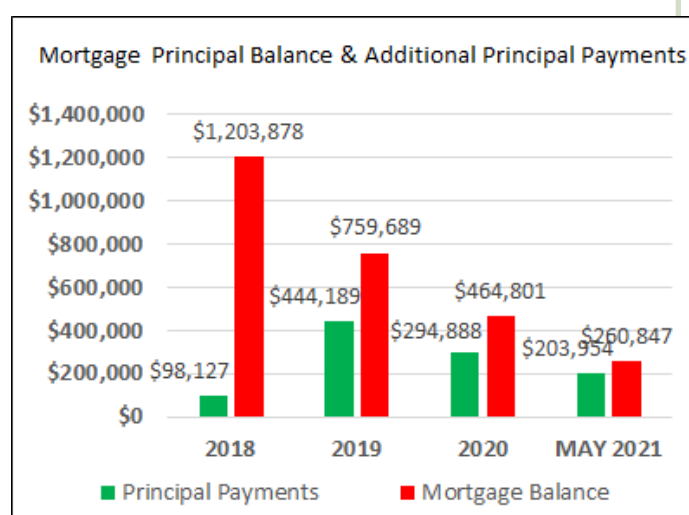
GOAL: Operating income should be greater than or at least equal to operating expenses



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

Facebook: stmbowie

Time Dated Material
Please Deliver Promptly



Weekly Schedule

Sunday 10 a.m. Worship

In-person services have resumed—masks are not required for those who are vaccinated.

Live-stream:

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

Zoom: Contact church office for the link.

Call-In: 712-775-7031, code 111-576-270#

Wednesday 7 p.m. Simple Prayer Service

In-person service plus live-stream or 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.