

Weekly Update

December 6, 2023

Please join us on Sunday for Holy Eucharist.

The Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023
8 am & 10 am*

Celebrant: Reverend Victoria Pretti

If you are unable to worship in person, please join us on Youtube.

*To view the livestream service please click the link below.



This week at

St. Martha's



Wednesday, December 6th:

- Choir practice at 7 pm

Friday, December 8th:

- Set up for the Christmas Cookie, Baked Goods & Book Sale, beginning at 9:30 am

Saturday, December 9th:

- Christmas Cookie, Baked Goods & Book Sale, from 9 am to 1 pm.

Sunday, December 10th:

- Book Study will meet between services in the parish hall, 9 - 9:45 am. They will continue with the Advent book, "Essential Mystic Prayers", by Thomas McPherson.

Monday, December 11th:

- Yoga at 9:30 am in the parish hall. \$8 drop in. Bring your own mat, blanket, block and/or strap. Some will be available.

Tuesday, December 12th:

- Christmas Luncheon at Cripple Creek Golf & Country Club, beginning at noon.
- Yoga at 5:30 pm in the parish hall. This is a beginner's class starting with the basics for anyone new to yoga or just looking for a gentle practice. \$8 drop in.

Wednesday, December 13th

- Men's Discipleship Group will meet at 8 am in the conference room.
- Seashell Ringers practice at 1 pm.
- Choir practice at 7 pm.

*Do your heart and soul need a softer,
quieter celebration of Christmas this year?*

Please join us for "Blue Christmas" on
Wednesday, December 13th at 4pm.

We will celebrate the birth of Jesus with scripture, music, sacrament,
candlelight and a gentle prayer ritual. All are welcome to find a little
extra peace and hope this holiday season.



Upcoming Events



HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Sat, Nov 18 • 9 AM - 2 PM

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA CLAUS

Sat, Dec 2 & Sun, Dec 3 • 9 - 11 AM

A VERY MERRY TEA LUNCHEON WITH SANTA

Wed, Dec 13 • 12 - 3 PM



35268 Homestead Way, Lewes, DE • camparrowhead.net

CAPITAL RINGERS PRESENTS 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

All concerts begin at 4 pm

Saturday, November 25

Bethel United Methodist Church, Lewes

Sunday, November 26

Nobles Pond Clubhouse, Dover

Saturday, December 2

Asbury United Methodist Church, Salisbury

Sunday, December 3

Avenue United Methodist Church, Milford

Saturday, December 9

Conley's United Methodist Church, Lewes

Sunday, December 10

Ross Mansion, Seaford



For ticket info, go to:
capitalringers.org/12days

KEVIN B. CHAMBERLAIN
Artistic Director



Meet Me at The Manger



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023—2:00 PM

**INSIDE THE BUILDING KNOWN AS THE TABERNACLE
ON THE GROUNDS OF BETHANY BEACH CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**

(ACROSS FROM BETHANY BEACH TOWN HALL)



FOR ALL AGES



SCRIPTURE READINGS



CAROLS

(Music provided by St. Ann's Contemporary Music Ensemble)

**SPONSORED BY THE CHURCHES
OF THE SOUTHEAST SUSSEX MINISTERIUM**

Mariner's Bethel Live Nativity

Friday, December 15th, 2023

6-8:00 pm



"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord.'"

Luke 2:10-11

The wondrous Live Nativity - the story of the Birth of Jesus Christ - will be presented through Scripture and carols, 3 times throughout the evening, at 6 pm, 6:40 pm & 7:20 pm.

Enjoy hot cocoa, Christmas cookies, and singing around a cozy fire, while watching the story of the first Christmas come alive.
(This event will be held indoors in inclement weather.)

For more information, call 302.539.9510



Mariners Bethel
Global Methodist Church Ocean View, Delaware

81 Central Avenue, Ocean View, DE
www.MarinersBethel.org

 5th Annual Diocesan
**A Festival of Nine
Lessons and Carols**

December 17, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
Village of St. John
2020 North Tatnall Street,
Wilmington, DE 19802-4821
livestream offered

Featuring:  Choir School of Delaware

 The Episcopal Church in Delaware



**A Celebration of Life for Bob
Poetsch will be held on Friday,
December 22nd at 11 am.**

Outreach



Angel Tree gifts for Phillip Showell Elementary are due this Sunday, Dec. 10. There are still Angels on the tree for John Clayton Elementary. Clayton's gifts need to be returned by Dec. 17. If you would like to participate in giving a gift to a child, take an Angel from our tree and sign your name on the sign up sheet. Gifts can be wrapped or placed in a gift bag with the Angel tag on the gift or bag.

Announcements

ADVENT IS HERE, 2023

With the arrival of Advent, it is time to start thinking about Christmas and Christmas flowers.

Flowers to decorate our beautiful church for Christmas are given each year by parishioners as a way to honor or remember a person or event. The cost varies according to the particular plant, but averages about \$25. Any donation is just fine. There are designation forms available in front of the office and one will be mailed to you also, Christmas flowers will remain in the church for Christmas and for the Sunday after, December 31, 2023. You are encouraged to take home a plant on that day after the 10 o'clock service.

In addition to Christmas flowers, we are looking for volunteers to help with the Greening of the Church which will take place after the 10 o'clock service on December 17th. Volunteers, both men and women, will decorate our indoor wreaths and hang them on the windows of the nave. We will also hang the outdoor wreaths, put electric candles in the windows and hang the big swag above the altar. Many hands make light work. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall or you can call Pat Long, 302-539-3021, to volunteer, OR you can just show up. Many hands make light work.

We will also appreciate your help on December 31st when the wreaths and decorations will be taken down and stored away.

Thanks to all for your help during this very busy Advent season.



DEADLINE EXTENDED:

Support the ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Your gift will be matched through Dec. 31.

[GIVE TODAY](#)

The United Thank Offering—in partnership with the Good Friday Offering—will match up to \$100,000 of donations given through Dec. 31 to help sustain outreach ministries in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, [which operates across several countries or territories](#) and includes churches, schools, medical facilities, and other ministries.

Maggie's 7th Annual

Winter Coat Drive

**Donation deadline:
December 31st**

Drop-off Locations:

Selbyville Public Library
11 S Main St, Selbyville, DE 19975

Frankford Town Hall
9 Main St, Frankford, DE 19945

Coldwell Banker
89 Atlantic Ave, Ocean View, DE 19970
1131 S Salisbury Blvd, Salisbury, MD 21801
12207 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, MD 21842
6405 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, MD 21842

Next Step Learning Center
2 Church St, Selbyville, DE 19975

Millsboro Lanes
213 Mitchell St, Millsboro, DE 19966

My goal is to collect over 300 new or unused coats, hats and gloves for the less fortunate. All given will be donated to those in need in Sussex County.



**Need us to pick up?
Call: (302) 542-1464**

**Please
Donate**

A New or Unused Coat
to Help the Less
Fortunate to Keep
Them Warm

For more information:

Email: bdupont@yahoo.com

Facebook: Maggie's Coat Drive

A donation container is located in front of the office. If you have any further questions, you can reach out to Mimi Dupont. Maggie is Mimi's granddaughter.

Time To
Celebrate



**MEETING
MINUTES**

Finance Committee - [November](#)

Outreach Committee - [November](#)

**December Birthdays &
Anniversaries**

Becoming Beloved Community Annual Report and Accomplishments (*excluded in the Annual Report*)

Click [HERE](#) to read

Did
you
know?

Are you 72 or older? Have you lost the ability to fully deduct charitable contributions because you no longer itemize federal income tax deductions? Do you make donations to St. Martha's regularly? If you answered yes to these questions, you may want to consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). A QCD is generally a non-taxable distribution made directly by the trustee of your IRA to St. Martha's or other qualified charities. A QCD reduces your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and thereby reduces taxes. If you are receiving a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA, a QCD can be used to satisfy the RMD. Please consult your tax advisor or tax return preparer to determine if a QCD could benefit you.

Stewardship Update

As of date	Amount Pledged for 2024
9/17/2023	\$25,300
9/26/2023	\$72,820
10/7/2023	\$87,660
10/12/2023	\$102,000
10/17/2023	\$147,120
10/24/2023	\$162,160
10/31/2023	\$172,090
11/5/2023	\$186,370
11/13/2023	\$196,430
11/20/2023	\$197,930
11/28/2023	\$200,430
12/5/2023	\$202,040

Pledgers who:	Number
Increased their pledge	26
Pledged the same	46
Decreased their pledge	10
New pledgers	13
Totals	95

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a pledge card so far. They continue to trickle in, and every added pledge helps and is very much appreciated.

