



## SEASIDE TIDINGS

### WINTER NEWSLETTER JAN-MAR 2023

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**St. Matthews By-the-Sea United Methodist Church**

1000 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944

Church Office Phone – 302-537-1402

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

Pastor – Jake Macklin

**Sunday Services – 8:30 am & 10:45 am**

**8:30 am service is live streamed on [www.smbts.org](http://www.smbts.org)**

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#### ***From the Pastor's Heart:***

Happy New Year, church! As we enter 2023, I hope that you feel God's loving comfort and presence with you each and every day. I wonder, do you have any goals for 2023? Anything you hope to accomplish? Any places you'd like to go? What about our discipleship? Will our discipleship make us look more like Jesus Christ this year? I pray that we all seek to grow in our love for God and our love for our neighbor in 2023. May we all participate in the many means of grace that God offers to us and may we continue to carry the name of Jesus into this world so it looks more like heaven!

I for one, would like to start the New Year by talking about football! *"But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he (Saul/Paul) is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my*

*name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel."* Acts 9:15

Do you enjoy watching football? Some of you may really be into it and others couldn't



care less.

During football games, you will notice that when the

offense is

on the field (no matter what team), they will either run the ball to try to score or they will pass the ball. The main player that runs the ball is called a running back. When the quarterback (leader of the offense) calls for the ball, he will step back and hand the ball to the running back. Next, the running back will try to avoid defenders and make his way to the endzone for a touchdown. The running back's primary role is to carry the

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*A message from JoAnn  
Strawser, your new Lay Leader:*

Greetings!

As I'm writing this message to you, I am no longer the Chair of the Admin Council. I want to thank all of you at St. Matthews by the Sea for the opportunity to serve in this leadership position. I appreciate the support of the council and each member as we worked together as a team to get issues brought out and the business of the church

*(Pastor Jake presenting JoAnn a certificate of appreciation for her service as Admin Council Chair from 2020-2022.)*



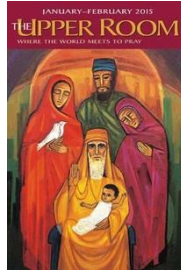
God Bless All of You,  
**JoAnn Strawser**

## Important meetings for our congregation:

**Sunday, February 5th.** - after the 10:45 service, Pastor Jake will discuss events/actions that were reported at the November 2022 Church Conference (also known as our Annual Charge Conference). Everyone is welcome on the 5<sup>th</sup>, but please RSVP to the church office (by phone or email) so we have enough material to hand out to everyone.

After Pastor Jake's report, Phil Drew (incoming Admin Council Chair) & Pastor Jake will provide an update on "The Way Forward" (United Methodist Church plans to deal with homosexuality vs. tenets of the Book of Discipline). It is important that those who worship at SMBTS fully understand what the future holds for us as the United Methodist Church goes through this major transition. So, our Administrative Council has created a steering committee to guide the SMBTS path to "The Way Forward" which Pastor Jake and Phil Drew will co-chair.

Beginning on February 5th., there will be a meeting on the first Sunday of each month following the 10:45 service. All members of the congregation who wish to attend are encouraged to participate in discussions and updates on the progress on "The Way Forward," so please mark your calendars for 2/5, 3/5, 4/2, and 5/7 after the 10:45 service.



### "Upper Room" Bible Study.

Pick up the latest "Upper Room" devotional at church and join Deb Thornton at her home for a weekly gathering. It will be a time for reflection on daily stories and prayer requests, and how we can be more faithful in studying God's word. The study resumes **Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.** Contact the church office for more information (including additional dates).

### ***Ladies - Save the Date!***

*Our Women's Retreat is scheduled for **April 14 - 15, 2023**. This is the weekend after Easter. We will begin the Retreat on Friday afternoon with registration beginning at 3:00 pm and the First Session starting at 4:15 pm with dinner to follow.*

*The Retreat will be held at St. Matthews By-the-Sea UMC as the Dune's Manor Hotel is closed for renovations and the cost of other hotels we checked into was much higher. For those of you who may be traveling from out of town we will be reserving a block of rooms at a local hotel.*

*We are still finishing up some of the logistics and will get **information out to everyone together with the registration form by the end of January**. For now, mark your calendars with the date and be on the lookout for more information!*

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### 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.

### WINTER CHURCH CALENDAR

*We are attaching calendars for January, February and March 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.*



### Checkerboard

If you know someone with special needs who would like to join us or if you are interested in joining the Checkerboard Committee, please contact Vicki Daisey at [checkerboard@smbts.org](mailto:checkerboard@smbts.org)



### 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.

### CRAFTY LADIES



Our annual Fall Bazaar was quite the success in November, with sales and donations, totaling almost \$3600. Thanks again

to all of you who volunteered to work the bazaar, who provided the donations of items (including bake sale items) for us to sell, who shopped, and who donated. Praise the Lord!! Your generous donations allowed UMW to give over \$3000 to local ministries and noteworthy missions, such as Red Bird, Clothing our Kids, Literacy Delaware, SOSA and UMCOR.

Our first craft meeting of 2023 is January 3; everyone is welcome to come. Bring your ideas for projects or crafts to work on. Projects will be available for some to do. And it's not too early to start thinking about and setting aside treasures and white elephant items for our Yard Sale in May.

Mary Brennan





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## Music Ministry Team Report

*Debby Dudley, MEd, SMBTS Music Director*

What an amazing way to start the New Year! Come hear Mercy's Well on Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. 2023 is sure to be blessed with a "send-off" from this phenomenal group!

2023 promises to be an exciting year with a wide variety of music and musical groups. Everyone's taste of music is sure to be available. Come join us as we worship through the sounds of music!

### Additional scheduled 2023 Concerts and Special Music on Sundays:

January 1, Sunday - 6:00 pm

Mercy's Well

January 15, Sunday - 8:30/10:45am

Heaven4Shore

February 5, Sunday - 2:00 pm

Toni Stargell

April 29, Saturday - 6:00 pm

Rivenbark Ministries

April 30, Sunday - 8:30/10:45 am

Rivenbark Ministries

May 6, Saturday - 6:00 pm

Adoration

June 4, Sunday - 7:00 pm

Harp Group with Joy Slavin

July 9, Sunday - 7:00 pm

Sons of Thunder

July 30 - 7:00 pm

Mercy's Well

July 30 - Time TBD

Dixie Melody Boys

August 4 - 7:00 pm

The Hyssongs

December 21 - 7:00 pm Blue  
Christmas Service - Joy Slavin



Members of our church leading Christmas activities on December 15 at Atlantic Shores nursing home.

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## SINGLE SENIORS GROUP

Single Seniors has our annual Birthday Bingo Luncheon planned for **Friday January 13**. Nothing definite for February. March will be lunch with the Back Bay Strummers performing. All details for our events will be placed in the church bulletin closer to the events.

If you are interested in joining Single Seniors, contact Wanda Bagarus through the church office.

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## Samaritan Thrift Shop



2022 has been a banner year for the store. As of December 6<sup>th</sup>, we have made \$362,257. We recently presented more than \$105,000 to local food banks this year at a luncheon. We made donations to Neighbors Helping Neighbors, The Home of the Brave Foundation, Seaford Community Food Closet, Blessing House Ministry in Whaleyville, MD, Bethel Tabernacle Church of God, Love INC, Bay Shore Community Church, The Salvation Army, Samaritan Ministries in Pocomoke City and Cape Henlopen Food Basket. We also put some funds aside for our new building. The Thrift shop will become Samaritan Thrift Store Inc. on January 1, 2023. This will be the time that we will become our own independent 501c3. Although we will continue to be a Mission of St. Matthews by the Sea, we will no longer be under the church.

We are also underway on the design and construction of a new building for the store. It will be located in the same complex, but we will own the site and building rather than renting space. We are purchasing 1.25 acres and will be building a 10,000 square foot structure on the site. The estimated cost is about \$1,200,000 for both land and building. We presently have a little over \$400,000 for this project. We plan to finance the remaining with our present landlord. We will also be meeting with different companies to try to raise funds to offset this cost.

The Thrift Store is always in need of volunteers, so if you have some time and

want to work in a fun location, come by and sign up to be one of the volunteers.

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



Bonnie Miller – 11/16  
Don Harkey – 12/14

**We will miss them but can be confident  
they are in the BEST place.**



### **United Methodist Men (UMM)**

**PURPOSE of our UMM:** To be a creative, supportive fellowship of men who seek to know Jesus Christ, to grow spiritually and to seek daily His will. We subscribe to these personal objectives: Engage daily in Bible study and prayer; bear witness to Christ's way in daily work and in all personal contacts through words and actions; and engage in some definite Christian service.

**Our UMM normally meet the first Saturday of each month for face-to-face meetings at 7:30 am in Clendaniel Hall.**

### **Report of Activities:**

**October:** Meeting was cancelled due to the "key workers" having or were exposed to Covid.

**November:** Our November speaker was Major Phil Davis, the new Salvation Army officer for Sussex County. He inspired the attendees and kicked off our annual support for the Red Kettle Campaign.

-The UMM sold chili & soup at the UMW Christmas Bazaar on the 11 & 12<sup>th</sup>. A record of 117 quarts of chili & soup were donated

by the wonderful, generous cooks of SMBTS and Nantucket's Restaurant and Countryside Cafe. We raised \$1,138 from sales which will go to support our budget for missions.

-On November 25<sup>th</sup> we kicked off our annual support for The Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign where we "rang the bell" at Hocker's G & E (Salt Pond) to raise funds for those in need in Sussex County. We ring bells from 10am-6pm, Monday-Saturday from Thanksgiving until Christmas Eve.

**December:** December 3<sup>rd</sup> was primarily a business meeting where we discussed issues to be voted on at our January 7<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting. We discussed our budget, drafted changes to our Constitution & By-Laws as well as a proposed slate of officers for 2023. The proposed slate was Gary Ward, President; Dave Edwards, Vice President; Mark Silvestri, Treasurer and the Secretary position is still open. We sang Christmas Carols and concluded our meeting with Communion with Bob Nickle officiating. When the meeting was over, we assisted Bob Nickle with the give-a-way of many of his beautiful prints of paintings he had sold.

**January:** January 7<sup>th</sup> will be our Annual UMM meeting where we elect officers for 2023. Also, Bob Bennett, from the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, will be our guest speaker (he was rescheduled to January since we cancelled our October 2022 meeting due to several of our officers being exposed to Covid).

**Plans for the future:** Continue with our monthly, face-to-face meetings and programs with guest speakers and discussion of biblical issues on the first Saturday of each month. Here are key dates of coming events: ----

**February 4, and March 4, 2023:** Regular meeting dates

Phil Drew, Outgoing President, SMBTS-UMM



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
(UMW)

It seems like a blink of the eye that 2022 has ended. As I write this piece for the SMBTS United

Methodist Women and reflect on the past year, I first reflect on how much God loves all of us, how gracious and kind He is and how faithful He is in how He has blessed us in our endeavors during this past year.

I suppose it seems it went by fast because it was an exciting year filled with not only fun and fellowship, but we also made time to study the Word of God through our devotions led by Karen Black and our programs led by Marilyn Wockley. In fulfilling another part our Mission and Purpose we invited speakers from Literacy Delaware and Clothing Our Kids to share about how we could partner in some manner with them and their mission. In February we talked about our Heart Health and made Valentine Cards to honor and show appreciation and love to our Doctors, Nurses, and other staff at South Coastal ER on Roxanna Road. These cards were delivered with love and cupcakes and received with appreciation! Rose Oruc kept us up to date on our Reading Program and what books we had in our library. She encouraged us to read from the selection of interesting books on different topics ranging from Spiritual Growth to Social Action. Rose believes that even though we have 5 reading categories, in the end each should lead us to Spiritual Growth and in turn Social Action. There were several women who were recognized for reading anywhere from 3 to 10 books this past year!

In closing out 2022, we as SMBTS United Methodist Women want to thank, Kaye Reese, Membership/Nominations

Coordinator; Rose Oruc, Reading Program Coordinator; and, Karen Black, Devotions Coordinator for serving on the UMW Board and for all the time, talents and gifts you have brought to this ministry. Your dedication and willingness to serve God through the serving of the women of SMBTS has been such a blessing to us all and we are thankful for you.

As we head into 2023, we look expectantly for how God will direct us.

*Our 2023 UMW Board will be as follows:*

*President – Alice Ward*

*Vice President – Marilyn Wockley*

*Secretary – Janet Hess*

*Treasurer – Mary Brennan*

*Devotions Co-Coordinators – Sheryll Law and Susan Rhue*

*Reading Program Coordinator – Anita Angeny*

*Membership Coordinator – Peggy Thomas*

*Hospitality Coordinator – Jill Brown*

*We also welcome Sue Baker who will be working with Marilyn on our upcoming programs!*

**Our first UMW gathering of the new year will be January 10, 2023!** If you haven't joined us in a while or are new to St. Matthews By-the-Sea, come fellowship with your sisters in Christ and be encouraged by the good we can accomplish together through Christ who taught us to love one another! If you would like more information about our gatherings, please contact Alice Ward at [UMWwomen@smbts.org](mailto:UMWwomen@smbts.org)!

Alice Ward President

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The goal of Neighbors Helping Neighbors is to be the hands and feet of Jesus in helping those in need in our area. If you want to know more about this ministry, contact me at 302-462-8769. Thank you for supporting Neighbors Helping Neighbors projects over the years.

JoAnn Strawser, Chair

### Church Leadership

Pastor Jake Macklin, [smbts@verizon.net](mailto:smbts@verizon.net)

Sandy Donnelly, Administrative Assistant, [smbts@verizon.net](mailto:smbts@verizon.net)

Phil Drew (Administrative Council Chair), JoAnn Strawser (Lay Leader)

Angela Smith (Administrative Council Secretary), Anita Angeny (SPRC Chair)

Mary Brennan (Treasurer),

Pat Plocek (Finance Chair),

Mitchell (Mike) Houser (Trustees Chair),

Debby Dudley (Music Dir),

Alice Ward (UMW President, SMBTS Membership Chair),

Gary Ward (UMM President),

Carol McLoud (Worship Chair),

Vicki Daisey (Disabilities Chair),

\_\_\_\_\_ (Shepherd Chair),

\_\_\_\_\_ (Missions Chair),

Mimi Drew, Newsletter Editor,

[mimidrewlivingleadership@gmail.com](mailto:mimidrewlivingleadership@gmail.com)



**A NEW SERENITY PRAYER.**

**By Father James Martin**

**FOR THE NEW YEAR 2023 –**

God grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change,  
Which is pretty much everyone  
Since I'm clearly not you, God.  
At least not the last time I checked.

And while you're at it, God,  
Please give me the courage to change what I need to change about myself,  
Which is frankly a lot, since - once again - I'm not you.  
Which means I'm not perfect.  
It's better for me to focus on changing myself than to worry about changing other people,  
Who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying, I can't change anyway.

Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter  
Than anyone else in the room,  
That no one knows what they're talking about except me,  
Or that I alone have all the answers.

Basically, God, grant me the wisdom to remember that I'm not you. Amen



YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE! By ringing bells at Hocker's G&E from Thanksgiving to Christmas, SMBTS & friends raised **\$16,328.52** for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign to use for those in need here in Sussex County. Thank you to all of our Bell Ringers this Christmas season. ALSO, thanks to Pat Plocek and the many volunteers at The Samaritan Thrift Shop since your efforts resulted in an additional donation of **\$15,000** to the Salvation Army food programs here in Sussex. Look at just some of our bell ringers pictured on the next pages!!



Rose & Sami Oruc



Karen Knight & Gary Ward



Greg, Sue & Sister Jane Kearney



Earlene, Bob & Chuck, Sally Eary



Larry Mize & Gary Ward



Scott, Karen & Marilyn, Ray



Bob, Neysa, JoAnn & Mark



Owen, Paige, Shari & Rich



Ron, Anne, Sue & Wanda



Dave, Cherie & Vicky & Justin



Angi Smith & Joe deHuarte



Hank, Nancy & Lisa Einsel



Joe D., Charlie Z & Mark Brennan



Bill & Gail Stubbs



Ron (S/A staff) & Sami Oruc

These are just a few of the many volunteers who help us ring bells for The Salvation Army at Hocker's G & E (Salt Pond). Many thanks to ALL of those who have made Christmas just a little better for the less fortunate in Sussex County. May each of you have a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and a Happy New Year.