



# NEWSLETTER

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## St. Matthew's *By The Sea* United Methodist Church

May 2026

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### ***Our Mission:***

To make, nurture, and inspire followers of Jesus Christ who grow in their love for God and neighbor.



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Fenwick Island, DE 19944



(302) 537-1402



[smbts@verizon.net](mailto:smbts@verizon.net)



[smbts.org](http://smbts.org)

### ***Our Vision:***

With God's grace and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, St. Matthew's by the Sea will love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.





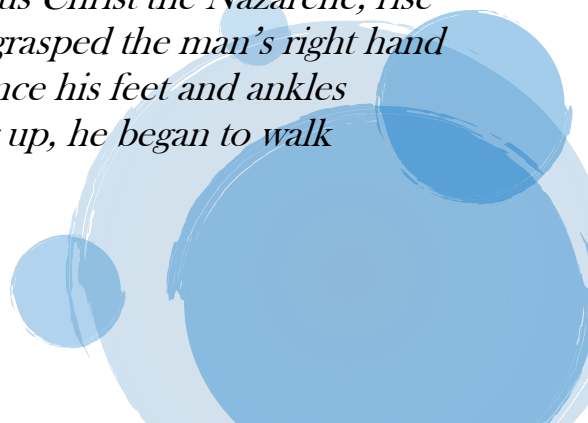
## From the Pastor's Desk



At some point in our lives, we have felt the blessing of having others take the time to be present with us.

Recently, I was watching a video that someone shared from their doorbell camera on their front porch. The person was sharing that they had a death in the family and how thankful they were to have family and friends come by in the days that followed to bring food and their presence. The video was a compilation of many people showing up to the front door over the course of several days; it truly inspired me and reminded me of the power of community. In Acts 3:1-8, we read this:

*“Peter and John were going up to the temple at three o’clock in the afternoon, the established prayer time. Meanwhile, a man crippled since birth was being carried in. Every day, people would place him at the temple gate known as the Beautiful Gate so he could ask for money from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he began to ask them for a gift. Peter and John stared at him. Peter said, “Look at us!”, so the man gazed at them, expecting to receive something from them. Peter said, “I don’t have any money, but I will give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, rise up and walk!” Then he grasped the man’s right hand and raised him up. At once his feet and ankles became strong. Jumping up, he began to walk*





*From the  
Pastor's  
Desk*

*around. He entered the temple with them, walking, leaping, and praising God.”*

This is one of my favorite stories in all of scripture as I feel like I always learn something each time that I read it. Let me share a couple highlights that strike me as I read this passage of scripture:

**1. Peter stops and acknowledged the man.**

Peter was essentially on his way to church when he realized that there was someone in need. He actually stops and acknowledges this crippled man's presence. He could have kept on walking and ignored him, but he doesn't do that. It makes me wonder how often we are willing to stop and acknowledge someone on our way to church, bible study, the grocery store, etc. Who are the "crippled beggars" in our own lives?

**2. Peter reaches out and touches the man.**

Not only does Peter offer him Christ and heal him, he also extends a hand and helps him up. I love this! Peter doesn't just offer him Christ and keep on moving, but he is willing to reach out and physically touch this man. Who knows how many times this man was ignored or passed by each day? The fact that someone stopped to recognize him, heal him, and touch him was life changing for this man.



*From the  
Pastor's  
Desk*

Peter was willing to take time out of his day to help someone else in need. He did this even if that meant he was going to be late to his prayer meeting (I'm sure God was okay with that!). We are in the Easter season as a church. This is a season where we are consistently reminded of the resurrection joy that comes along with being a follower of Jesus the Christ. Who can you and I take time to show up for in this season? You never know the deep impact that this could make on the life of another person. Amen.

Grace and peace,

Jake

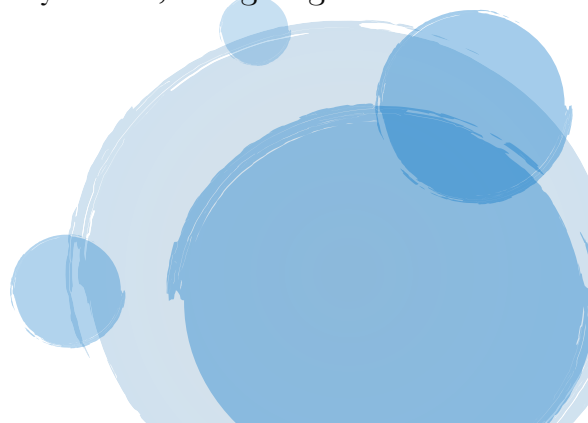




## Lay Leader

### Lay Leader Dave Edwards

I have enjoyed serving as your lay leader over the past eight months. Although, I must admit that I have been spending more time learning the responsibilities of the position than performing those responsibilities. One responsibility of a Lay Leader that I am particularly excited about is "working to encourage the congregation to recognize their unique spiritual gifts and use them for service, emphasizing that everyone is needed for the church to function fully." For me, Sunday service is a very important part of my Christian life. I enjoy seeing the church family, catching up on everything that has happened in the past week. I particularly enjoy the service, the singing, praying and of course Pastor Jake's message. It energizes me, it charges my batteries. But what is just as important to me is walking outside after the service and taking everything I have just learned and serving as Christ's representative in the community. Sunday service is an important part of our Christian life, but it doesn't define us as Christians. What we do after the Sunday service does. And so, in the coming weeks and months I will be doing my best to inform you of the many opportunities to serve our Lord here at St. Matthews. And I will be encouraging all of us to prayerfully consider becoming more involved in our church, connecting with each other and the community. As our new Vision states, *With God's grace and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, St. Matthew's by the Sea will love boldly, serve joyfully and lead courageously.* Stay tuned, it is going to be fun, I promise.





## *Church Council*

## Church Council Update

Summer is coming! And by all reports, it should be a Hum-Dinger...so, here's to a Summer of Celebration for our country's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This newsletter contains information about the various activities.

Between now and then, a spring full of hope and activity. I encourage you to keep up with the goings-on at SMBTS through announcements, the bulletin, the website, and our newsletter. If you have a question or would like to know more about a specific ministry, please reach out to anyone on the Council.

Church Council is made up of Committee Chairpersons and other Church Leaders. However, all are welcome to attend Church Council Meetings. The remaining quarterly meetings are scheduled in the Miller Room on Sundays July 20<sup>th</sup> and Oct 19<sup>th</sup>.

God is Good! All the Time!

Kelly Rymer, Chairperson





*Church  
Council*

## 2026 Church Council

### **Chairperson**

Kelly Rymer, [ckrymer@comcast.net](mailto:ckrymer@comcast.net)

### **Lay Leader**

Dave Edwards, [Djedwards18@msn.com](mailto:Djedwards18@msn.com)

### **Staff Parish Relations**

Marilyn Wockley, [wockleym@mindspring.com](mailto:wockleym@mindspring.com)

### **Trustees**

Terry Wildermuth, [wildermut@aol.com](mailto:wildermut@aol.com)

### **Finance**

Bill Rymer, [wsrymer@comcast.net](mailto:wsrymer@comcast.net)

### **Treasurer**

Tandy Morgan, [Tjune2954@gmail.com](mailto:Tjune2954@gmail.com)

### **UWiF**

Sherry VanDyke, [vandyke.sharon@gmail.com](mailto:vandyke.sharon@gmail.com)

### **UMM**

Mark Silvestri, [marksilvestri29@gmail.com](mailto:marksilvestri29@gmail.com)

### **Worship**

Vicki Daisey, [veed419@aol.com](mailto:veed419@aol.com)

Sue Clark, [fenwicksuel@gmail.com](mailto:fenwicksuel@gmail.com)

### **NHN/Missions**

Dave Robinson, [Davidross12@comcast.net](mailto:Davidross12@comcast.net)

Kelly Rymer, [ckrymer@comcast.net](mailto:ckrymer@comcast.net)

### **Checkerboard**

Vicki Daisey, [veed419@aol.com](mailto:veed419@aol.com)

### **Shepherds**

Jake Macklin, [rev.jakemacklin@gmail.com](mailto:rev.jakemacklin@gmail.com)

### **Music Ministry**

Cindi Mather, [matherclm@comcast.net](mailto:matherclm@comcast.net)

### **Hospitality Team**

Kelly Rymer, [ckrymer@comcast.net](mailto:ckrymer@comcast.net)

### **Community Connections**

Kelly Rymer, [ckrymer@comcast.net](mailto:ckrymer@comcast.net)

### **Member-At-Large**

Linda Lewis, [marykanada@aol.com](mailto:marykanada@aol.com)

Michele Overend, [levelfive21@hotmail.com](mailto:levelfive21@hotmail.com)



NHN  
Missions

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Missions Committee



### A Missions Committee of SMBTS

Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Missions Committee have joined forces to coordinate both hands-on service projects as well as the distribution of donations throughout the year at St. Matthews By-the-Sea. Both activities provide opportunities for our church live into the call to 'love your neighbor as yourself'.

A few notes about recent activities:

### **"A Little Luvs for Little Loves"**

February/Valentines Day Diaper Drive for Pyle Center

**Thanks to You,**  
SMBTS supports the following organizations with financial gifts:

- Pyle Center Fuel Assistance
- Food Assistance
- J-1 Students \*
- Sussex Cty Crises Housing
- Sussex County Pregnancy Center
- Missionaries
- Worldlink International Ministries
- Red Bird School
- The Way Home
- Mission Aviation Fellowship
- SOSA
- Halo Ministries
- CropWalk
- UMC Mission Shares



A TRUNKFUL OF THANKS, SMBTS!

The logo for NHN Missions is a dark blue circle with a light blue brushstroke border. The text "NHN" is written in a white, cursive font at the top, and "Missions" is written in a white, cursive font below it.

## NHN Missions



### Society of St. Andrew Lenten Giving & Pyle Center Groceries


SOSA is a nationwide organization with a Delmarva presence that strives to help cure food insecurity in America. During Lent, individual donations were combined with proceeds from the Pancake Dinner Love Offering and our annual giving for a total of \$1,519. Well done!

Also in the Food Category – our quarterly Grocery donations were provided to Pyle Center Pantry in early May!

Upcoming opportunities to pitch in with Neighbors Helping Neighbors/Missions include:

- Grace Center Baby Bottle Collection: Mother's Day – Father's Day
- Serving at J-1 Student Dinners in Ocean City: June 23, July 7, July 21 and August 11
- SOSA Glean Team
- Pyle Center Quarterly Grocery Collection: May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Nov 1<sup>st</sup>

If you would like to learn more about any of our NHN/Missions activities, please contact Dave Robinson or Kelly Rymer. Thank you!

Decorative blue circles of various sizes and opacities in the bottom right corner.



## *Fishing Crew*

FISHERS of MEN 

And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:19)

What’s New???

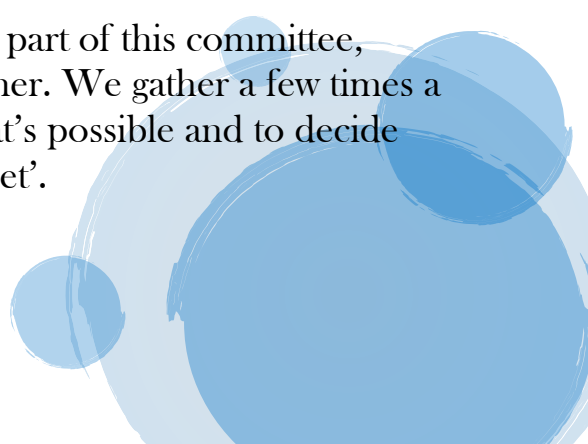
 St. Matthew’s Fishing Crew!

This new Committee at St. Matthews has been thought of as “Outreach” or “Community Connections” but both of those names were confused with hands-on-missions (so we are now the “Fishing Crew”). This particular group is focused on being intentional about our presence in our area and inviting people to join us for worship and activities, all in the name of sharing God’s Love with others.

With an ongoing focus on visibility, this summer we plan to participate in the Beach & Bay Cottage Tour as a shuttle stop and to host July 5<sup>th</sup> Festivities for the holiday weekend - hotdogs, cupcakes, fun & fellowship after worship. Keep an eye out and please sign up to help!

We are working on other initiatives as well: more Coastal Point representation, revamping our Welcome Table, First Time Guest Giveaways, and sending ‘Welcome to the Neighborhood’ invitational postcards to new housing developments...we have other event ideas too, so Stay Tuned!

If you would like to be a part of this committee, please contact Kelly Rymer. We gather a few times a year to dream about what’s possible and to decide where next to ‘cast our net’.





## The Hospitality Team



**Coffee In Clendaniel will continue through the Summer!**

Last summer we began our time of fellowship following the service with “Lemonade on the Lawn”...we liked it so much, it was moved indoors and renamed “Coffee in Clendaniel”! As we head into summer, we will be ‘*on the Lawn*’ in spirit while staying indoors with air conditioning... 😊

Thank you for embracing this new ministry as a time to greet Guests and Members, friends old and new. We hope you will continue to join us!

**PS.** If you are willing to be called upon as a substitute co-host or if you are willing to be added to our next rotation of co-hosts, please contact Kelly Rymer.

In an ongoing effort to be a welcoming church, it is asked that SMBTS members “move forward and slide over”...this will leave a few back pews and some aisle seats open for our Guests. Thank you!





*Staff  
Parish  
Relations*

**The SPRC** has met twice so far this year. Our current priority is to hire enthusiastic, qualified staff for the positions of Office Manager, Organist/Pianist and Choir Director. Interviews for the Office Manager are currently being scheduled and we recently received interest in the music positions.

We wish to thank Sandy Donnelly for her years of dedicated service to SMBTS. We will miss her help and expertise that have been essential to so many organizations and activities of this church. We wish her much happiness in all of her future endeavors in Florida.

We also express sincere appreciation for Cyndi Mather's support as Interim Choir Director during this transition period.

Marilyn Wockley, SPRC Chair





## *Finance*

**The Finance Committee** would like to share that finances of the church remain in a very strong position. Combined offerings and contributions received during the first three months of 2026 exceeded the budget expectations. Overall expenses are slightly below the annual budget while at the same time the church has returned to paying annual Mission Shares (formerly known as Apportionments) to the PenDel Conference. Total cash reserves were \$686,000 as of March 31.





## *Trustees*

## Trustees So Far in 2026

The Church has already been used for a wedding with another on the way. We're supporting parking for the Beach and Bay Cottage tour in July and asked to once again be used for Urban Promise (Christian Leadership for Children) in August as well as the Barefoot Gardeners and voting in September and November.

Did you notice the improved, cleaned up, trimmed landscaping and no weeds? **THANK YOU** to everyone who volunteered in April to take care of our yard. It looks great!

We found a home for the puppet stage. It will be used by HALO (Hope and Life Outreach) in Salisbury for their children's ministry.

We have several 4-drawer and one 2-drawer filing cabinets available. Would ask for a donation in any amount you feel lead to give. Please let Sandy in the Office know. First come, first pick.

Painting has started up again...New cabinet and molding repairs for Miller are in work too.

### Trustee Roles for 2026:

Chair, Legal Coordinator, Safety/Security Coordinator: Terry Wildermuth

Vice Chair: Mike Sabin

Treasurer, Insurance Coordinator: Denny Mather

Secretary: Sherry Van Dyke


Equipment Coordinators: Anne Hodges and David Lewis

Kitchen & Housekeeping Coordinator: Vicki Daisy

Landscaping & Grounds Coordinator: Cheri Edwards

Maintenance Coordinator: Tom Rogers

We are here to serve! Please share your thoughts with us! In His Service, Your Trustees



# Checkerboard

**Checkerboard** recently enjoyed two fun-filled activities.

On February 8, fifty-nine people, including our Friends, parents and guardians, and committee members joined us at Millsboro Lanes for an afternoon of bowling. Everyone had a really great time and enjoyed getting together.

In Clendaniel Hall on Sunday, April 12, we played a Sports Trivia game, Bingo, and had a covered dish luncheon. Sixty-one attended this activity, and there were lots of smiles, laughter, and happiness.

If you know someone with special needs who would like to join Checkerboard, or if you are interested in joining the committee, please call Vicki Daisey at 410-251-0836. We will be taking a break for the Summer, and our next activity will be in the Fall.

Vicki Daisey (Checkerboard Chair)





*Worship*

## **Greetings from the worship committee!**

The book to order flower dedications has been placed back in the Narthex. You may order flowers to be placed in church on a Sunday by completing the information in the book or by calling the church office.

The Church is now using Bethany Florist and the price of each arrangement is \$35. Payment can be made in the church office, in the tithe offering in a separate envelope marked “flowers,” or you can mail a check to the church.

Please contact the church office at 302-537-1402 if you have any questions.

Vicki Daisey and Sue Clark (Worship Chairs)





*United  
Women in  
Faith*

## The United Women in Faith (UWiF)

Our Purpose is:

To be a community of women whose goals are to connect more closely with God and each other, as well as supporting the needs of women, children and youth with an emphasis on spiritual enrichment, fellowship and education for the residents of Sussex and Worcester counties.

Our **May 12th** meeting will include a speaker from **Grace Pregnancy Center**. All are welcome to attend and learn more about the services they provide to our community.



**June 9th** will be our annual **Spring Tea**. All women of the church and friends are invited. A signup sheet will be able for those wishing to attend and also those who wish to provide any food items. More information will be available in the bulletin.

There will be no meetings July or August.

A **Reminder**: as you do your Spring cleaning any household items that are no longer needed, please save and donate them for our **November Bazaar**.

Sherry Van Dyke and Jill Brown



# *Bazaar Storage*



# *Not yet*

We are so grateful for every donation for the Christmas Bazaar, but we are asking: Not Yet...

There is limited storage available at the church, so as you do your Spring Cleaning, Summer Sorting, and Autumn Organizing, please hold your items at home until you hear a specific designated donation time for bazaar items in the fall. If you are in a pinch and need to do something ahead of time, please contact the Church Office and arrangements will be made. Thank you for your understanding!



The logo for the United Methodist Men is a dark blue circle with a light blue brushstroke border. The text "United Methodist Men" is written in a white, cursive font inside the circle.

*United  
Methodist  
Men*

## United Methodist Men (UMM)


Upcoming Plans: Keep an eye out for details...

Breakfast Meetings - we are going to local restaurants who support our soup fundraisers

### Summer

- Shorebirds Baseball Game - June 16<sup>th</sup>: \$11 Tickets + \$5 Bus...All Welcome!
- Cape May Bus Trip: Bus & Ferry ride included...All Welcome!
- Communion on the Bay: 2 trips this year, one Churchwide and one for Men only
- Fishing Trips: Bay & Deep-Sea options...All Welcome!
- May 20<sup>th</sup> Potluck Supper - Hot dogs
- July 5<sup>th</sup> Festivities - Hot dogs
- Sept 21<sup>st</sup> Picnic - Hot dogs...and hamburgers

### Fall & Winter

- September: Church Picnic (9/21)
  - October: Bowling
  - November: Bazaar Annual Fundraiser
  - December: Salvation Army Bell Ringing
- 
- Decorative graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of several overlapping circles in various shades of blue, ranging from light to dark.

*Easter  
Sunrise  
Service*

**HE IS RISEN!**





*Birthdays*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

## MAY

May 1: Ruth Stevens and Skip Twilley

May 2: Janie Filloramo

May 4: Cherie Edwards

May 5: Mary Schaefer

May 6: Sandy King

May 9: Tandy Morgan and Tina Shanahan

May 12: Dave Robinson

May 16: Jill Brown

May 18: Sharon DeVanna

May 20: Matt Wilkinson

May 21: Bruce Miller and Kent Parcher

May 24: Bert Paulsen

May 26: Debora Latham

May 27: Dennis Julian

May 28: Bill Lyons

May 30: Virginia Collins

May 31: Bob Cooper and Kelly Rymer





*Birthdays*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

## JUNE

June 1: Sue Edwards and Okemah Strickland

June 4: Justin Daisey

June 5: Gary Kaufman

June 9: Pat Hockman

June 10: Sharon Frederickson and Jeffrey Fromm

June 12: Nancy Cowan

June 14: Nancy Anderson

June 20: Evelyn Dimeler

June 23: Rick Conley

June 25: Roger Weiss and Jessica Young

## JULY

July 4: Judy LaBarre

July 13: Nate Hayman

July 17: Sami Oruc and Pamela Woodside

July 19: Betsy Hennings

July 22: Vivian Randall

July 24: Richard Logan

July 26: Sharon Young

July 29: Mary Arista, Jessica Dalton and Eric Enck

July 30: Kaye Reese

July 31: Gary Boettiger



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

## AUGUST



*Birthdays*

August 1: Muriel Mooney

August 2: Cara Staurowsky and Pat Waddle

August 4: Ethan Dunlap, Rose Oruc and Dorothy Tebo

August 5: Bill Hennings

August 6: Bill Waddle

August 7: Jean Brown and Donna Umbel

August 9: Mary Anne Van Arsdale

August 14: Linda Taylor

August 16: Bill Strickland

August 22: Jack Newtown, Debra Stouffer and Connie Yates

August 23: Bert Edwards

August 29: Sherry Van Dyke

August 30: Barbara Logan and Barbara Taylor



# *Upcoming Events*



## A few Dates to Save...

- **May 20<sup>th</sup>:** Spring Potluck Supper (5pm in Clendaniel Hall)
- **May 24<sup>th</sup>:** New Member Reception (Clendaniel Hall following Worship)
- **July 5<sup>th</sup>:** Festivities! (All American Hot-Dogs & Cupcakes following Worship)
- **Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>:** Annual Church Picnic (4pm John West Park)

