

THE MESSENGER

April 2020

A Publication of the Episcopal Church of the Messiah



**You are invited for Holy Week and Easter
Services ONLINE!**

**Please find all the links to our social media
and website at the bottom of Father Tom's
Letter on page 3 of this newsletter.**



Sunday Services:

8:00 am.....Traditional Communion
9:30 am.....Family Communion
9:30 am.....Sunday School
11 am.....Contemporary Communion
4:00 pm.....French Service
7:00 pm.....Casual Communion

Wednesday

Service:

10:00 amCasual Communion

Head of Church: Jesus Christ

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Greg Brewer

Rector: The Rev. Tom Rutherford 321-945-3958
TomRutherford@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

Associate Priests:

The Rev. Soner Alexandre 407-452-2952

SonerAlexandre@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

The Rev. Dr. Richard Gonzalez 239-777-0369
email: richardgonzalez@churchofthemessiah.com

Deacons: The Rev. Julie Altenbach 407-462-8001
JulieAltenbach@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

The Rev. Sam Katulic 321-230-4756

DeaconSam@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

The Rev. Tim Wetherington 407-342-4484
Deacontim@outlook.com

Treasurer: Bob Tate, treasurer@churchofthemessiah.com

Staff: Jeremy Adams, Facilities & Music Minister

Julie Altenbach, Office Minister

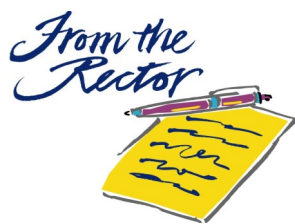
Barbara Ellerbe, Preschool Director

407-654-8415

Linda Ellison, Music Minister

Angela Lopez, Children's Minister

Jane Cartelli, Finance Minister



We're Digitized!

Welcome to the new way of doing the monthly *Messenger* – and, indeed, ALL of our life together.

With COVID-19 restricting travel, face-to-face contact, and especially skin-to-skin contact, everyone is scrambling to figure out how to communicate and stay in contact, and the Messiah family is scrambling right along with you.

If you're reading this online, IT WORKED!

We added *Constant Contact* to our communication tools, which is a software that enables us to email everyone in the parish family for whom we have an address – or smaller groups within the family – and to let you sign up for events – like the Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil (SEE PAGE 5) – online.

For those in the family who don't do email, we'll get this to you by United States Postal Service and have printed copies in the Narthex for those who'd like one and for our guests to let them know what the Messiah is doing in his family.

In addition to *Constant Contact*, Office Minister Deacon Julie Altenbach is posting news and encouragement on social media daily on our [FaceBook Page](#) and [Instagram](#). If you do social media, please follow us to stay abreast of parish family stuff.

We're livestreaming our Sunday worship on [FaceBook Page](#) and posting it to our [COTMWG YouTube channel](#) – Church of the Messiah WG. You may also watch the services anytime you like on Facebook [@churchofthemessiahwg](#).

As long as this COVID thing lasts, we'll livestream Sunday worship at 9:30. When we're able to resume in-person worship, we'll livestream the 11am service. That's because the Parish Hall is much more tech-friendly than the Church and large enough to allow everyone helping produce the video to stay 6 feet apart.

The worship will be Rite 2 ½, which means half of the music will be hymns and the other half contemporary, played and led by a combined group from the Choir and Worship Band. We'll return to offering the 5 different styles of worship when the pandemic passes, but while we have only one service, we're trying to have something for everyone.

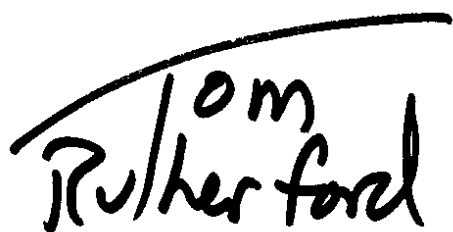
Because we Anglicans treasure both Word AND Sacrament, **we're offering Drive-Thru Communion on-Sundays from 11am-Noon after the morning worship and Monday-Friday from Noon-1pm and 5-6pm** in the parking lot on the Tilden Street side. The Clergy person serving it stays 6 feet away from you, and the bread and wine are an individual serving in a hermetically sealed package. If you wonder how that works, please visit our YouTube channel for a short video.

Of course our **Clergy Team and ministry leaders** are always available by phone, text, and email. Their phone numbers and addresses are on the front page of this *Messenger* and on the “Who Ya Gonna Call?” list on page 4. Please contact us with prayer requests, praise reports, to touch in, and just to stay in contact.

The Church is open for prayer from 9am-5pm Monday-Friday and at least one of our Clergy Team will be on campus, if you’d like to visit, pray, or make a confession. Please come in on the Tilden Street side.

Yes, life and communication have gotten complicated, but we’re family, and we’ll get through this... because we’re God’s family, and HE will get us through this.

I love you all!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Rutherford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. A long, sweeping horizontal line is drawn above the name, starting from the left and ending under the 'f'.

You can click on the links below to access all of our social media and internet presence as well as resources. If you need help, please call the office at 407-656-3218.

Our website: <https://churchofthemessiah.com/>

Facebook: [@ChurchOfTheMessiahwg](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR FACEBOOK TIPS FOR VIEWING LIVE](#)

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW ALL VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK](#)

Instagram: [@cotm_wg](#)

YOUTUBE: [COTMWG](#)

Maundy Thursday/Good Friday [Prayer Vigil Sign Up](#)

[Online Book of Common Prayer](#)

Remind for Children's Ministry COTM: On your Smartphone or your computer, in the web browser, type rmd.at/42a2d6g. You will be prompted on how to register for updates from Ms. Angela.

[Click here to subscribe for our YouTube Channel and receive updates when videos are posted!](#)

We are hoping for at least 100 subscribers so it is easier to find our channel.

Who Ya Gonna Call

LOVING GOD INREACH	LEADER	PHONE	EMAIL
Acolytes	Murph Borno	407.413.4220	youthminister@churchofthemessiah.com
Altar Guild	Trudie Carr Karen Stewart Jennifer Roper	321.287.6478 407.625.7615 407.760.2393	Trudie21@cfl.rr.com Kstewart1208@yahoo.com Jennifer.roper@yahoo.com
Building Maintenance	Chris Brown	407.864.1708	CG_Brown@Live.com
Children's Ministry	Angela Lopez	321.287.9089	Angelalopez@churchofthemessiah.com
Lay Weeders/Landscapers	John Peacock	407.758.2728	jpeacox@cfl.rr.com
Music/Choirs/Band	Linda Ellison	407.417.4229	Lakesongmusic@gmail.com
Prayer Chain	Elise Bradford	407.876.2557	eliserb535@gmail.com
Prayer Intercessors	Wally Stewart	407.468.2545	Stewart3rd@aol.com
Central Scheduling Ushers/Greeters/Lectors/LEMS/LEVS	Mike & Bobby Warren	352.241.8703	customerservants@cfl.rr.com
LOVING GOD OUTREACH	LEADER	PHONE	EMAIL
Christian Service Center	Doreen Stachowski	407.717.5888	Stach45T@aol.com
Communications/Publicity	Joe Eiden	919.523.1869	eydenj@gmail.com
Habitat for Humanity	Bob Tate	407.247.0219	tater7134@gmail.com
Church Outreach	Doreen Stachowski	407.717.5888	Stach45T@aol.com
Pre-School	Barbara Ellerbe	407.654.8415	barbaraellerbe@churchofthemessiah.com
Refugee Team	Murph Borno	407.413.4220	youthminister@churchofthemessiah.com
LOVING EACH OTHER	LEADER	PHONE	EMAIL
Casserole Patrol	Deacon Julie Altenbach	407.462.8001	juliealtenbach@churchofthemessiah.com
Coffee Hour	Kelley McRae	407.877.0463	kemcrae@hotmail.com
Fun & Fellowship	Wendy King	407.928.8132	wbking@cfl.rr.com
Grief Groups	Jill Brown	407.656.5776	Jlbrown656@embarqmail.com
Hurricane Disaster Response Team	Murph Borno	407.413.4220	youthminister@churchofthemessiah.com
Kitchen Krewe	Patty Tate	321.331.1435	pattyjotate@yahoo.com
Lay eucharistic Visitors	Deacon Julie Altenbach	407.462.8001	juliealtenbach@churchofthemessiah.com
Church Library	Regina Seguin	407.865.3865	libray@churchofthemessiah.com
Men's Supper	Wally Stewart	407.468.2545	Stewart3rd@aol.com
Messiah's Way	Brian Seguin	407.865.1472	seguinbox@gmail.com
Name Tags	Julie Altenbach	407.656-3218	juliealtenbach@churchofthemessiah.com
Newsletters/Bulletins	Deacon Julie Altenbach	407.462.8001	juliealtenbach@churchofthemessiah.com
Nursery/Childcare	Angela Lopez	321.287.9089	Angelalopez@churchofthemessiah.com
Office Angels	Deacon Julie Altenbach	407.462.8001	juliealtenbach@churchofthemessiah.com
Parish Nurse	Barbara Knappman	630.470.1405	barbnap@msn.com
Pastoral Care	Joyce Taylor	407.222.1290	shadesfan@aol.com
Transportation Aid	Joyce Taylor	407.222.1290	shadesfan@aol.com
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	Joe Wolfe	407.656.4226	Wolfejns@aol.com
Women's Dining Club	Janice Hull	407.413.4220	Jhull1049@gmail.com
Youth	Murph Borno	407.413.4220	youth@churchofthemessiah.com

Please contact the church office if you need further assistance at:

407-656-3218 or office@churchofthemessiah.com

Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Prayer Vigil



Art work by
parishioner,
Kathy Barrett

This year all the prayer vigil will be held in our homes. Please use the sign up button below to sign up for a time. There are 3 slots for each 1/2 hour time, but you are welcome to pray as much as you like. Please try to help fill in all the time slots from 8:30 pm after our Maundy Thursday livestream until our Good Friday livestream at noon.

[Prayer Vigil Sign Up](#)

If you're not sure what to do, here are some suggestions:

Pray the Psalms out loud

Pray the "Prayers and Thanksgivings" from *The Book of Common Prayer* pages 814-841 [Online Book of Common Prayer](#)

Read the Passion story in the Bible from Mark chapters 14-16, and thank Jesus for doing that for you.

Pray for your family.... ALL of them

Pray for our parish family: our vestry, staff, the people you know, the people you don't know

Pray for your friends who don't have a parish family of their own

Pray for God's provision in your life

Pray for God's provision in our parish family

Pray for your own needs and concerns

Pray for God to touch the 300 people who don't usually come to church who will watch us on Easter.

If while you're praying, you hear something from God, write it down.

Preschool News

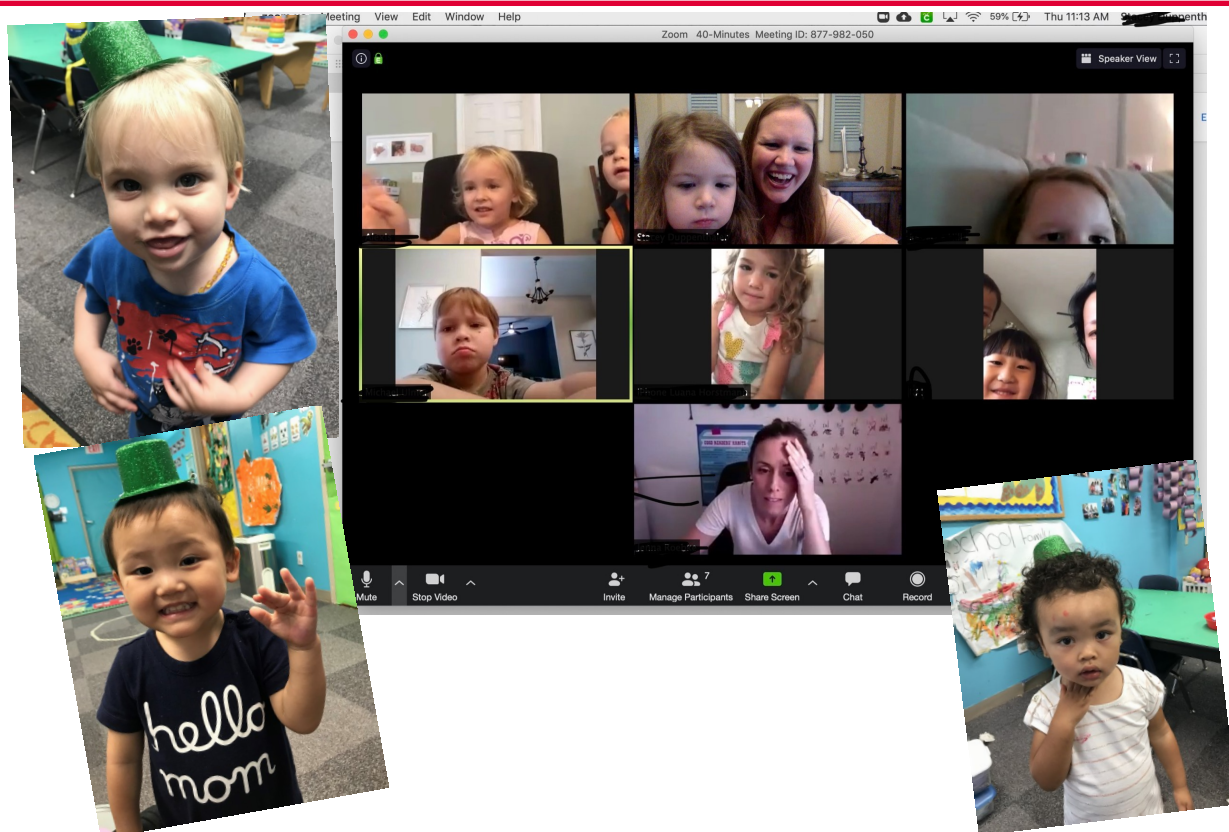
Dear Church Family,

The preschool has closed due to the COVID-19 virus. At this time, we plan to follow the Orange County Public Schools schedule. We hope to be back in the classrooms with the children once again but as you well know, it is a very fluid situation. The news changes daily and we are doing the best we can to keep our staff and students safe. Due to the virus the preschool has also canceled all of its special events including Preschool Sunday for the month.

I pray you all will stay well and that we will all be back to our normal activities soon.

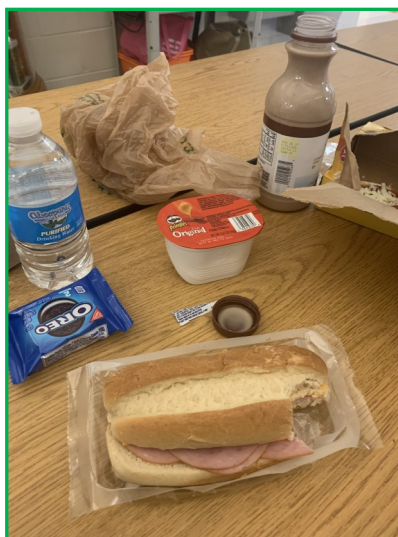
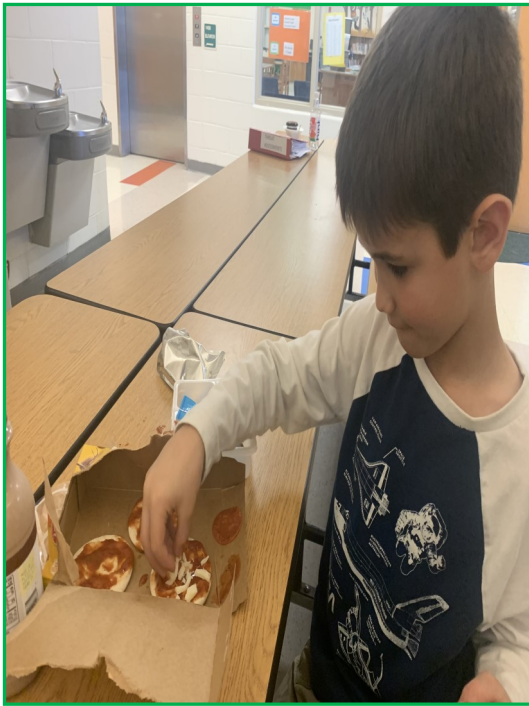
Sincerely,

Barbara Ellerbe



100

Walter Seguin reached 100 points at SHINE! To celebrate he elected to have me join him at school and to bring him a pizza lunchable, chocolate milk and “sprinkle cookies”. We shared many laughs as he made his pizza and pigged out on chips, Oreos, a chocolate bar and sprinkle cookies, which he shared with his whole class. We snapped a quick picture with his sister Caroline as she passed by in the hall. As boys like to do, he wowed me with his burps and dragon voice, talked to me about math (it’s his favorite subject). It was a wonderful treat to spend time with him. His class was very appreciative of the cookies too! Way to go Walter, keep SHINING!





Yester really enjoyed the waffles that Lisa Field made for us!

Lenten prayer pretzels made from pizza dough



Little Lessons in Lent



We gathered our natural elements for around the campus.



While learning about prayer we made a Jesus in the garden diorama.



Activate



Ministry

Thank you to everyone who donated toward, volunteered at, or came out to the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper fundraiser! We made in excess of \$800, a true blessing in helping us achieve the budgetary requirements for our mission trip. Speaking of mission trips, we are going to Smyrna, TN 8-18 July, so come on out and join the fun by loving GOD, loving people, and serving others! The estimated cost per missionary is \$750, or a total requirement of \$12,000. We will be communicating info about other fund raising events that we would love for you to join us in, and a breakdown of needs by category if anyone wishes to contribute towards a certain piece of the mission trip effort. We are praying for everyone to know that GOD has a plan and is in control, even when it seems like he is not. The youth and I are praying that GOD will provide you with the courage, strength and peace to make it through the current COVID-19 situation, because he will if you put your trust in him! We have the most awesome kid's, make sure you tell them that you love them!

Please feel free to contact me anytime at youthminister@churchofthemessiah.com or (407) 413-4220, or via the Remind texts once you receive a link.

Grace and Peace

Murph Borno



We are
Missionaries
of God's Love



Invite your co-workers, family and neighbors to join us
online for our services on
Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/churchofthemessiahwg> or our YouTube channel and
subscribe for updates at [COTMWG YOUTUBE](#)

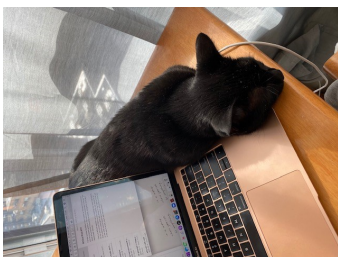


Hi from Quarantine!

I'm still in Toronto currently working on finals. The border up here is closed so I'm hanging tight in Toronto for the foreseeable future. Wycliffe has shut down the building but are still allowing international students to stay so huge prayers that continues even after the semester, especially since we can't get back to the US! I'm well and getting to cat sit for some friends that went to visit family during this which is a sweet gift! Praying for all of you during this and missing you .

Love you all,,

Laura



This is Florence!
My quarantine and
finals buddy! She
enjoys sitting
extremely close.

Messiah Missionaries

Father Tom attended "Lifting Our Voices In Song," celebrating the life and work of Absalom Jones First Black Priest of the Episcopal Church on Saturday, February 22nd, at the Episcopal Church of St. John The Baptist in Orlando.

Deacon Julie attended The Celebration of New Ministry for Father Rob Griffith on February 23rd, at Holy Spirit Apopka and visited Holy Spirit Apopka again on March 15th for the Baptism of a former student's son.

On A Roll with Tim & Terri
Missionary Misadventures with Deacon Tim & Terri Wetherington

We often expect (hope) to see the face of Jesus at times of adversity. Sometimes we see him in the best of times.

All was right with the world as Terri and I were driving down a tiny country road in rural Mississippi. As we approach a crossroad, a total stranger with a huge smile was waving at us.

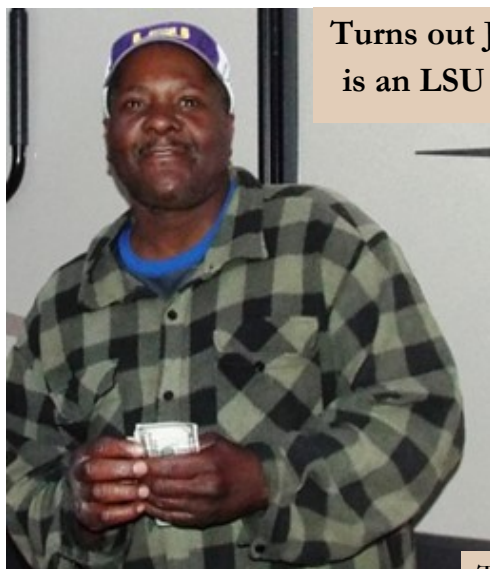
We pulled over.

His name is LL. LL Cool. His south Mississippi accent is thick. His language is mumbled but colorful. And his offer is genuine. He told us he runs a car and truck wash business, and he would like to wash our RV (which needed it).

Turns out this corner is not just his place of business. It's his home. He lives in a dilapidated sugar shack with the porch literally falling off the front of the house.

With the money we gave him, he got his electricity turned back on. He never asked us for anything. He just wanted to help us.

Just like Jesus.



**Turns out Jesus
is an LSU fan.**



Terri and LL. The 1st signs say, "If you are picky About you car. Don't bring it here. Me and God are gonna love you anyhow." The 2nd sign says, "NO Discounts, NO CREDIt, Do'nt ASK" (Jesus doesn't bargain.) It goes on, "no LOUD music, I LOVE money \$\$\$" (Jesus wants you to be considerate of your neighbors and remember to tithe.)

Meanwhile, back in the 13th Century, like most people of the time, St. Francis felt a disdain for lepers and avoided them at all costs. One day, as Francis was riding his horse alone in the countryside, he caught sight of a badly disfigured leper walking toward him. Almost as a reflex, Francis moved to the side of the road to avoid contact with the poor wretch. But instead of continuing on, Francis stopped, dismounted, and warmly embraced and kissed the leper.

In his testament, Francis wrote, "When I was in sin, the sight of lepers nauseated me beyond measure; but then God himself led me into their company." Francis had come to realize that he had actually embraced none other than his Lord, Jesus Christ.

Very often it's not until later that we realize a particular encounter was indeed with Jesus Christ. As John shared: "No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." 1 John 4:12



Calling all LAY Weeders that are able to come and help!
It's that time of the year again. Our first cleanup of 2020 is set for
April 4th at 8 a.m. to approximately 12 p.m.

Our mission as Lay Weeders is to spruce up the church grounds
by taking care of all the landscaping needs except cutting grass
and edging. Please bring yourself, friends, gloves, rakes, trim-
mers, etc.

Thank you for volunteering and hope to see you there. If you
would like to volunteer, or have questions, please use the email
below. If the plans changed, we will notify you.

John Peacock

jpeaoc@cfl.rr.com

KEEP YOUR INFORMATION
UP TO
DATE

WE DON'T WANT YOU
TO MISS OUT!



If you didn't receive Father Tom's
email last week, please call the of-
fice to make sure we have your
current and correct information.
We have a new way to send emails
to our parish family and want to
make sure you stay up to date. We
will only use it to give you im-
portant information and changes
to events during this unusual time.

Vestry Minutes * March 22, 2020 @2:30 p.m.

2020 Vestry

Ron Bouton, *Properties*
Email: eronbo47@gmail.com

Chris Brown, *Junior Warden, Properties* Email:
CG_Brown@Live.com

Joe Eiden, *Communications/ Publicity, Missions & Evangelism*
Email: eidenj12@gmail.com

Wendy King, *Fun & Fellowship*
Email: wbking@cfl.rr.com

John Peacock, *Properties*
Email: jpeacox@cfl.rr.com

Brian Seguin, *Connections*
Email: seguinbox@gmail.com

Doreen Stachowski, *Missions & Evangelism*
Email: stach45t@aol.com

Wally Stewart, *Properties, Pastoral Care*
Email: stewart3rd@aol.com

Patty Tate, *Business & Development, Properties, Outreach*
Email: pattyjotate@yahoo.com

Bob Tate, *Treasurer*
Email: treasurer@churchofthemessiah.com

Joyce Taylor, *Clerk, Pastoral Care*
Email: shadesfan@aol.com

Dawn Wirbel, *Children & Youth, In reach, Outreach, Worship*
Email: d.wirbel@yahoo.com

Vestry Door Duty for April 2020

Opener at 7:30am: Wally Stewart
Closer after 1:00pm: Dawn Wirbel
Vestry Meeting Host: Ron Bouton

2020 Financial Report

(as of February 2020)

Operating Income.....	\$111,595.32
Operating Expenses.....	<u>\$98,254.98</u>
NET.....	\$13,340.34

ALL Building Fund Income....	\$22,708.325
ALL Building Fund Expense...	<u>\$29,234.76</u>
NET.....	(\$6,526.51)

All Staff and Vestry have mailboxes in the front office (behind the front desk) with their names on them. You may contact them by leaving a note in their mailbox.

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE NOTES
OR MONEY ON THE FRONT
DESK IN THE OFFICE.**

Present in person: Rector Tom Rutherford, Junior Warden Chris Brown, Ron Bouton, Wendy King, John Peacock, Doreen Stachowski, Wally Stewart, and parishioner Valerie Rice. **Present online:** Clerk Joyce Taylor; Joe Eiden, Mary Kay Predmore, Brian Seguin, and Dawn Wirbel. Treasurer Bob Tate and Patty Tate tried to attend online, but couldn't get it to work.

Absent: None

FORMATION: Doreen Stachowski led Noonday Prayer. Based on Hebrews 13:17, Tom Rutherford invited vestry members to share about the leaders in our lives.

INFORMATION:

A. Vestry Ministry Team Reports:

Mortgage Renewal: We close Monday, March 23 at 3:30pm! The principle amount is \$1,328,000 and the interest rate remains at 4.5%, and the term is for 6 years.

Outreach Team: Doreen Stachowski reports: The first Outreach meeting was held on February 20, 2020 with 11 participants. The ministries for this year were decided and agreed upon, along with the budget (2% of plate/pledge). Many of the new ministries are being researched and ideas and how we can serve will be determined. We have 16 ministries this year to spread the love of Jesus – one child, one person, one family, one community at a time!

- a) Christian Service Center: we do Bag Sunday every month, have 4 volunteers who currently serve every week, and are recruiting more.
- b) Food Gift Cards for Parish Families: \$150.00 per month distributed by Father Tom.
- c) Father Soner Utilities: \$300 monthly distribution for utilities. Finance Minister Jane Cartelli will charge to the Outreach budget
- d) Apopka Pregnancy Care Center with 3 volunteers currently and recruiting more.
 - (1) Participate in their fund raiser Baby Bottle Boomerang between Mother's Day and Father's Day
 - (2) Donate \$1000 to help with their move and needed supplies for the new facility OR for their monthly needs – Father Tom will present check
 - (3) Gather a team to help paint the new facility
 - (4) Gather a team to help with yard clean-up of the old facility
- e) Dillard Street Partners in Education: \$1,000 for Back to school Teacher's dinner, Teacher appreciation party, Student of the Month, 5th Grade graduation party, and Kindergarten roundup
- f) Habitat for Humanity
- g) Holiday Food Baskets: \$600 for 20 baskets for Thanksgiving and 20 baskets for Christmas. Ask parishioner's for donations of canned foods
- h) Easter Egg Hunt at Newton Park in Winter Garden: \$100 for Invitation to each parent to attend our Easter Sunday services, Crayons and coloring pages for each child, Bunny munch for each child to make
- i) Foster Friends of Central Florida: \$250 for dinner gift cards, a spa day for the 6w girls and the house mother, and nail and beauty supplies
- j) Edgewood Children's Ranch: \$2,000 for 3 events: picnic and basketball game, clean up the grounds, and a Christmas party
- k) Hospice: recruit volunteers and give prayer shawls.
- l) Public School Outreach: Pray for specific schools in need and help with Teacher appreciation – take snacks for teachers to show our love
- m) Seniors First: researching options
- n) Angel Tree: Ask for donations of gifts for the children to give the parents in prison

- o) Operation Christmas Child: we are not doing this as a parish, but we will share information with our parishioners how they can.
- p) Welcome New Visitors: Researching gifts and process
- 3. **Junior Warden** Chris Brown and Brian Seguin surveyed our buildings and grounds and will have a report on what needs to be fixed, painted, and get some attention. They will prioritize the list and e-mail it to the vestry members.
- 4. **Compassion Weekend:** Joyce Taylor is coordinating Compassion Weekend May 8-10 (Mothers' Day weekend). The Compassion Journey will be in our parish hall Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The Journey is an interactive simulation of a Compassion child's home and school. Compassion publicizes the event, and we will welcome several hundred visitors into our campus that weekend. It costs us no money, but we will be recruiting volunteers to staff the Journey those days.
- 5. No others received.

B. Staff Reports:

1. **Children of the Messiah Preschool:** Director Barbara Ellerbe reports:

- a) The financial report was emailed separately.
- b) We are now able to accept payments by credit card.
- c) Since we follow Orange County Public Schools' schedule, we are not in session for the next several weeks, due to the corona virus.

2. **Children's Ministry:** Children's Minister Angela Lopez reports:

- a) The children's section of the Youth Hall got a little sprucing up! I added a couple "fathead" style wall stickers to help it look like a welcoming, joyful kids' space. We have a giant poster of Jesus dancing with small children that says "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." I hung it near the piano where the preschoolers do music. I mounted the "Jesus in Jeans" and a poster that has our SHINE key verse on it over by the TV where we show our videos. There is a family who occasionally make donations to Children's Ministry, and I use these funds for extra items I would not otherwise be able to purchase. Another item I recently ordered from these funds are a set of family devotional books called *Breakfast with Jesus*. I am excited to hand these out at prizes. Thank you to everyone who contributes to the children's fund, you make it possible for me to go above and beyond in this ministry.
- b) I have had lunch at Dillard Street with both of the Seguin kids. They earned 100+ SHINE points. We celebrated their willingness to SHINE and the growth of their personal relationship with Jesus. We talked about their favorite subjects, what troubles them at school, and what they want to be when they grow up. During my lunch with Caroline I discovered another one of our Messiah kids attends Dillard Street, Joe Field, so I got to say a quick hello to him also! We have 7 kids there that I am aware of. On March 12th I am volunteering at their field day event so I will see all of our kiddos and cheer them on!
- c) Little Lessons in Lent has started, and we are having a grand time! We made some delicious prayer pretzels from pizza dough, talked about different ways to pray, and are working on illustrating our prayers. We are going to build a diorama of the Garden of Gethsemane. It will be on display on the children's table when completed. Thank you to the families who have signed up to feed the kids. We had some delightful homemade waffles with berries, taco salad, and are looking forward to our pizza this week! Also a huge thank you to the volunteers who have helped me set and clean up on Wednesdays!
- d) Father Tom took some of the staff to a 3 day conference and it was fantastic! I went to workshops on equipping parents, reaching the unchurched and joy fueled evangelism. I got some great ideas and was reaffirmed in some things I am already doing. I love a good conference and especially enjoyed this one as we were able to spend a good deal of time together as a team.
- e) Sandy Armstrong will be leading her first Children's Church lesson this coming Sunday. She has watched and helped out the past few weeks and will now be leading on the 3rd Sunday of each month. I have no doubt the kids are going to love her. She is a former teacher and the grandmother of Lena and Evan, who are acolytes at 9:30.

- f) The SHINE kids are still working on 1 John, we are learning about true living, true teaching, and true loving. We have also been playing a lot of Bible Trivia and Superheros of the Bible trivia. They are very competitive!
- g) I have a concern I would like to share with everyone. The condition of the ceiling in the Messiah School for the Arts room is declining rapidly. CHRIS BROWN WILL ASK FRANK CHASE, WHOSE COMPANY REPLACED THE OTHER HALF OF THAT CEILING, TO COME GIVE AN ESTIMATE.

3. Office Minister Julie Altenbach reports:

- a) This month in the office, the angels and I:
 - (1) revised forms to make them more efficient and easier to use
 - (2) reviewed and updating records
 - (3) revised the bulletin boards to make them easier to access information and sign up
 - (4) assisted with the preparation of small groups for Lent
 - (5) assisted with preparation for Women's Quiet Day
 - (6) researched and ordered Student Bibles for Activate Youth
 - (7) prepared for Diocesan Training, Vestry 101
 - (8) Prepared the Parochial Report for the Diocese (thank you, Father Tom, for helping!)
- b) Other ministries and Staff have begun to utilize the Office Angels to help with their projects. As such, we helped prep for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- c) I hosted the Diocesan Vestry 101 training with Father Tom and Vestry Member and Office Angel, Dawn Wirbel. While the hosting was as your deacon in this parish family, the prep work and organizing took place during my time as Office Minister.

4. Music Ministry: from Music Minister Linda Ellison:

- a) In addition to their usual duties leading music for 8, 9:30, and 11 am services and attending rehearsals, several members of the Messiah Worship Band joined me in leading music for the Messiah Women's Retreat/Quiet Day on Feb. 22nd. We led the ladies in singing songs they know, as well as introducing them to some new ones. It was a very special, inspiring time. Those of us from the Worship Band were blessed to be a part of it.
- b) The Worship Band introduced a new song, "What a friend". We did my arrangement of it, and we added a verse of the old hymn "What a friend we have in Jesus" at the beginning.
- c) Both the Choir and the Worship Band are hard at work preparing for Holy Week and Easter.
- d) Due to my age and general health, I am choosing to stay home for the next few weeks to avoid exposure to the virus. Jeremy Adams is filling in for me while I'm out.

C) Our Responses to the Corona crisis: The Clergy Team, Staff, and Office Angels have been busy building the plan and technological infrastructure to put our worship services online and to offer pastoral care and other ministries to our people and community. The situation changes daily, and Tom Rutherford will communicate with the parish family at least weekly to update them on what we're doing on Sunday.

D) Bradford Fisher's Parish Discernment Committee is well under way.

III. DISCUSSION (to help make a decision next month):

A. The gift from the sale of land Don Greer told us about last month arrived. It's \$12,500. Tom Rutherford will contact the donors to see if they have a request for where to apply those funds.

B. Fr Richard Gonzalez retires from his practice as a pediatrician May 1. He has offered to work for us as a priest 2-2 1/2 days a week in exchange for the church covering his wife Esther's medical insurance, which comes to about \$1,000 per month. Vestry was excited about that possibility and will decide next month.

III. DECISIONS (usually based on the Discussion last month):

- A. Parish Hall Kitchen Floor:** We got new estimates, and Vestry chose to go with Mark's Flooring in Winter Garden, who will lay ceramic tile in the kitchen, pantry, and hallway for \$6,045. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE CORONA CRISIS, WE WILL WAIT TILL NEXT MONTH TO DO ANYTHING.
- B. The Good Friday and Easter Offerings:** Parishioner Valery Rice pitched making a donation of at least \$15,000 to RIP Medical Debt, which is a charity that buys medical debt for a penny – or less – on the dollar. If we give \$15,000, which is the minimum amount RIP works with, we can pay off \$1.5 million or more of medical debt for folks in our community.
1. Though HIPAA laws bar RIP from telling us whose debt we pay off, they can include a note from us in the notification to the people that their debt is forgiven. In that note we can tell them we paid for their forgiveness out of the same love Jesus showed us on the cross when he died for our forgiveness.
 2. VESTRY WANTS TO DO THIS, BUT DECIDED NOT TO DESIGNATE THE EASTER OFFERING AT THIS TIME, AND TO WAIT AND SEE HOW THE CORONA CRISIS UNFOLDS.

Preschool Sunday was originally scheduled for April 19. But with the CDC's recommendation to avoid gatherings larger than 50 for the next 8 weeks (through May 3...or 10th, depending upon when the CDC started counting), they are postponing it until mid-May. They would like to put envelopes in the pew racks for donations to their scholarship fund whenever Preschool Sunday occurs. VESTRY APPROVED.

V. MEETING MINUTES & FINANCIAL REPORT:

- A. Minutes from the February meeting:** APPROVED.
- B. February Financial Report from Treasurer Bob Tate:** APPROVED
1. **Operating Account:** Income was \$1,439.61 MORE than expenses which bumps our year-to-date SURPLUS to \$13,340.34. THANK YOU, JESUS!
 2. **Building Fund:** Net Building Fund income (gifts, fundraising, and facility rental income, less expenses) was \$2,253.68 LESS than what we needed to cover the mortgage of \$12,891.97 and other expenses, raising the year-to-date DEFICIT to \$6,526.51. Our monthly mortgage payment may change after we renew our mortgage tomorrow. Center State will let us know.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. with prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Taylor, Vestry Clerk

For those of you who would like information about how to use technology to hold ministry meetings, small groups or home groups, please contact the office and we are happy to help you learn how.

There is a free site, ZOOM, that enables you to meet through your computer, talk, see each other and even share screens together.

<https://zoom.us/>





By Helen Farnsworth

This month I decided to fudge a little. I've had so much reading for Lenten groups, that I decided to just re-view those materials.

The first book, which many of you will already be familiar with, is ***Boundaries*** by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend. It is a wonderful book, not only about setting boundaries for ourselves (which, incidentally, helps others to assume responsibility for their own actions), but about accepting the boundaries set by others, including children (where appropriate). Both the book and the class have been enlightening to me, showing me where I could improve the care I have for myself (which is different from selfishness) and improve relationships with others as well. I haven't at this moment actually finished the book, but I can highly recommend it, nonetheless.

The same is true of the little book we're using at our Monday night study group: ***The Letters of Peter 1 and 2 and the Letter of Jude***. These are straight Scripture with a bonus: they have the reader read the same material 3 times, each time with a view to answering the following questions:

What is the passage about?

What do I learn about God and myself from this?

How can I apply what I learned to my life?

Of course this is a useful technique that can be used without a book in any portion of Scripture, especially if you write down your answers.

Hope these musings will be helpful to you.



BOUNDARIES

Wendy King and Debbie Rutherford offered the class on Boundaries on Sunday evenings and are praying about offering it again.

In the meantime, here are some links that can be used as resources.

<https://www.drcloud.com/>

<https://www.cloudtownsend.com/>

You can come
check things out of
the library
Monday-Friday
from 9-5

COME VISIT THE CHURCH LIBRARY



Regina Seguin
Church of the Messiah
Librarian
library@churchofthemessiah.com

Dear Messiah Family,

This month, instead of featuring resources in Church of the Messiah's library, I wanted to let you know about some resources and services available in our community, through Orange County Library System.

At this time, all of our public library branches are closed. But a modern library offers so much more than what's within its walls!

First of all, if you are not a member of the public library, you can get your library card online. It will be mailed to your house. Get your card today, and get cards for your kids! It's free for residents. To sign up, go to <https://www.ocls.info/using-library/get-or-replace-your-card>.

Now that you have your card, you can access all of the library's online resources from your home. Please explore the library's website to see all that is available. Here are some of my favorites.

- E-Books – The public library offers eBooks and eAudiobooks. I personally like using the Libby app, which I've downloaded to my smartphone and linked to my library account using my library card number. YES, it has Christian books! There are many more options for eBooks. Learn more here: <https://www.ocls.info/books-movies-more/e-books-digital-audiobooks>
- Homework Help – Many of our kids are home from school for the next several weeks. One of the best-kept secrets of the public library is access to BrainFuse online tutoring. Tutors are available every day from 2pm to 11pm EDT. You can also get online help with writing or learning a language, and more! Check out Brainfuse and other learning resources here: <http://libguides.ocls.info/homework>
- Learn Technology – Many people use their public libraries to take computer classes and learn new technologies. You can learn online, too! Orange County Library System provides access to Lynda.com (a.k.a. LinkedIn Learning), an amazing library of technology classes and tutorials for every level. Sign in with your library card here: <https://www.lynda.com/portal/Patron?org=ocls.info>. Also, the library is continuing to hold classes online while branches are closed; see the library's website for details.
- Language Learning – If you've ever wanted to learn a new language, perhaps this is the time to try. Check out Mango Languages, a self-paced language learning program, here: <http://libguides.ocls.info/language>

But WAIT, what if you don't enjoy online learning and don't like to read eBooks? This is the best part: You can request books and DVDs to be delivered to your home. YES, this service is being offered even during branch closures! Search for an item in the library's catalog and click Request This Item.

Okay, but what if you don't have reliable Internet service or can't use a computer? You can STILL use your library! Call Questline to request home delivery of items at 407-835-7323.

And of course, you can reach out to me at library@churchofthemessiah.com. I would be happy to connect you with library resources anywhere in our community.

Love, Regina



By filling out a Yellow Prayer card from our website. and we will pray for you.

Go to

<https://churchofthemessiah.com/yellow-card-form/> to fill out the digital card.

You can also call the office to have someone pray with you and for you.

Since we won't be able to see each other this month, send pictures of your family worshipping, playing and praying together to:

office@churchofthemessiah.com

**Send Us
Your Photos!**





Readings for Holy Week

	April 5 Palm Sunday Matthew 21:1-11	April 9 Maundy Thursday	April 10 Good Friday	April 12 Easter
1st Lesson	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Exodus 12:1-14	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Acts 10:34-43
Psalm	Psalm 31 BCP 622	Psalm 116 BCP 759	Psalm 22 BCP 610	Psalm 118 BCP 760
2nd Lesson	Philippians 2:5-11	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9	Colossians 3:1-4
Gospel	Matthew 26:14-27:66	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	John 18:1-19:42	John 20:1-18

Readings for The Sundays after Easter

	April 19	April 26	May 3
1st Lesson	Acts 2:14a-22-32	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Acts 2:42-47
Psalm	Psalm 16 BCP 599	Psalm 116 BCP 759	Psalm 23 BCP 612
2nd Lesson	1 Peter 1:3-9	1 Peter 1:17-23	1 Peter 2:19-25
Gospel	John 20: 19-31	Luke 24:13-35	John 10:1-10

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 Katherine Barrett
Annette Spigener
- 3 Cydney Babione
Thomas Knappman
- 4 Florin Wetherington
- 5 Benjamin Chase
Zion Jefferson
- 6 Peyton Cottle
- 8 Anthony Beckford
Emmeline Duppenhaler
John Puchin
- 10 Thomas Rutherford
Jay Williams
- 11 Louis Borno
- 12 Kara Altenbach
- 13 Ansel Haughton
Dennis Jamail
- 14 Lloyd Cho-Sam
Brian Seguin
- 15 Ayla Carroll
Jeanne Teter
- 16 Douglas Faughnan
- 17 Margo Edwards
Zachary King
- 18 Elise Bradford
Georgia Gold
- 20 Penn Remington
- 21 Jeremy Vinson
- 23 Jackson Joiner
- 24 Taylor Gonsalves
- 25 Lisa Field
Samantha Hsu



- 26 Richard McRae
Chadd Smith
- 27 Thomas Stachowski
- 28 Ellynda Hoyte
Tom Johnston
- 29 Nancy Siddens
Joseph Winters
- 30 Sawyer Lynn



Please
pray for
our
expectant
mother
and Preschool Teacher,
Stacey Duppenhaler.



- 4 Paul & Patty Robertson
- 7 Michael & Barbara Warren
- 14 Chuck & Deborah Grunder
- 15 Bill & Elise Bradford
- 16 Barbara & Doug Ellerbe
- 17 Robert & Eileen Gilbert
- 21 Thomas & Regina Knappman
- 24 Don & Rose Marie Hubert



Your Name _____ DOB _____
month/day/year

Spouse _____ DOB _____
month/day/year

Children _____ DOB _____
month/day/year

Children _____ DOB _____
month/day/year

Children _____ DOB _____
month/day/year

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Email: _____

Wedding Anniversary _____

If you're not listed for a birthday or anniversary, please call the church office at 407-656-3218 and give us information for you and your family; or fill out the form to the right and drop it in the offering plate.

Please only give information for those family members who are attending Messiah. Our computer requires the year for date of birth and wedding anniversaries.



2020 Women's Lenten Retreat



Wally Stewart, Linda Gold and Susan Keihm greeting and organizing Lenten Small Groups



The latest group of ladies to complete the Daughters of the King Study with installed members celebrating.



7:00 Acolytes Caroline and Walter Seguin and Angelica



Ms. Angela attended Activate, Kara Altenbach's Dance Competition at Ocoee High School

Ways to Give Your Contributions

***MAIL *ONLINE
*SMARTPHONE**



You can mail your contribution. If you don't receive the monthly letter from Father Tom and envelopes, and would like to, call the office and we will add you to the mailing list.

241 North Main Street
Winter Garden, Fl 34787

ONLINE*giving*

You can go to our website and make a donation at
[Church of the Messiah Give](#)

GIVEPLUS⁺

From your Smartphone
Look for the Free App

*Create an account or log in as a guest

*Find our church by typing in zip code 34787

*Follow the prompts to make a secure donation