

St. Martha's, Bethany Beach Donates to Ukrainian Relief

Within days of Russia's attack on the sovereign nation of Ukraine, parishioner Don Clarke at St. Martha's Episcopal Church in Bethany Beach approached their rector, the Rev. Victoria Pretti, with an idea to help with humanitarian aid to the people of Ukraine. Would it be possible for him to ask St. Martha's Outreach Committee to collect and match donations to be sent to the Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) Ukraine Crisis Response Fund? The answer from both Rev. Pretti and St. Martha's Outreach Committee was a resounding and enthusiastic "YES!"

It was initially decided that the collected donations would be matched, dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$3,000. Within three weeks, the good people of St. Martha's had donated and collected \$13,535. The Outreach Committee donated their \$3,000 match and the church's Vestry voted to match the rest of the collected funds. St. Martha's was pleased to donate a grand total of \$27,070 to ERD for humanitarian aid to the people of Ukraine.

"I'm just in awe of people's kindness and willingness to help those in need," said Rev. Pretti. "I think we all saw the heartbreaking images coming out of Ukraine and wanted to do something to help, but felt powerless to do so. Well, we're not powerless to do so. Our love can reach across the globe! Our care and prayers for the people of Ukraine will certainly be ongoing. This donation is simply a more concrete way to express our love and concern for them. May God bless and protect them all."