



# ST. MATTHEW'S

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Circuit Rider

May 2025

Volume 65, Issue 5

## Annapolis Pride Parade & Festival is May 31!



St. Matthew's will once again participate in the annual Annapolis Pride Parade and Festival on **Saturday, May 31**. Due to construction projects, some final details are still

pending, but we know this so far:

- 9 – 11 a.m. Festival booth set-up
- 11 a.m. Meet for parade
- Noon Parade begins
- 12 – 5 p.m. Festival
- 5 – 5:30 p.m. Booth clean-up

The festival will be located at the Maryland Hall parking lots and the Bates Field area, which are next to each other. Information on where to park, our booth location, etc., will be shared when available.

We are in need of help at our booth, especially for set-up and clean-up, and for parade participants. A vehicle will be available to transport people who cannot walk the route.

If you signed up at the SHEEP Fair to help at this event, Karen Hastings will be contacting you. For more information or to sign up to help, please contact [LGBTQ@stmatthews-bowie.org](mailto:LGBTQ@stmatthews-bowie.org). Your support of the LGBTQIA+ community speaks to what a Reconciling Congregation represents!

## Celebrate LGBTQIA+ Sunday on May 18

St. Matthew's UMC has held an LGBTQIA+ Sunday Service since 2020. In past years, guest speakers and our own members shared the message that we must follow God's will and Jesus' teachings to love all people just as they are.



In 2025, LGBTQIA+ Sunday is **May 18 at 10 a.m.** in the Sanctuary. If you would like to help plan or participate in this service, please contact [lgbtqadvocacy@stmatthews-bowie.org](mailto:lgbtqadvocacy@stmatthews-bowie.org). All are invited!

## Last Chance to See "The Fantasticks"!

St. Matthew's Theatre Troupe will present the final shows of *The Fantasticks* on **May 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 4, at 3 p.m.**

Tickets can be reserved by calling the church office or they can be bought at the door.



# Administrative Council Update from April 2025



***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 2025 Administrative Council can be found [here](#).***

The Administrative Council did not meet in April since the meeting night fell during Holy Week.

## **Financial Status for March 2025**

Offerings were \$49.7K, which is \$1.1K under budget for the month. YTD total income is \$192.8K, which is \$0.2K under budget. Total expenses for the month were \$69.1K, which is \$2.9K under budget for the month. Apportionment is current. YTD total expense is \$205.7K, which is \$10.2K under budget, excluding capital improvements.

There was an operating gain of \$53.9K for the month, with a YTD operating gain of \$60.1K (including grants and budgeted transfers from investments).

Investments decreased by \$20.7K last month to \$608.8K. For the year, the investment account decreased \$10.5K from \$619.3K. No funds have been transferred from the investment account so far this year.

The average weekly attendance last month was 139, which is down from 143 the previous month. Average weekly attendance last year was 137.

## **Outreach Position**

SPPRC has released the job posting for the outreach position; which you can see below.

*Chuck Hastings, Chair*

# Job Opportunity at St. Matthew's



The Staff Pastor-Parish Relations Committee has posted a job opening for a Community Outreach Coordinator.

## **Responsibilities**

The Community Outreach Coordinator works to strengthen St. Matthew's connection to the community. This includes collaborative leadership in marketing, advertising, special events, partnerships with Christian churches, other houses of worship, schools, colleges, and universities, and all (local, regional, national, and international) mission efforts.

Additional details can be found at <https://stmatthews-bowie.org/job-opportunity/>.

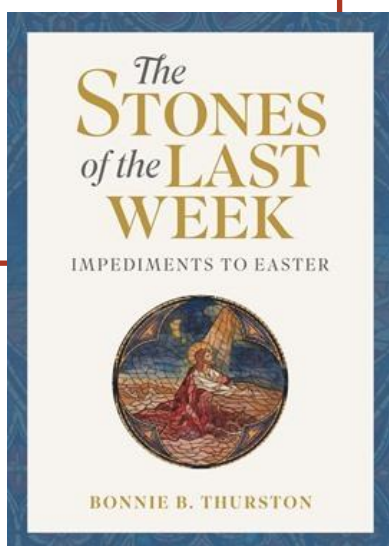
To apply, please submit a letter of interest and resume to [jobs@stmatthews-bowie.org](mailto:jobs@stmatthews-bowie.org).

References will be requested after the initial screening. For full consideration, please respond by **Monday, May 5, 2025.**

## Christian Book Club

On Tuesday, May 20, at 7 p.m., we will discuss Bonnie B. Thurston's book, *The Stones of the Last Week: Impediments to Easter*. As always, the Zoom link will be sent on the preceding day.

Please join us for these discussions as we move through the season of Lent!



## Tuesday Bible Studies



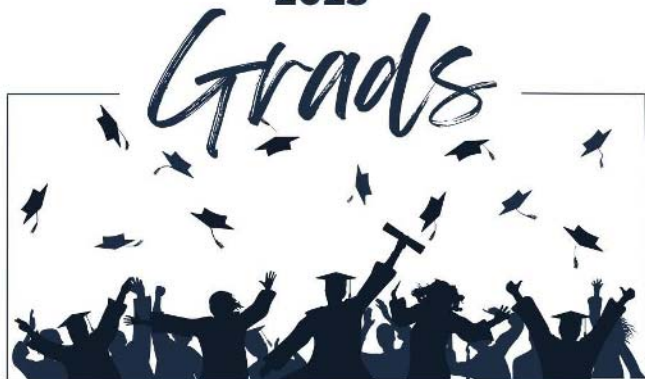
### Morning

9:45 a.m. Bible Study with Isaac in the Parlor.

### Evening

7 p.m. Bible Study with Rev. JW Park on Zoom. Join this discussion as we reflect on the lessons of Lent and Easter using the study book, *In the Footsteps of the Savior* by Max Lucado. We are discussing a chapter each week so the study will continue through May. You are welcome to join the study at any time. The Zoom link will be sent out prior to each meeting.

It's time to CELEBRATE our  
2025



We are getting ready to celebrate the St. Matthew's Graduates of 2025! Let us know where they're graduating from and heading to next, and include a picture, if possible, to share with the congregation during worship.

We will celebrate graduates from all school levels, including Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle School, High School, and College/Vocational/Technical Schools!

Please send your information to [beckyroper@stmatthews-bowie.org](mailto:beckyroper@stmatthews-bowie.org) by **Monday, May 12**, to be included in the June Circuit Rider.

Thank you!



## United Women in Faith

All are invited to attend any/all of the circle meetings. For more information, send an email to [uwf@stmatthews-bowie.org](mailto:uwf@stmatthews-bowie.org).

**Martha/Agape Circle** will meet on **Friday, May 9**, in the Parlor at 10:30 a.m. We will continue our video/discussion study on the fruits of the Holy Spirit. All are welcome! No preparation is needed.

**Friendship Circle** will meet on **Monday, May 12**, 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.

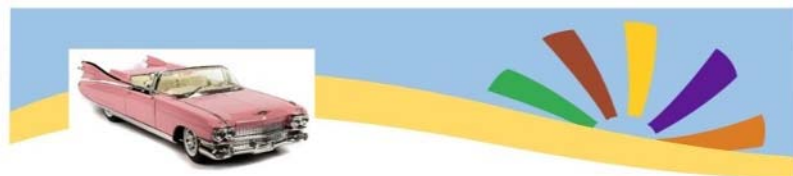
**Koinonia Circle** will meet on **Monday, May 19**, at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



United  
Women  
in Faith



*The Lenten Brunch featured good food and great fellowship, along with an inspirational message from Rev. Marguerite Matthews.*



### Father's Day Car Show

**Saturday, June 14, 2025**

**9 a.m.—2 p.m. Rain or shine!**

**No Charge for Spectators**  
**Food available for purchase**

**Crafters**  
**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 Bowie Food Pantry  
and the missions of St. Matthew's  
United Women in Faith**

### Nutty about Chocolate?

**Try the UWF  
Ongoing  
Fundraiser!**



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

# SHEEP Happenings

## Guatemala Mission Trip Update

Mary Adams (pictured at right) had a great time on the March mission trip to Guatemala and working with Impacto Ministry. The week was very busy, productive, and rewarding. It included a Women's Retreat on grace; visits to three Happy Tummies locations with crafts, games and a Prodigal Son lesson; a morning with the Abuelitos (little grandparents); home visits to three Happy Tummies families; and construction on the Impacto Compound wall.

St Matthew's provided school supplies and toys, girls' dresses, two canes, and decorations, craft packets and treats for the Women's Retreat. The Mission Team felt blessed by the smiles and hugs received and sent a thank you that provides details of the week and a special message for our SEALs: *"Thank you for the craft packets for the Women's Retreat! The ladies enjoy making the cards. Your contribution has such a meaningful impact!"*



On April 2, Helping Hands' six helpers had a good time stuffing lots of Easter Eggs with candy and toys.

## Thank You for Moahid Family Support

The Moahid family cannot express enough joy and excitement about the generous gifts of kindness and support provided by St. Matthew's to assist their recent move to a home they now own. The SHEEP team contributed \$1,500, the congregation donated \$1,725, and Bowie Supportive Housing Corporation provided \$3,000.



The funds assisted with early rent payoff, the move of their belongings using the church truck, and updates to their new home. Again, your generosity made such a difference at a critical time in their journey.



## Upcoming SHEEP Events

Please save these dates and look for more information in the bulletin and *Midweek Messenger*.

For questions, please email

[SHEEP@stmatthews-bowie.org](mailto:SHEEP@stmatthews-bowie.org).

- [Helping Hands](#), Wednesday, May 7, 10:30 a.m, in the SHEEP Barn (Room 223). Come and help make [UMCOR Hygiene Kits](#). Bring a lunch/snack; dessert and drinks are provided.
- **5th Annual LGBTQIA+** special service on Sunday, May 18, 10 a.m.
- **Annapolis PRIDE Parade, Booth & Festival**, Saturday, May 31



## SHEEP Letters and News

- [Bowie Food Pantry Thank You, February 2025](#)
- [Bowie Food Pantry Newsletter, February 2025](#)
- [Little Free Pantry](#) team thanks you for your contributions. You make it possible for us to help those who are hungry in our community.
- [Global Ministries, Missionary Support, 19 March 2025](#)
- [Give Ye Them to Eat \(Mexico\) Newsletter](#)



*This year's egg hunt was a big hit with the children who played games, looked for eggs, and emptied their eggs into their baskets so the eggs can be filled for next year's egg hunt!*



# UMCOR and Our Church

On March 30, we celebrated UMCOR Sunday with a mission moment by Rod Berfield and a booth during Coffee Hour about United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and St. Matthew's UMC support to UMCOR.



UMCOR is the worldwide humanitarian arm of the UMC and has been relieving human suffering for more than 80 years. UMCOR provides relief when war, conflict or natural disaster disrupts life to such an extent that communities cannot recover on their own. UMCOR journeys with affected communities throughout a disaster's cycle, including disaster preparedness, relief, response, recovery and mitigation.

In 2024, UMCOR responded to 137 humanitarian crises around the world. Learn more about UMCOR's 2024 responses [In Times of Crisis, in Places of Need—You Make Recovery Possible](#) (UMCOR, 27 Feb 2025).

UMCOR is currently responding to very recent disasters. Some examples include U.S. wildfires in eastern and western U.S., severe flooding and storms in the southeastern, central, and western U.S. , and, worldwide, the 7.7 magnitude earthquake in Myanmar and flooding in the Congo. They remain engaged in communities whose disasters are no longer in the news. UMCOR's Facebook page provides updates on their ongoing efforts.

St Matthew's supports UMCOR throughout the year by providing monetary donations and disaster awareness as well as facilitating UMCOR Kits (e.g., flood buckets and hygiene kits) getting to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania via our Mission Central Hub. Mission Central is the largest of seven warehouses within the UMCOR Disaster Relief Network. As one of four Point of Delivery locations for the Baltimore Washington Conference Disaster Ministry, we collect, verify and provide logistics and transportation support to shepherd the kits built by us and other regional congregations to Mission Central.

To learn more about BWC Disaster response and meet Thea Beaton, who leads this ministry and is a UMC Level Disaster Response Coordinator, watch UMCOR Partnerships with US Annual Conference. Thea gives the third testimonial.

From January 2024 to March 2025, St Matthew's provided:

- UMCOR Sunday offerings of \$470 in 2024 and \$420 in 2025;
- UMCOR's Greatest Need donations of \$3,405;
- UMCOR's Disaster Response for US/National Support of \$1,500 budgeted church funds;
- 1,900+ UMCOR hygiene kits and flood buckets from 15+ churches.

In the upcoming June Circuit Rider, look for more information about our Mission Central Hub, our UMCOR support, and our Hub's impact in the last 18 months.

For more information or to volunteer, contact [@stmatthews-bowie.orgworldwideoutreach](mailto:@stmatthews-bowie.orgworldwideoutreach).



On Palm/Passion Sunday, the Gloria Ringers played "The Palms" and, with Isaac Borocz on the organ, accompanied Rod Berfield singing "Betrachte, Meine Seele" [BWV 245/19], written by J.S. Bach, arranged by Jeff Shaumeyer (who also directed both pieces).



On Good Friday, the Chancel Choir presented a poignant rendition of "Not My Will, But Yours" by Lloyd Larson. The powerful piece was directed by Isaac Borocz and accompanied by Betsy Lord on piano and Chris Bayes on flute.



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

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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.



## 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.



## Life Changes

### Deaths:



**Myrta Marshall**, mother of Deb Marshall (died April 7)

**Ruth Belvins**, sister of Lisa Klein (died April 14)

**Eddie Adorney**, mother of Barbara Lambert (died April 18)

**Olive Domingo**, long-time member of St. Matthew's and United Women in Faith (died April 24)

### Birthdays:



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



The month of April closed with a special Earth Care service. (left) Melinda Lee led the Children's Message and (above, l to r) the guest speakers were Lorraine Clarke, Rod Berfield, and Ray Denmark.





## Lectionary Readings for May 2025

### May 4 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Psalm 30  
Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-9

### May 11 – 4th Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day

Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23  
Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

### May 18 – 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148  
Revelation 21:1-16; John 13:31-35

### May 25 – 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67  
Revelation 21:10,22-22:5; John 14:23-29



*Easter was a glorious day at St. Matthew's! After the garden service and a delicious breakfast, the Sanctuary was filled with singing and music. (above) Rev. JW Park greets the trio of musicians (l to r) Chris Bayes, Alex Wiedman, and Cora Vare who contributed beautiful music to the service.*





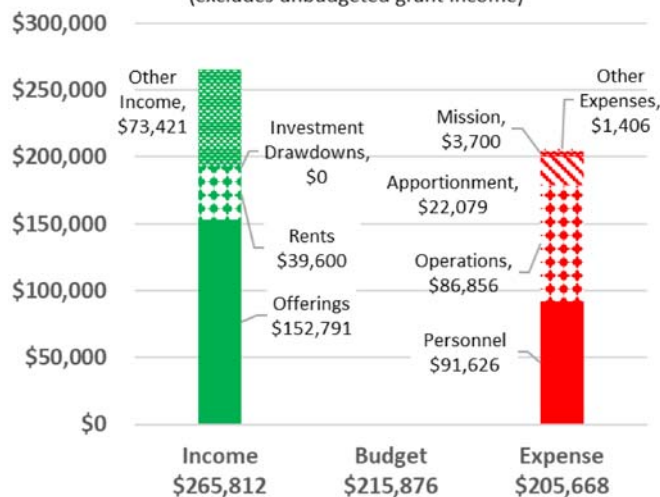
# Finance Report: St. Matthew's Finances at a Glance

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, Scot Dahl, at [finance@stmatthews-bowie.org](mailto:finance@stmatthews-bowie.org).

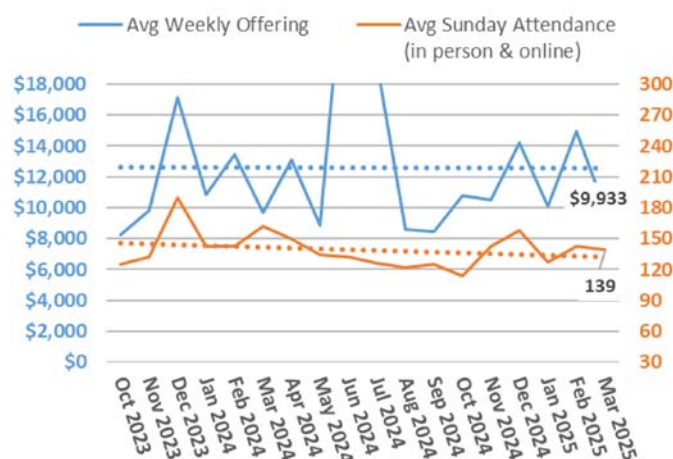
Click here for  
[Online Giving](#)

## ST. MATTHEW'S FINANCE CHARTS (MAR 2025)

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



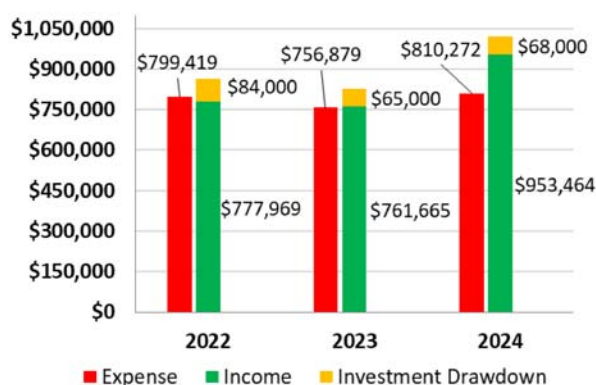
**Average Weekly Offering & Sunday Attendance with Trendlines**



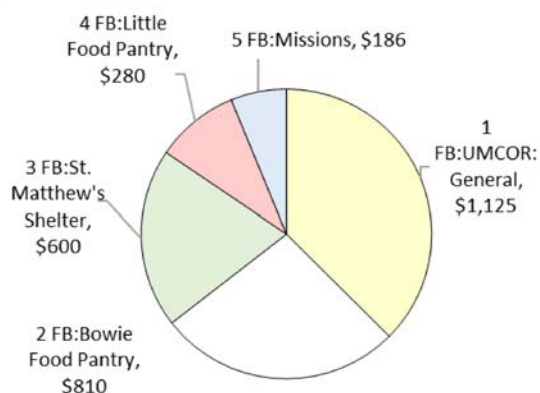
**Investment Account Balances & Drawdowns**



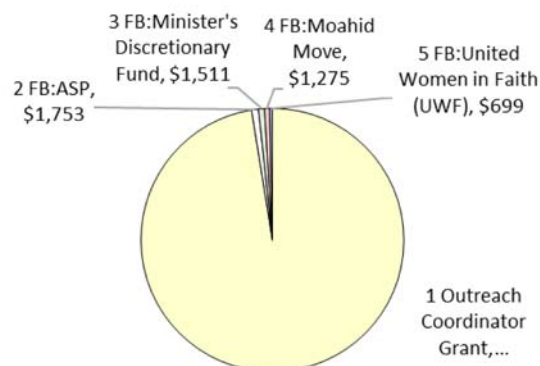
**Historical Annual Expenses, Income & Drawdowns**



**Top 5 Mission Fund Donations Received Year-to-Date**



**Top 5 Other Fund Donations Received Year-to-Date**





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**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 222**  
**Adult Sunday School, 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.**