



Church on the Move: May 11



Please join us in Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m. to participate in Church on the Move 2024. We have moved

the event to a Saturday so as not to disrupt our Sunday service and to allow more people to participate.

We will assemble buckets for UMCOR, prepare cards to go to Guatemala, pull weeds in the front garden of the church, prepare sandwiches for The Light House shelter in Annapolis, and other tasks that come along.

We are asking everyone who attends to bring a bag lunch. We will supply drinks and dessert. The event ends at 12:30 p.m.

Sign-up sheets will be available at the Welcome Desk on Sunday, May 5. If you have any questions, contact Pat Clunies.

Clean-up Day: Saturday, May 4

Please plan to help with our Spring Cleanup around the church's exterior on **Saturday, May 4, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Tasks include weeding and cleaning up gardens, trimming shrubs, power-washing bricks, and many other chores. The Trustees will provide refreshments and water. **Please come and lend a hand to beautify the church.** Watch the Midweek Messenger for a list of things to bring, if possible. **Please RSVP** to trustees@stmatthews-bowie.org.

CROP Walk: Sunday, May 5

The lead dogs are set! Plan to join in and show your support for Joyful Johnny, Lovely Lily, or Marvelous Mando (aka the Darling Korean Dumpling). Pick your favorite pooch and look for more information in the *Midweek Messenger* on how to join the team through your participation or donation.



St. Matthew's Dueling Doggies will be participating in the traditional Hyattsville Area CROP Hunger Walk on **Sunday, May 5 from 1 to 4 p.m.** Participants will meet at the Linson Pool parking lot for registration and then walk around Lake Artemesia. Contact Angela Cockrell for sign-up sheets or more information.

Scenes from Worship



The newest addition to St. Matthew's! Ezekiel Christopher Chuwueb Akuave was baptized on Sunday, April 7. He is the son of Francis and Cheryl Lightfoot-Taylor Akuave and the grandson of Christopher and Genevieve Lightfoot-Taylor.



The Earth Care Sunday service on April 21 featured a special Children's Message from Maureen Fine and a performance by the Mother Earth dancers.



Administrative Council Update from April 2024



Please note that Administrative Council meetings are open to the congregation, even when we are holding them via Zoom during times of COVID precaution. If you wish to attend, please contact Chuck Hastings for Zoom details; however, be advised that discussion and voting are limited to Ad Council members. A list of the members of the 2024 Administrative Council can be found [here](#).

Financial Status

Offerings were \$48.6k, which is \$0.1k under budget for the month. YTD total income is \$185.4k, which is \$20.2k under budget.

Total expenses for March were \$70.1k, which is \$1.2k over budget for the month. Apportionment is

current. YTD total expense is \$207.5k, which is \$0.6k over budget.

There was an operating loss of \$8.1k for March, with a YTD operating loss of \$22.1k.

Investments increased by \$12.1k last month to \$655.8k. For the year, the investment account balance is up \$22.0k (+3.5%). YTD there have been no transfers from investments.

The average weekly attendance last month was 162, which is up from 143 the previous month.

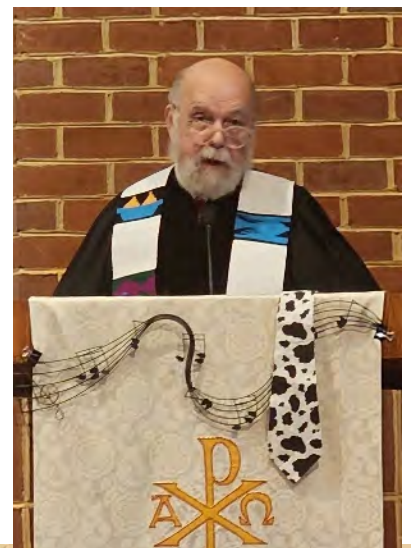
The Administrative Council did not meet in April.

Chuck Hastings, Chair



Worship and Music Sunday

On April 28, we celebrated Worship and Music Sunday. Isaac Borocz, our Director of Music Ministries, led a service full of musical praise to the Lord. Isaac (at right), brought out his bovine tie as he ruminated on living a Christian life at St. Matthew's and beyond. The Chancel Choir and the Gloria Ringers contributed musical messages to our worship.



Children and Youth News

Children's Sunday School

All children are invited to Room 126 following the worship service. Join us!

ASP Mission Trip

Our youth will be traveling to Dickenson County, Virginia, for this year's ASP Mission Trip. We will leave on **Sunday, July 7**, and return **Saturday, July 13**. We look forward to serving the residents of Dickenson.

Car Wash

Calling all those pollen-laden cars! Our youth group will be holding their annual Car Wash on **Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. - 12 noon**. All donations will go toward their July ASP Mission Trip.



Confirmation

Three of St. Matthew's youth will be confirmed on **Sunday, May 19**. The entire congregation is invited to come in-person that day to support them during our Worship Service.

Hike!

No, not football ... Mark your calendars, then come on out and join our Youth Group for their annual Spring Hike on **Sunday, May 19**. We will leave St. Matthew's at 2 p.m. and return around 6 p.m.

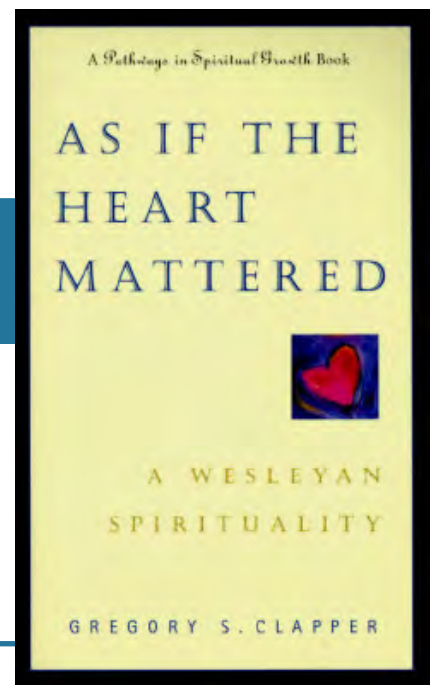
Family Time on May 26

There will be **no** Children's Sunday School or Youth Group on **Sunday, May 26**. Happy Memorial Day weekend!

Adult Studies

Christian Book Club

meets on **Tuesday, May 21, at 7 p.m. via Zoom**. The book for this month is Gregory S. Clapper's *As If the Heart Mattered: A Wesleyan Spirituality*. As always, all are welcome to join us. Read and discuss a good book this month!





Messy Church Conference Report

In mid-April I attended a three-day national conference on “Celebrate the Mess.” A little background on “Messy Church”: The idea of Messy Church began in 2004, when an Anglican church near Portsmouth, U.K., was frustrated because they were hardly reaching any children and families with God’s story. They began Messy Church as a way to bring together all ages, based on creativity, hospitality, and celebration. This month they celebrate their 20th year!

At the conference, Dr. Doug Powe presented with Rev. Luke Edwards on Cultivating Community Relations with Your Messy Church. Dr. Powe is the Director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership and the James C. Logan Chair of Evangelism at Welsey Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. He is the author of several books and

serves on the Messy Church USA Board of Directors.

Rev. Luke Edwards, an ordained UMC elder, is the Associate Director of Church Development for the Western North Carolina Annual Conference (UMC). With a background in social work, Rev. Edwards has spent the past 15 years helping start micro-faith communities with a holistic model of church-community engagement.

The conference was attended by people from all over the United States, as well as from Melbourne, Australia and the U.K. Workshops emphasized three main categories of Messy Church: Creativity, Hospitality, and Community.

I am so excited to continue Messy Church at St. Matthew’s and am very grateful for the opportunity to have met people as excited as I am about Messy Church. I can’t wait to bring the ideas to life at our church. Stay tuned for more information about Messy Church in the June Circuit Rider!

*Thank you,
Becky Roper*



The Gloria Ringers performing on Worship and Music Sunday.

Making an Impact - Endowment Committee Funding

Your Endowment Committee is anxious to support church projects to further God's Kingdom—within St. Matthew's, in the Bowie community, and beyond. According to Isaiah 1:17, "... learn to do good; seek justice; correct oppression; defend the fatherless; plead for the widow." And John Wesley advises, "Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can."

The Committee has voted to distribute up to \$6,000 from 2023 earnings.

We would like to hear from you about those projects that will make a difference. Distributions may support:

- ▶ Missions
- ▶ Praise and Worship
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Music
- ▶ Capital improvements and maintenance of church property



Past funds have been distributed for scholarships to Bowie High School students, to update the Little Free Pantry, for Church on the Move, to support a school in Guatemala, and to create the native garden area in front of the church.

To submit an idea, please state how it will be used for St. Matthew's and our congregation, or for our local community, or for the world; explain how it supports one of the areas listed above; and estimate how much money it will require. Suggestions are welcomed by June 30, 2024; send them to endowment@stmatthews-bowie.org, turn them in at the Church Office to the Endowment Committee, or e-mail a committee member directly.

Questions? Ask a member of the committee: Dick Baker, Chris Bayes, Scot Dahl, Jackie Gerard, Ruth Miller, Debbie Pierson, and Gail Seekins, or send an email to endowment@stmatthews-bowie.org.

A St. Matthew's tradition ... the cast of *My Fair Lady* singing an adaptation of a key song in the show to advertise the Theatre Troupe's latest production.



United Women in Faith

All women are invited to attend any/all of the circle meetings. For more information, send an email to uwf@stmatthews-bowie.org.

Friendship Circle will meet on **Monday, May 13**, in the Parlor at 12:30 p.m. for socializing. Our business meeting starts at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome! Delicious refreshments are available after the program.

Martha/Agape Circle will meet on **Friday, May 17**, in the Parlor at 10:30 a.m. Please note this is a week later in the month than we usually meet. We will continue our video/discussion study on the fruits of the Holy Spirit with Lesson 4, *A Life of Peace*. All are welcome to attend. No preparation is needed.

Koinonia Circle will meet on **Monday, May 20**, at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



United Women in Faith



On Worship and Music Sunday, Isaac and Cora Vare (above) accompany the Chancel Choir, while George Huffman (below) did it all—ringing bells, singing in the choir, AND reading the scriptures!



Nutty about Chocolate? Try the UWF Ongoing Fundraiser!

Besides the newest UWF fundraiser of a Car Show (see box at left), the UWF also raises funds through orders from Terri Lynn. Both of these fundraisers support women, children, and youth both locally and abroad. You can order delicious nuts, chocolates, trail mix, etc. Order over \$30 ship free! Go to <https://united-methodist-women-of-st-matthews-umc.terrilynn.com/> to check it out!

Save the Date!!!



Father's Day Car Show

Saturday, June 15, 2024

9 a.m.—2 p.m. *Rain or shine!*

Car Registration: \$20

No Charge for Spectators Food available for purchase Children's Activities

Show takes place in St. Matthew's parking lots; Spectator Parking at Bowie HS and at Jireh Place (across Rt. 450)

All proceeds to support the Bowle Food Pantry and the missions of St. Matthew's United Women in Faith



St. Matthew's in Mission

Mission Central Spotlights the St. Matthew's Hub

In February, Hope Harrison, Mission Central Executive Director, wrote, "Thank you so much for your support and generosity! I continue to be amazed by the great work your Hub does!" Mission Central spotlighted our [St. Matthew's UMC Disaster Response and Outreach Hub](#) 2023 work under the leadership of Bob Fuller in their April 17, 2024, *MissionLink* report. It has been a privilege for St. Matthew's to partner with Mission Central since 2010 to help meet local, national, and global needs. If you would like to help with this effort in 2024, please email missions@stmatthews-bowie.org. There are a variety of ways to serve!



1,000 Feminine Hygiene Kits from Messiah UMC in Springfield, VA, packed up and ready to go out.

Mission Central's "MissionLink" Article on the St. Matthew's Hub

St. Matthew's UMC Disaster Response and Outreach Hub 2023 Annual Report

We are excited to highlight the incredible impact of St. Matthew's UMC Disaster Response and Outreach Hub in 2023. This Mission Central Hub, based in Bowie, Maryland, serves as a collection point for UM churches and other religious groups in Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. In addition to resource collection, they distribute thousands of supplies to local communities and provide supplies to organizations such as Mission Central and Orphan Grain Train, which serve communities locally, nationally and internationally. In the spring of 2023, resources from this hub even went across the world to Ukraine and victims of the earthquake in Turkey.

Received and Distributed Locally

St. Matthew's Hub partnered with local churches to collect 70 pairs of socks, 151 Feminine Hygiene Kits, 4 bags of clothing, and boxes filled with 100+ hygiene items. Resources were distributed to various settings, including a men's shelter, a local elementary school, a non-profit organization, food pantries, and a refugee family. These partners are St. Matthew's UMC Congregation, Bowie Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Administrators in Ministry (AIM) from UMC's Baltimore-Washington Conference.

Received from Mission Central and Distributed Locally

In 2023, St. Matthew's Hub made three trips to the Mission Central Warehouse in Central Pennsylvania to drop off resources from their collections and pick up resources to take back and distribute in their local community.

Continued on p. 9

Mission Central's MissionLink Article on the St. Matthew's Hub, continued

Continued from p. 8

With the additional resources from the Mission Central Warehouse, the St. Matthew's Hub distributed 200+ baby items, 1,900+ baby wipes, a variety of diapers, 1,200 bandages, school supplies, 1,000+ medical supplies, cleaning supplies, adult hygiene items, and clothing to various organizations, including a local school, an early childhood education center, food pantries, and other local non-profits and organizations.

Received Locally and Taken to Mission Central

St. Matthew's Hub collaborated with local churches, ministries, nurses, and Harford County Community College's Nursing School to collect 60 UMCOR Cleaning Kits, 20 Flood Buckets, 158 Hygiene Kits, over 1,000 Feminine Hygiene Kits, hospital beds, medical supplies, clothing, and other household items throughout the year. All of these items were delivered to Mission Central to be distributed to those in need.

We are truly grateful for St. Matthew's UMC Disaster Response and Outreach Hub and their dedication to serving those in need in their local communities and around the world. We look forward to seeing the impact you will have in 2024!



Life Changes

Deaths:

Linda Day, wife of Bill Day (died April 4)

Wendell Hanlin, brother of Margie Dague (died April 16)

Viola DeWindt, sister of Olive Domingo (died April 23)



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

- Betty Thompson May 4
- Bill Willoughby May 6
- Margie Dague May 23



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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.

Lectionary Readings for May 2024

May 5 – 6th Sunday of Easter

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

**May 12 – 7th Sunday of Easter
Ascension Sunday; Mother’s Day**

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalms 1
1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

Ascension of the Lord Lections:

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

May 19 – Pentecost

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

May 26 – Trinity Sunday

Peace with Justice Sunday

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



Pat Layfield (left) shows off her signed copy of "Of Sadness and of Pleasure," written by St. Matthew's own Ray Orroco-John (right).

May Communion Offering: Peace with Justice

Donations for this special Sunday support programs and ministries to educate, equip, and mobilize actions in support of identified Economic, Health, and Gender Justice Priorities.

Half of the funds collected on this Special Sunday will remain in the Annual Conference to strengthen social justice ministries within the local conference. The other half of the donations collected will fund national and international peacemaking ministries and grants.

UNITED METHODIST SPECIAL SUNDAY
PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

50%

REMAINS IN THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SUPPORT

Donations support programs and ministries to educate, equip and mobilize networks to engage in social advocacy and action.

50%

FUNDS PEACEMAKING MINISTRIES AND GRANTS

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church*

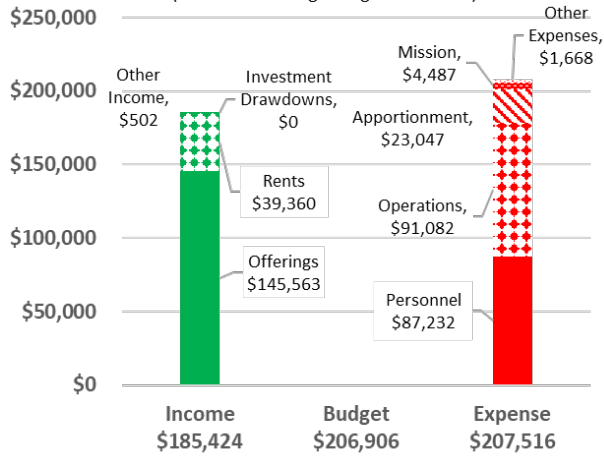
Finance Report: St. Matthew's Finances at a Glance

Please direct questions to our Finance Chair, Scot Dahl, at finance@stmatthews-bowie.org.

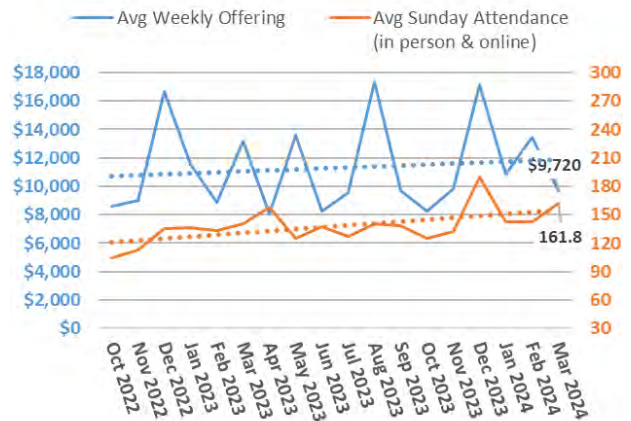
[Click here for Online Giving](#)

ST. MATTHEW'S FINANCE CHARTS (MARCH 2024)

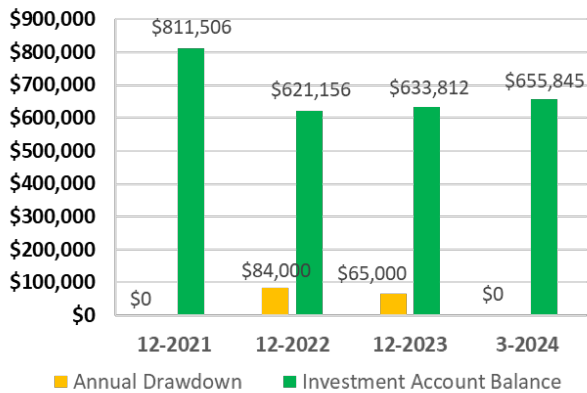
Year-to-Date Budget Statement
(excludes unbudgeted grant income)



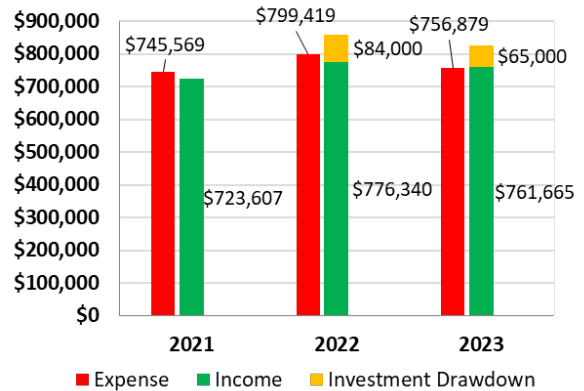
Average Weekly Offering & Sunday Attendance with Trendlines



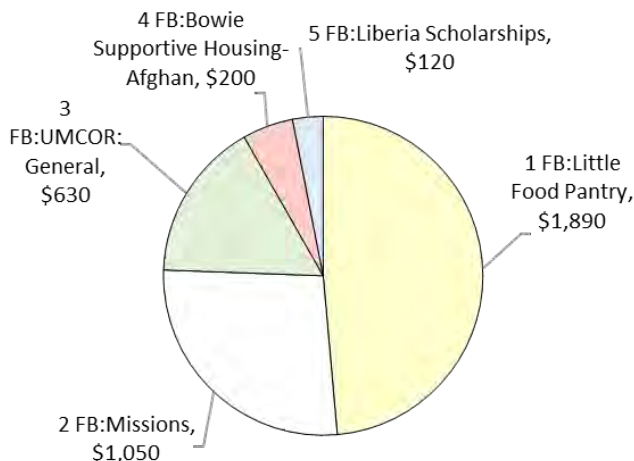
Investment Account Balances & Drawdowns



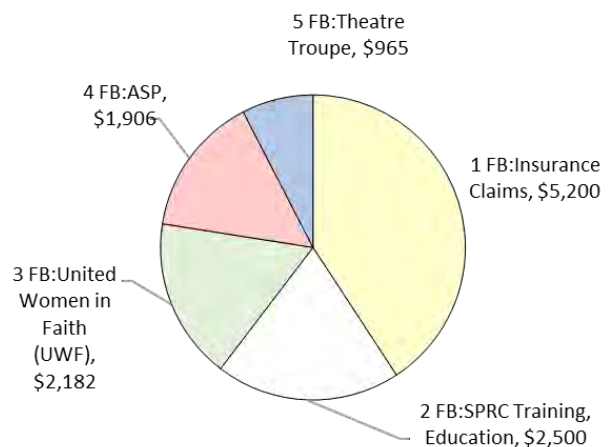
Historical Annual Expenses, Income & Drawdowns



Top 5 Mission Fund Donations Received Year-to-Date



Top 5 Other Fund Donations Received Year-to-Date





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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 Services In person

10 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary w/Children's Church

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

Zoom: Contact church office for the link.

11 a.m. Children's Sunday School, Rm 126
Adult Sunday School, Church Parlor
Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday 9:45 a.m. Bible Study with Isaac in Parlor
7 p.m. Bible Study with Rev. Park on Zoom

Wednesday 7 p.m. Simple Prayer Service (Sanctuary)
In-person or call-in 267-807-9601,
access code 111-576-270#

Daily 6:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (except Sundays)
Call-in 267-807-9601,
access code 111-576-270#

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.