



AGAPE Grapevine



ONE BOARD MODEL: THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE.

Over the past few years, it has become increasingly difficult to get people to serve on committees, let alone in leadership. The common response is that there are too many meetings and people don't want to commit. As such, the Administrative Council spent a few months discussing the adoption of a new administrative structure, known as the Simplified Accountable structure, or One Board Model.

This model moves churches from four administrative committees (trustees, finance, staff-parish relations, and church council) to one Leadership Board encapsulating all responsibilities and authority of the previous four separate administrative committees. This One Board would only meet once a month, freeing up people from endless meetings. The 4 committees would still have chairs, but the administrative work is done by one committee, so that no one person has power over every aspect of the church.

This alternative structure is based on ¶247.2 of the 2016 Book of Discipline:

The charge conference, the district superintendent, and the pastor shall organize and administer the pastoral charge and churches according to the policies and plans herein set forth. When the membership size, program scope, mission resources, or other circumstances so require, the charge conference may, in consultation with and upon the approval of the district superintendent, modify the organizational plans, provided that the provisions of ¶ 243 are observed.

In November of 2022 Bethesda voted at the annual Church Conference to adopt this new structure. This was formed to help ease the burden of members to serve on the various committees, and thus freeing more people to do ministry. This also reduces the amount of meetings required and to streamline the decision making process.

I have included a list of frequently asked questions below.

Frequently Asked Questions

How often would the Board meet?

The Book of Discipline requires that the Board meet quarterly at a minimum, but the Board meets monthly, perhaps more often as needed.

What committees are impacted by moving to the Single Board model?

All of the Administrative Committees (i.e. Trustees, Finance, SPRC, and Administrative Council) would become one. For separation of powers, so that no one person is in charge of all areas of the church, there would officially still be the four committees, each with their own chair, but they would share a common membership (9-15 people) and meet at the same time.

How many people should be on the board?

Church leadership experts recommend a total of 9-15 people make up the new board.

What are the term limits of this new board?

Each person would serve a two year term. Half of the board would roll off at the end of their term giving the new members a year to work with seasoned leaders.

Is the Board self-nominating?

No. There is still a requirement that there be a separate Committee on Nominations to nominate the Board Members to the Charge Conference each year.
Love and Peace, Rev. Zac

Save the Dates: Soup Luncheons

Thursday, January 18, 2024
 Thursday, February 15, 2024
 11 am — 12:30 pm

Take-Out/Pick-Up

Delivery Available for orders of \$100 or more

Menu:

- Vegetable Beef Soup
- Chili and Cornbread
- Chicken Salad
- Baked Ham on Roll
- Baking Powder Biscuits
- Iced Fudge Brownies
- Homemade Custard Bread Pudding

Fax orders to 410-742-8856

Call 410-742-8855 to place orders by phone

We could really use your help!
 Call 410-742-8855 to find out how to volunteer

Senior Singles, Thursday, January 11, 2024
 Meet at Fratelli's (Snow Hill Road, Salisbury) at 1:00 pm



RSVP Sandy Mills, 410-422-7305, or
 Dr. Dan 443-735-3292

New people are always welcome!

Santa's Angels

Santa's Angels celebrated our 34th year by serving 185 families in our community!



\$\$--TEXAS ROADHOUSE GIFT CARDS FOR SALE!\$\$

We are continuing to sell Texas Roadhouse Gift Cards (Denominations of \$25 or \$50). Additionally, we will offer you a free appetizer with each \$50 purchase while supplies last. This would be a fabulous gift for a loved one on their birthday or anniversary! You may place an order by calling Lora Adkins 410-726-2977 or email me at kadkins30@comcast.net or call Lois Moorhead at 410-430-3086.

Save the Date for Santa's Angels Inaugural Golf Tournament on May 17, 2024!

- Come join us for a day of fun and fellowship!
- If you have a business please consider contacting us for a large (\$400) or small (\$150) sign on your Favorite hole!
- You have plenty of time to get a team of four together to play that day. (\$400).

Also, if you would like to make a monetary donation, we would appreciate any and all donations as this will help us to offset the expenses for our prizes, gifts for players, and other incidentals to make the day perfect for all participants.

Thank you for your ongoing generous support of Santa's Angels!

Inaugural Santa's Angels Charity Golf Tournament



Prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place Teams

Date: May 17, 2024 at 1pm

Location: Nutter's Crossing Golf Course

4-person Scramble Format

Santa's Angels is a local charity that has helped provide Christmas for families in need on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland & Delaware for over 30 years!!! We are 100% volunteer and rely solely on donations and fund-raising to support our efforts. Play some golf and help us, help the kids have a memorable Christmas!!

You DO NOT want to miss this tournament: Mulligans, Move Up on a Hole, Hole-in-One Contests, Longest Drive (Men & Women), Closest to the Pin, 50/50, Silent Auction, Chinese Auction, Putting Contest, and Food!!

Levels	What You Get for Money	Cost
Tier 1 (Eagle)	Team (4 ppl) + Large Sign on a Tee Box + Clubhouse Sign + Donor Ad	\$1,000
Tier 2 (Birdie)	Team (4 ppl) + Small Sign on a Tee Box + Donor Ad	\$500
Tier 3 (Par)	Large Sign with Your Business or Organization Placed on a Tee Box	\$400
Tier 4 (Bogey)	Small Sign with Your Business or Organization Placed on a Tee Box	\$150
Tier 5	Team Only (4 ppl)	\$400

Player #1 _____ Phone _____ Email _____
 Player #2 _____ Phone _____ Email _____
 Player #3 _____ Phone _____ Email _____
 Player #4 _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Business or Organization Name _____

Tier Selected _____ Total Cost _____

Payment Methods Accepted: Cash, Check (Payable to Santa's Angels), or use the Give Send Go App. Registration includes: Golf, Food After Your Round, Cart Usage, and a Goodie Bag.

There are many ways to participate!!! Sponsor a Hole, Enter a Team, or Donate Money Directly to Offset Our Costs!!

January 2024	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	7 Epiphany Sunday Communion 9 am Contemporary Svc 10:30 am Traditional Svc 4 pm Youth Group meets at Todd House 7 pm AA meets at Todd House	8 10 am Circle Ruth meets at Todd House 7 pm Boy Scouts meet in Memorial Room	9 1 pm Circle Rachael meets at Mary Lynn's 2 pm Circle Mary meets at Todd House	10 8:30 am UMM Dayton's 10:30 am Adult Bible Study in Frieside Lounge 1 pm Circle Sarah meets at Todd House 6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7 pm God's Way Bible Study in Frieside Lounge	11 8:30 am Devotions with Rev. Zac 1 pm Senior Singles meet at Fratelli's 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Step-by-Step in Todd House	12 11 am Graveside Service at Parsons Bill Mears - reception in Memorial Room	13 Epiphany of the Lord
	14 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany 9 am Contemporary Svc 10:30 am Traditional Svc 4 pm Youth Group meets at Todd House 7 pm AA meets at Todd House	15 MLK Jr. Day Holiday Office Closed 6 pm UMM meets at Dell at Pecan Square	16	17 8:30 am UMM Dayton's 10:30 am Adult Bible Study in Frieside Lounge 6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7 pm God's Way Bible Study in Frieside Lounge	18 8:30 am Devotions with Rev. Zac 11 am Soup Lunch 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Step-by-Step in Todd House	19	20
	21 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany 9 am Contemporary Svc 10:30 am Traditional Svc 4 pm Youth Group meets at Todd House 7 pm AA meets at Todd House	22 7 pm Boy Scouts meet in Memorial Room	23	24 8:30 am UMM Dayton's 10:30 am Adult Bible Study in Frieside Lounge 6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7 pm God's Way Bible Study in Frieside Lounge	25 8:30 am Devotions with Rev. Zac 5:30 pm Church Council meets in Frieside Lounge 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Step-by-Step in Todd House	26	27 Ramona Bradley - Baby Shower - (Melanie D) 11 am - 6 pm
	28 4 th Sunday after Epiphany 9 am Contemporary Svc 10:30 am Traditional Svc 4 pm Youth Group meets at Todd House 7 pm AA meets at Todd House	29 7 pm Boy Scouts meet in Memorial Room	30	31 8:30 am UMM Dayton's 10:30 am Adult Bible Study in Frieside Lounge 6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7 pm God's Way Bible Study in Frieside Lounge			

Bethesda United Methodist Church
406 N. Division Street
Salisbury, MD 21801

Hello Bethesda's Family and Happy New Year!!

Working with Wicomico Middle School this month, our Faith based partner school, one of the needs of some of the students is personal hygiene care items. For January asking for donations of these items for either boys or girls. -- deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, feminine hygiene items. The Dollar Store usually has small size items that are perfect to provide to a student, however any size is acceptable. If you would like to donate something please leave in the basket by the ramp door, drop off at the church office or give to Walter or Lois Moorhead. As always monetary donations can be made and I will do the shopping. Thank you to our Bethesda family for their continued generous support of all of the missions we do to support our local community. Any questions please call or text Lois at (410) 430-3086. God's Blessings to all! Thank you!

On behalf of W-Middle,
We express our sincerest appreciation
and thanks for all that Bethesda United
Methodist Church does for our students,
staff, and school community!

Ronald Hampton
Community School Coordinator

Thank you for all
you do to support
us! Jo Buntman

May good health, peace, love
and hope be yours during this
holiday season and
throughout the
New Year!

Michael C. Stangor
Superintendent of Schools
Wicomico County Public Schools



This New Years wish for everyone is a year of good health and happiness with a generous sprinkle of fun! When I count my blessings, I count my Bethesda Church Family twice because we are always there for each other in the good times and the hard times. The United Women in Faith Circles are each a Special group that share their lives with each other while adding that sprinkle of fun! I encourage anyone who is not a member of one of our circles to contact me and we will find a circle for you.

God Bless everyone in 2024!! Pat Oberholtzer, President 410-251-0935



From: The Office Staff, Music Staff, and
Ministerial Staff of Bethesda United
Methodist Church

Agape



Agape Grapevine is published monthly by

Bethesda United Methodist Church
406 N. Division Street
Salisbury, MD 21801
Phone: 410-742-8855

E-mail: bethesdasalisbury@gmail.com
Web Address: www.umcbethesda.org

Editor: Brenda Sawyer

Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM—Contemporary Worship
—Memorial Room
10:30 AM—Traditional Worship
—Sanctuary

[Facebook.com/bethesdasalisbury](https://www.facebook.com/bethesdasalisbury)



Forgiveness in the New Year

I am not one for New Year festivities or resolutions. I am glad for the day of vacation, but I find it difficult to believe that it is important to celebrate the beginning of one month when we have 11 other ones that have better weather forecasts.

Anyway, instead of sharing a resolution, I would like to start the new year by asking for forgiveness for an oversight I committed...

The back story: We had our kitchen and downstairs bathroom/mudroom/laundry room renovated several years ago. We got what we paid for and ended up with rotting wood under the shower and an unappealing raised seam on the vinyl flooring in the middle of the kitchen. Two weeks ago, we contracted with a responsible person from Delmar to fix the subfloor and install new water-resistant flooring throughout the kitchen, laundry room, and downstairs bathroom.

While I was moving everything off of the floors, I discovered a box of thank-you notes on a small table in the corner of the dining room. This looked like a box of blank cards, but I quickly noticed that these cards were filled out and addressed. To my horror, I realized that these were some of the cards I wrote to the choir, bell choir, and congregation members after you presented me with a plaque for 25 years of service to Bethesda. I saw notes to people like Courtney, Joey, Joe, Carolyn, and Katie. I don't know what to say—I must have sent some cards but not all. I know it is late, but please allow me to thank you for the honor of being part of Bethesda for many years and for the impressive plaque. I hope that my service has made even a little difference in the lives of our members, friends, and guests. I am proud of our music department, choirs, and the musical offerings we present each week. I hope that you will accept my thanks for the honor of your gift and I ask your forgiveness for my mistake. See you in Church, Jeff



One Committee Council Update *By Lois Moorhead*

Hello Bethesda Family and Happy New Year!! The **One Committee Council** met on Thursday, November 30th to review the October budget report and discuss the items on our agenda. We continue to review our income vs. expenses each month. In reviewing the October report, the two largest items to consider were payment of our apportionments and the local Missions that Bethesda budgeted to support. It was proposed and approved to fulfill our budgeted donation to Salisbury Urban Ministries and use our special Christmas donations to support the other local missions in our community (HALO, Hope). In addition, we donate annually to the Bromley Haiti Mission Team. Other items discussed include the Maintenance items for the Bethesda properties. The Bell Tower of the church continues to leak when it rains, which threatens to harm the organ pipes of our amazing organ. Due to water flooding this area over the last year, part of the organ pipe structure powered by electric has been shut down to protect them, however, it is not ideal for part of the instrument to be shut down for a prolonged period. This issue has plagued us for many years, and Mark Evans and Dave Roberts are collaborating with contractors to determine where the leak is occurring, and a plan to resolve it. Other maintenance items include repainting the yellow painted items within the parking lot; power washing the back of church, pavements, ramp, and other areas; repainting the Parsonage House to address lead-paint issue; and the door locks on the main Church doors will be rekeyed to enforce the use our new Key-Fob system.

The Safe Sanctuary Policy is being reviewed, and the Council agreed to create a Safe Sanctuary Committee. We are looking for a chairperson and members to sit on this committee to ensure that all the items are addressed on a routine basis. If you are interested in either chairing or being a member of this committee, please reach out to Rev. Zac.

Job Descriptions are being updated, and evaluations for staff are in process.

Person	Responsibility
Melanie Smith	Council Lead & Trustee
OPEN	Council Secretary
Nevette Muir	Finance
Penny Bradford	Finance Lead & Trustee
Jason Loar	Member at Large
Laura LeBlanc	Member at Large
Rev. Zac Wheeler	Senior Pastor
Steve Rybacki	SPPRC
Walter Moorhead	SPPRC Lead & Trustee
David Allen	Trustee
Dave Roberts	Trustees Lead

Finally, at the end of the calendar year, Mark Evans, Courtney Coco, and Lois Moorhead will roll from the One Committee. Dave Roberts and Melanie Smith will join the committee. To the left is a list of the members for the 2024 year. You will notice that **the position of Council Secretary is currently OPEN**. If you are interested, or know of someone that could fill this role, please reach out to either Rev. Zac or Lois Moorhead.

It has been an honor to lead and serve on the Committee and as the calendar turns to another year, may you be filled with renewed hope, and a deeper understanding of God's un-failing love for you. God's Blessings to all. Happy New Year!

Thank you to the Altar Guild for decorating our church each Christmas. This year is as breathtaking as each year. Thank you for your time and creativity. The Church Council.



THANK YOU

To the community at Bethesda Methodist Church,
Thank you all so much for your thoughts, prayers and cards.

My recovery is progressing well with time to enjoy this special time of year. May the Beauty of the Season bring you special joy!

Regards, Neville Mosley

On behalf of the United Women in Faith, I want to thank everyone that helped make the fudge and everyone that bought our fudge. A special thanks to Penny Bradford for all her hard work, to Mark Donophan for helping and to the Methodist Men for stirring the pots. Remember fudge bought at church contains no calories.

Pat Oberholtzer, UWIF President

On behalf of the Altar Guild, I want to thank everyone that donated money "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" Loved Ones. You enabled Bethesda's Altar Guild to adorn our church with many beautiful Poinsettias during the Christmas Season. A special thanks to Katie Soper for ordering and arranging them and to Mark Donophan for keeping them watered and picking up falling leaves.

Pat Oberholtzer, Altar Guild

Dear Friends, Thank you for your generous donation to the Lazarus Fund of Salisbury Urban Ministries. Your gift of \$2,008 will help us in our mission to provide programs that serve and minister to the needs of materially impoverished children in our community.

It is only through the kind support of individuals, the churches and our community that we can continue to service people in need. Thank you again for your generous support of this ministry!

Susan Massey, Office Manager, SUM

Dear Friends, Thank you for your generous donation to Salisbury Urban Ministries. Your gift of \$4,100 will help us in our mission to provide programs that serve and minister to the needs of materially impoverished children in our community.

It is only through the kind support of individuals, the churches and our community that we can continue to service people in need. Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

Susan Massey, Office Manager, SUM

Hi Penny, Nevette, David, Jim and the Special team that fixes the luncheons. Thank you so much for the big lunch that Nevette and Jim Royal delivered to us in November. The two soups, chicken salad, biscuit, bread pudding and brownie really hit the spot on the cold days. What great cooks we have at Bethesda. Your thoughtfulness and kindness were greatly appreciated.

Please accept our donation to go for some more supplies. Please send a future lunch to someone who really needs it. May you all have a safe and healthy Holiday Season and 2024.

Thanks again for your special thoughts and kindness. As Always, Barbara (Bobbie) & Donnie White

Bob Lake and family would like to say thank you to our Bethesda family. Thank you to all the folks that have sent prayers and cards, made visits, brought food or just asked how he was doing over the last year. Your love and support means so much and is always appreciated. Wishing you and your family a very happy New Year!!

Thank you! Lois Lake-Moorhead

A HUGE thank you to ALL who donated to the Men's Homeless Shelter this month! They were so very appreciative of the hot, delicious turkey dinner with the next day's lunch provided, as well. The shelter houses and feeds roughly 35 men from November to March and donations are always welcome. Our next contribution will be for Thursday, January 18th when we will provide dinner and the following day's lunch. Watch the bulletin for requests. Thank you so much!

In His Service, Debbie Day

The many cards, flowers, phone calls and gifts of food were very much appreciated as I recover from disc replacement surgery. The love, healing prayers and kindness you all have shown me are very welcome and needed! Thank you everyone for the sincere consideration you demonstrate on a daily basis.

Fondly, Brenda Sawyer

Dear Bethesda Family, I would like to thank you for the many birthday wishes sent to my mom, Patricia Evans. She got great pleasure from reading the cards she received. Sincerely, Alison Soper

Agape 6

Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness The local men's' homeless shelter opened on November 18th at the Park Seventh Day Adventist Church on Deer Pointe Drive, beside the Shorebirds Stadium. That evening, we were fortunate enough to have leftover chicken salad, soup, biscuits, lunch meats and cheeses and brownies that were taken to the shelter and it was so appreciated! Each evening 32 men are expected to be housed and fed from now through the end of March. Please check the bulletin the week of January 14th for the specific items needed and bring them to the church that week. There are many needs. Besides the meals we have committed to, anyone may provide a dinner, breakfast food, clothing, cleaning supplies, cash donations or gift cards. Go to the website: handsandheartsshelter.org to get more information and to sign up. Thank you so much. In His Service, Debbie Day



Senior Singles enjoying their December 2023 luncheon at Suicide Bridge Restaurant (left)

Kindred Christmas Dinner at Goin' Nuts (below)



Agape 5



United
Women
in Faith

Circle Meetings in January

- Circle Eve** - Tuesday, January 2, 11:30 am at Dayton's RSVP
Peggy Hastings 410-726-3614
- Circle Martha** - Wednesday, January 3, 10:30 am at Todd House
- Circle Mary** - Tuesday, January 9, 2:00 pm at Todd House
- Circle Rachael** - Tuesday, January 9, 1:00 pm with Mary Lynn Deckert
- Circle Ruth** - Monday, January 8, 10:00 am at Todd House
- Circle Sarah** - Wednesday, January 10, 1:00 pm at Todd House

Thank you to everyone for their kind greetings, cards and presents during the Christmas Season. They are all greatly appreciated! We are blessed to be part of a very special church family.



Clergy and Staff
Bethesda United Methodist Church



From the Kitchen--

Hi Everyone,

Hope everyone had a blessed holiday season. I spent mine quietly at home with lots of TLC. Luncheons are ready to start again the third Thursday of January and our special add on will be Chili and cornbread. We always need help and love seeing new smiling faces. If you have a few hours Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday we would love to see you. The dates for this luncheon are January 16, 17, and 18th. Please give Brenda in the office a call if you can help. Remember orders are also appreciated and we deliver orders over \$100 with no charge. Another P.S. we also provide meals for the Homeless men project and need water bottles, individual bags of chips, cookies, and pieces of fruit. These can be taken to the Church office or down in the kitchen to help with this mission. Hope to see you all soon. Penny

College Boxes

We are starting to make plans to send our traditional Valentine's boxes to our out of town college and graduate students, and those serving in military service. Needless to say, we would appreciate donations of snacks (that you know young people like) and useful items (small tissue packages, pens, pencils etc.) by Feb 4th and brought to church or the church office.



It is VERY important that parents or students update your mailing address for this mailing (and all mailings). We do not use an address that has been used in the past, because some individuals change locations from semester to semester, or service address from assignment to another place. I would like the addresses ASAP, so we can know how many boxes to prepare for packing.

Look for me at church on Sundays with any questions, or email me at marylynnandbill@comcast.net.

Thank you for your continuing support of this fantastic project which started with Halloween 1989, and has been going strong every since! Mary Lynn Deckert

