

St. Matthews By the Sea

Newsletter

Fall Edition—October 2025

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Writings from Rev. Jake Macklin

*"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it.."*

Psalm 24:1

On a recent Sunday, I took some time in the sermon to discuss stewardship. We often forget that stewardship is not only about money. God has gifted us so much in this life and we are called to be good stewards of other things besides money. For example, how do we steward our time each and every day? How are we being good stewards of the God given gifts that each of us possess? How are we being good stewards over our health, to the best of our ability? All of these are important questions for us to consider as we strive to be healthy disciples of Jesus Christ.

We also live on a planet in which God created. How are we playing our part in being good stewards of the earth? Psalm 24:1 ultimately reminds us that everything belongs to God and God alone. As we enter into the fall season, I encourage you to take time to praise God as you witness God's handiwork outside in creation; let us be reminded of the beauty that surrounds us. Whether it's taking a walk and enjoying the changing colors, sitting outside on a crisp morning/evening while listening to the sounds of nature, or being with others in the midst of the great outdoors. Not too long ago, I received a text message from a Fenwick Island resident who lives next to the church. He wanted to show me the beauty of the harvest moon rising about the ocean on a cool, October evening. I was amazed at what a great picture this was (see below) and it was a reminder to me to pay attention to God's handiwork all around and give thanks and praise. As we are entering the last couple months of the year, a lot is ahead (Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas). Let's plan to be intentional about entering these seasons with a sense of praise and gratitude!

Grace and peace,

Jake



Harvest Moon in Fenwick on October 6, 2025
Submitted by a neighbor of the church.

FROM THE LAY LEADER

Dave Edwards



On August 6th, I met with Pastor Jake to discuss a number of items regarding my responsibilities at St. Matthews. I thought it was a very positive meeting, we saw eye-to-eye on everything. What I didn't expect, what I didn't see coming in that meeting was an offer to become the next Lay Leader at St. Matthews. Of all of the positions I have held in the churches Cherie and I have attended, Lay Leader was the one position I had never held nor expected to ever hold. Nevertheless, after a week of thought, discussions with Cherie and many prayers, I accepted the offer. The announcement Pastor wrote and the following emails, text messages, and phone calls I received from our church family were truly humbling. Thank you for all of your kind words. There will certainly be a learning curve, but I make you this promise, with your help and prayers and with God's guidance, I promise I will do my best to serve as your Lay Leader. It is certainly going to be a challenge for me, but a challenge I look forward to. And I will move forward trusting in Psalm 46:10, "Be still, and know that I am God".



Trustees and YOU!

Hope you've noticed some updates around the Church. The Narthex has been painted as well as Clendaniel hallway and the office hall. The office and Miller are next. Thank you to those who served by painting and to those who donated the paint!

Updated signage is going up to help new people and visitors find their way. It also meets United Methodist Church and Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Signs were also donated.

The Utility Room has a step down when you enter. Please be careful!

You'll see new gutters going up to solve some ongoing drainage issues and save some wear and tear on the building.

We passed our annual Fire Marshall Inspection.

If you'd like to know more about your Trustee roles and responsibilities, please talk with a member of the Committee or call the office to get connected. With the new calendar year, there are several openings on the Committee. We'd love to have you serve with us!

In His Service, Your Trustees

Written by Terry Wildermuth, Chairperson



SMBTS's finances remain in a strong position. Combined offerings and contributions received through August 31 total \$185,000 and exceed the budget expectations by more than \$6,000. Overall expenses remain consistent with the FY2025 budget. Interest income on cash holdings continue to help reduce the negative operating results that were budgeted for the entire year (expenses budgeted to exceed offerings/inflows by \$23,000). Total cash reserves are approximately \$697,000 as of August 31. These reserves are projected to decrease to support the annual operating budget as well as forecasted capital outlays for building maintenance and structural improvement projects.



Church Council News

Welcome to Fall in Fenwick! It's the time of year when we look forward to great weather, less traffic, off-season restaurant specials, and getting back into the swing of our routines. We have a lot going on at St. Matthews, and I encourage you to take a close look at the options available through the Ministry Opportunity Commitment card and booklet that are a part of our annual Stewardship Campaign.

In addition to the listed committees and groups, we have a couple of openings on Church Council. If you are interested in serving as Secretary or a Member-at-Large, please see me or Pastor Jake.

St. Matthews is a great place to be and that is because of the many things we do with God's help. But we can only do those things because people are willing to say yes and get involved. And the benefits of being involved are multiplied...not only do we honor God through our service, but we also grow together as a faith community. I am a firm believer that on Sunday mornings we stand shoulder to shoulder and face forward in worship, but it is when we meet

and serve together outside of Sunday mornings that we are face to face, and that is how we make connections with one another.

There is a place for you and your gifts! Join a Committee! Sing in the Choir! Attend a Bible Study or UMM/UWiF Gathering! May this season find you refreshed and renewed and ready to say "Here I am"!

God is Good!
All the Time!

Kelly Rymer
Church Council Chair



United Methodist Men (UMM)

UMM

The United Methodist Men were busy this summer. In June, the UMM organized the church family's annual trip to Salisbury to see a Shorebird baseball game. In July, the UMM took a boat trip to the Ocean Pines Marina for lunch then shared in Holy Communion on the Bay. In July and August, the UMM organized two fishing trips, one on a head boat out to the Atlantic Ocean, the other a fishing trip in the Assawoman Bay. And in September, the UMM met for lunch at Off The Hook in Bethany and worked with the UWiF to organize the annual church picnic. With summer behind us, the monthly UMM breakfasts will begin again on October 4th in the fellowship hall. At that meeting, the men will develop plans for the balance of 2025 and the early months of 2026.



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith (UWIF)

At the September 9 meeting the United Women In Faith began the process of developing the purpose of our group with a focus on women, children and youth within our community (primarily Sussex and Worchester counties).

Our October 14 meeting will begin at 11 am with lunch provided as we create craft items to be sold at the Christmas bazaar. Marsha Butterfield will lead us by preparing sample crafts and instructions as to their completion. All the ladies of the church are invited to attend.

Our November meeting will be held on the 11th beginning at 12:30 pm in Clendaniel Hall.
Topic: World Thank Offering – Giving as an Expression of Our Faith.

On Friday, November 14 from 4 - 6 pm and on Saturday, November 15 from 8 am – 1 pm, the UWIF will hold its annual Christmas bazaar featuring attic treasures, tools, pretty jewelry, books, toys, unique handmade craft items, delicious baked goods, variety of Christmas decorations, amazing baskets overflowing with goodies, colorful photographs and the United Methodist Men will sell hotdogs with a soda and chips as well as homemade soup. This year we will feature the Christmas café, a festive room where you can sit to enjoy your food sold by the UMM.

Please support our bazaar by donating items and then by coming to the bazaar to purchase goodies. We need volunteers for set-up, to be cashiers, to be at a station for sales, to dismantle, etc.

On December 9 we will celebrate the Christmas season with a luncheon and cookie exchange, beginning at noon.

Our gatherings, held the second Tuesday of each month, are open to the ladies of St. Matthews, as well as friends, family members and women of the greater community. Be a part of this wonderful group of ladies doing God's work.

Blessings,

Sherry VanDyke

President



Checkerboard Ministry

Written by Vicki Daisey

Checkerboard met on Sunday, September 28, for a Fall Dance, and everyone had a great afternoon. We will meet again from 2:00-4:00 p.m. for a Christmas Celebration in Clendaniel Hall on Sunday, December 7. If you know someone who is intellectually challenged and would like to attend our Checkerboard activities, please contact Vicki Daisey at 410-251-0836. Also, please call Vicki if you are interested in helping with activities.

If you know someone who would like to participate with our group, or if you are interested in helping with activities, please contact Vicki Daisey at 410-251-0836.

Vicki Daisey, Chair



Faith, Hope & Love Quilters

This wonderful group of ladies meets on the second and fourth Monday of every month at 10:00am in the Clendaniel Community Hall. There are stations for tying, sewing, ironing, and fabric cutting. The group completes quilts and readies them for delivery to Beebe until about noon. We then enjoy a potluck lunch for those who wish to stay. All materials are provided via generous donations by the group, the community, and other groups within the church.

Contact Jeanie Higgins at 410-208-8208 or faithhopelovequilters@gmail.com for more information or if you would like to donate to the effort. We hope you will help us spread God's love and comfort to the community

MISSIONS



Thanks to your generosity, throughout 2025 St. Matthews has a budget of \$12,500 for the Missions Committee to support of sharing God's love globally and locally. Our selected organizations include:

UMC Global: Lorraine Charrinda
Sussex County Crises Housing Center
Society of St. Andrew
Sussex County Pregnancy Center
International Students
Seed Company
TMS Global Missionaries: The Roberts
World Link Ministries
Red Bird School
The Way Home
Mission Aviation Fellowship
Christian Friends of Korea

After the budget for 2026 has been established, we will meet in November to discuss next year's allocation. If you would like to be a part of this team and have a voice in this decision, you are welcome to join the Missions Committee!

Kelly Rymer
Missions Committee Chair



Hospitality Team

The Hospitality Team is something we are all a part of at St. Matthews as we strive to welcome all who come to worship with us! In addition to being your friendly self, there are 2 specific areas where we can use some help:

1. **Coffee In Clendaniel** – please consider signing up in the Narthex to host a week (or two) for our weekly time of fellowship. It's an easy task: simply arrive a few minutes early to start the coffee (instructions are on the coffee cabinet door in the kitchen island) and bring some goodies. Sign up solo or with a friend! This is a great time to visit with one another and newcomers!
2. **Join the Baking Brigade** – It's a St. Matthews tradition to send our visitors home with bread, so each week we have a basket of mini-loaves ready for our ushers to distribute. Each loaf has a sticker with our church name and website, along with the phrase 'You Are Welcome Here'. If you are interested in adding to our bread supply, please contact Kelly Rymer or Karen Sieber.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors is the hands-on missions committee at St. Matthews By-the-Sea with projects scheduled throughout the year that provide opportunities for our church live into the call to 'love your neighbor as yourself'. The holidays are a particularly busy time in the life of the church, so we wanted to share our plans so you can be sure to mark your calendars!

Nov. 2nd 	Grocery Bags for Pyle Center Nonperishables are collected on a quarterly basis and donated to the Food Pantry at Pyle Center. Reusable bags are distributed the week before each collection along with a list of suggested items.
Nov. 23rd 	Thanksgiving Baskets: Items Due (Pack Boxes 11/24 @ 11:45am) Canned goods, fresh fruit, rolls, and a Food Lion Gift Card are gathered into baskets for families at Phillip C. Showell Elementary School and Selbyville Middle School. A shopping list will be in the bulletin in the weeks before, and all are welcome to help assemble the baskets.
Dec. 14th 	Angel Tree: Gifts Due (Pack Bags 12/15 @ 9:30am) The Angel Tree will be set up the first Sunday of Advent. Please select an angel or two, sign the clipboard, and return unwrapped gifts by Dec. 14th. All are welcome to help sort and bag the gifts for delivery to Pyle Center.



SHEPHERD MINISTRY

Our shepherds continue to demonstrate love, care and support for those church members facing life challenges, whatever they may be. Cards are sent, phone calls are made, meals, communion and flowers are provided where needed or requested.

Our purpose is to assist the Pastor in delivering care, compassion and love to those church family members who are experiencing difficulties or are unable to attend in person church service. If you'd like to be part of this ministry, contact the church office.



MEMBERS WHO HAVE GONE TO BE WITH THE LORD SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER

Susan Rhue – Sept. 22nd

We will miss her but can be confident she is in the BEST place.

Pictures from the International Students dinner in July!



Our cute little Elves are JoAnn Strawser and Kelly Rymer with Bill Rymer being Santa. It's July, it gets quite warm here so our elves are taking advantage of the warm weather by wearing sandals and sneakers while Santa is keeping cool without his beard.



Our amazing crew who helped serve dinners to the International Students.



Jammin' By the Sea – A music ministry of St. Matthews facilitated by Merle Dimeler and Gary Thomas. We meet on the first and third Friday of each month from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. We welcome musicians of every skill level to join us for the fellowship of music! We play all kinds of music (only rule is that the music be “clean”). Bring an instrument if you have one – if you don't play an instrument bring your stomping feet, clapping hands, sing-along voice, or listening ears! Join us in Clendaniel Hall.

Got a question?

**Call Merle Dimeler – 302-436-1938, or
Gary Thomas - 302-727-7327.**

FALL CHURCH CALENDAR

We are attaching calendars for October, November and December to this newsletter. But it's always good to double-check with the church office closer to the scheduled date to make sure an event is happening.



October	November	December
Kerry Teague - 3 rd	Nancy Scheffey - 3 rd	Merle Dimeler - 1 st
Chris King - 4 th	Ralph Hockman - 4 th	Esther Lupton - 2 nd
Frank Vandegrift - 6 th	Kathy Hickman - 7 th	Denny Mather - 3 rd
Brenda Walton - 6 th	Katie Teague - 7 th	Roni Williams - 4 th
Rita Williams - 6 th	Stanley Randall - 10 th	Kathy Weaver - 5 th
Dave Edwards - 7 th	Viola Weiss - 14 th	Sandra Robertson - 6 th
Susan Howard - 8 th	Linda Parcher - 15 th	Theresa Fleetwood - 6 th
Bill Stubbd - 9 th	Phyllis Anthony - 17 th	Sue Baker - 7 th
Beverly Allen - 11 th	Erin Gibson - 17 th	Bill Smith - 12 th
Larry Christman - 12 th	Lynn Taylor - 17 th	Cindy Childers - 13 th
Mary McConnell - 13 th	Daisey Calhoun - 19 th	Marilyn Wockley - 13 th
Jean Beach - 14 th	Becky Dukes - 21 st	Michael Shanahan - 16 th
Gary Taylor - 19 th	Don Godfrey - 22 nd	Peggie Ball - 17 th
Wanda Bagarus - 21 st	Cheryl Robinson - 22 nd	Wanda Nagers - 18 th
Wayne Lyons - 23 rd	Gail Stubbs - 25 th	Howard Beach - 20 th
Angela Gray - 24 th	Linda Berwick - 27 th	Janet Hess - 22 nd
Carol Singer - 25 th	Garnet Fowler - 27 th	Mark Brennan - 28 th
John Cowan - 28 th	Susan Clower - 28 th	Karen Vice - 28 th
Peggy Thomas - 28 th	Patricia Newton - 28 th	Ron Jones - 30 th
Barbara Waddle - 29 th	Vicki Daisey - 30 th	Dolores Kersey - 30 th
Charlotte Klapproth - 29 th		Pat Plocek - 30 th



The Blessings of a Christmas Choir

*We give thanks for our gifts,
Those we have been given,
Those we seek to develop,
Those we choose to share.*

*On this day we are reminded of our treasures.
We are blessed with vision,
to see each note of the score,
each lyric of the song.*

*We are blessed with understanding,
to distinguish symbols of the music,
that guide us in timing, rhythm, and tone.*

*We are blessed with hearing,
To listen to ourselves and others,
to find clarity within us and harmony among us.*

*We are blessed with the breath of life.
It sustains us without thought, but must be trained,
to transform each inhalation into the exaltation of song.
The dexterity to play and accompanying instrument.
It was the first breath of the Christ Child,
That inspired a chorus of Angels.*

*Like many treasures the true value of a gift
may not be appreciated until it is last.*

*Embrace this moment as the opportunity it is
To rejoice in your gifts and share them.*

Sing and Ring with Joy

Rich Robinson



2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 4:30-6 pm – Choir/Bells Practice	2	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4
5 Communion Sunday Commitment Sunday 10:45 – 11:45 Women's Bible Study (Baker)	6 10:30 am – Bible Study – Miller 7 pm – AA Mtg. 7 pm – Al Anon	7 1:00 pm - Mahjong	8	9	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11
12 10:45 – 11:45 Women's Bible Study (Baker)	13 10:00 am Quilters 10:30 am – Bible Study – Miller 7 pm – AA Mtg. 7 pm – Al Anon Office Closed	14 12:30 UWIF Mtg. & Crafts	15 9:30-11 a.m. Trustees Mtg. – Miller 4:30-6 pm – Choir/Bells Practice	16 10-11 am Ocean Grove Sing-a-long	17 4-6 pm Jammin By the Sea OFFICE CLOSED	18
19 10:45-11:45 Women's Bible Study (Baker) 11:45 pm – Church Council - Miller	20 10:30 am – Bible Study – Miller 7 pm – AA Mtg. 7 pm – Al Anon	21 1:00 pm - Mahjong	22 4:30-6 pm – Choir/Bells Practice	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 10:45 – 11:45 Women's Bible Study (Baker) 10:45-11:45 BYKOTA	27 10:00 am Quilters 10:30 am – Bible Study – Miller 7 pm – AA Mtg. 7 pm – Al Anon	28	29 4:30-6 pm – Choir/Bells Practice	30	31	

November 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 7:30-9 UMM Mtg. Breakfast, Brotherhood & Bible Clendaniel Hall
2 All Saints Sunday & Communion Sunday 10:40 – 11:40 Women's Bible Study (Baker) 10:45-11:45	3 9:00 am Prayer Group 10:30 am Bible Study 7pm AA Mtg. 7pm AL Anon	4 Church Office Closed	5 4:30-6 pm – Choir/Bells Practice 6:30 Church Conf.	6	7 Church Office Closed	8 2:00 pm Sue Rhue's Service
9 10:45 – 11:45 Women's Bible Study (Baker) 10:45-11:45 BYKOTA	10 10 am - Quilters 10:30 am Bible Study 7pm AA Mtg. 7pm AL Anon	11 VETERANS DAY Church Office Closed 12:30 - UWIF Mtg. Clendaniel	12 1-3 pm Samaritan Thrift 4:30-6 pm – Choir/Bells Practice	13 10 am-3 pm Samaritan Thrift	14 Church Office Closed UWIF Fall Bazaar 4-6 p.m	15 UWIF Fall Bazaar 8-1 p.m.
16 10:40 – 11:40 Women's Bible Study (Baker) 10:45-11:45 BYKOTA	17 10 am Community Conn. Mtg. - Clendaniel 10:15 am Bible Study 7pm AA Mtg. 7pm AL Anon	18 1-3 pm Samaritan Thrift	19 4:30-6 pm – Choir/Bells Practice	20 9:45 am Ocean Grove Sing-a-long	21 Church Office Closed	22
23 10:40 – 11:40 Women's Bible Study (Baker) Thanksgiving Food Drop Off	24 10:30 am Bible Study 7 pm AA Mtg. 7 pm Al Anon **Pack Thanksgiving boxes	25 9 am - Decorate for Advent	26 Church Office Closed	27 	28 Church Office Closed	29

December 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 10:15 am – Bible Study – Miller 7pm AA Mtg. 7pm AL Anon	2 1 pm – Mahjong	3 4:30-6 pm Choir/Bells	4	5 4-6 p.m. Jammin	6 8:30 a.m. – UMM Breakfast
7 10:45-11:45 Women's Bible Study – Baker	8 10 am- Quilters 7pm AA Mtg. 7pm AL Anon	9 12:30 pm – UMW Mtg., lunch & cookie exchange	10 4:30-6 pm Choir/Bells	11	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13
14 10:45-11:45 Women's Bible Study. – Baker Angel tree gifts due	15 9:30 – Pack Angel tree gifts 7pm AA Mtg. 7pm AL Anon	16 1 pm – Mahjong	17 4:30-6 pm Choir/Bells	18 9:45 - Ocean Grove 7:00 pm– Longest Night Service	19 4-6 p.m. Jammin OFFICE CLOSED	20
21 10:45-11:45 Women's Bible Study – Baker	22 7pm AA Mtg. 7pm AL Anon	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED		26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28	29 7pm AA Mtg. 7pm AL Anon	30 New Year's Eve	31			

