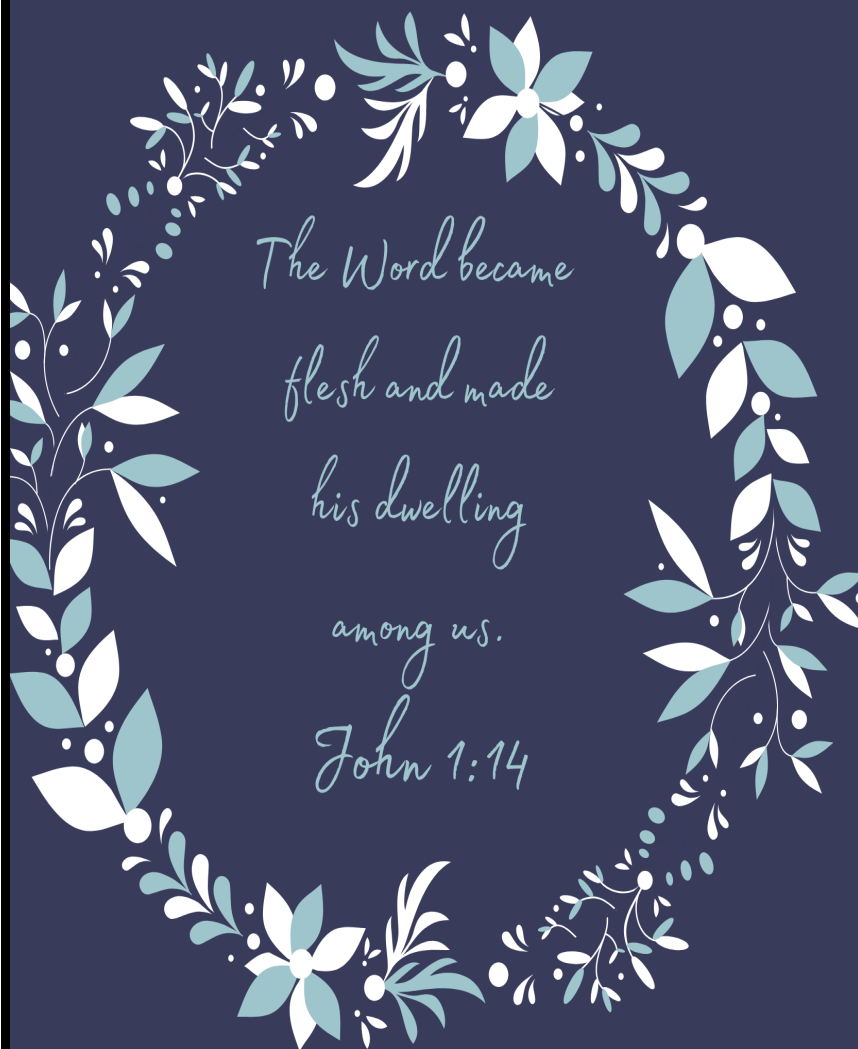


THE MESSENGER

December 2020

A Publication of the Episcopal Church of the Messiah



Sunday Services:

Sunday Services:

8:00 am..Traditional Communion

9:30 am.....Family Communion
(Livestreamed)

Drive Thru Communion

Sundays 11-Noon

&Mondays Noon-1 & 5-6

9:30 am..... Sunday School

11 am.....Contemporary Communion

4:00 pm. French Service
(Livestreamed)

7:00 pm.....Casual Communion

Wednesday Service:

10:00 amCasual Communion

11:00 am Bible Study

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

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

Office Hours: Monday through Friday

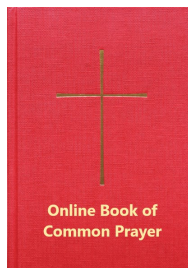
9am—5pm

Click the Buttons Below To Stay Connected

You Tube



Church of the Messiah
Website



407-656-3218

241 North Main Street
Winter Garden, Florida 34787

office@ChurchoftheMessiah.com



Christmas Services

Wednesday, Christmas Eve, Eve, December 23

7:00 pm- Contemporary Communion with the Worship Band in the Parish Hall

Thursday, Christmas Eve, December 24th

5:00 pm- Children's Service that is 55 minutes with Carols and Holy Communion, especially for wiggly, excited children and their families in the Parish Hall

Drive Thru Communion will be offered from 5:30-6:30

7:00 pm- Rite I Traditional Festival Holy Communion with candles and choir in the Church. This service will be livestreamed

8:30 pm- French & Creole Service- Rite II Traditional Festival Holy Communion in the Church WITH INCENSE
This service will be livestreamed

10:30 pm- Traditional Holy Communion with candles and choir in the Church WITH INCENSE

Friday, Christmas Day, December 25

11:00 pm - Simple service with guitar and carols in the Church

*From the
Rector*



Confirmation in COVID-time on February 14, 2021

Bishop Greg Brewer visits us every two years to celebrate, preach, and Confirm and Receive folks into the Episcopal Church and the Messiah family. He was supposed to be with us this past September...but COVID interrupted... as it did so many other events and aspects of life... and he cancelled his parish visitations for 5 months.

That, of course, put him 5 months **BEHIND** on visitations, which has him now visiting us on Sunday February 14, 2021 for Confirmation and Reception.

What are “Confirmation” and “Reception?”

“**CONFIRMATION**” is a sacrament for people who were baptized as infants or children... and may not even remember being baptized. In Confirmation, we “confirm” what happened at our Baptism, affirm that we believe Jesus died and rose for us, and choose to be part of his family, **NOT** because our parents brought us, but because we believe it for ourselves. In Confirmation, we make an adult decision to follow Jesus, and the Bishop lays hands on us and prays for the Holy Spirit to empower us to keep our promises to God and do our part to change the world with Jesus.

If you are at least 12 years old, have been Baptized, and want publicly to dedicate your life to Jesus here in the Messiah family, Confirmation is for you!

IF YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN BAPTIZED, and would like to be, please talk to me soon, and we can fix that!

“**RECEPTION**” is for people who have been “Confirmed” in the Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox traditions and who want to become part of the Episcopal Church. It’s called “Reception,” because we recognize that folks Confirmed by those other Churches are truly “Confirmed,” so we “Receive” you into this branch of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

People who have been Baptized in denominations that don’t do Confirmation and/or who have made an adult decision to follow Jesus have the option of being Confirmed or Received.

If you’d like the Bishop to pray for you individually, Confirmation is that opportunity.

If you feel your decision to follow Jesus came with the infilling of the Holy Spirit, the Episcopal Church respects that, and the Bishop will “Receive” you instead of “Confirm” you.

The only difference is: in Confirmation, the Bishop lays hands on your head and prays for you; in Reception, he shakes your hand and welcomes you into this brand of the Church.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE "CONFIRMED" or "RECEIVED," THIS IS YOUR CHANCE!

What do you need to do to prepare for Confirmation or Reception?

There's usually a "class" or an Inquirers' Group for several weeks to let you know about Jesus, the Bible, the Episcopal Church, and the Messiah family, so you can make an informed decision about whether or not you want to be Confirmed or Received. In this COVID-time, however, we're going to do something a little different.

The Sunday sermons between now and February 14 are going to be the "Inquirers' Group." In them, we'll cover the Good News of Jesus, Sacraments and how we experience God through them, why we do what we do in worship on Sundays, and other stuff that's good to know as adult Christians.

For those of us who are already Confirmed, it'll remind us who we are as God's family.

For those of us who are not yet Confirmed or Received, AND WOULD LIKE TO BE, it'll orient us to faith, hope, and love as we practice them in the Anglican/Episcopal tradition.

If you'd like to be Confirmed or Received, please participate in Sunday worship – in person or online – and **let me know by the end of January** that you want to take this step in faith, hope, and love... so you can take the test.

THERE'S A TEST??????????

NO! Just kidding!

But I will want to have a conversation with you to get to know you better, hear about your decision, answer any questions you have, and help you choose where to serve in the community or Messiah family, if you are not already plugged in.

If you have been coming to the Messiah family, but never "officially," joined, this is your chance. If you have been baptized, but never Confirmed, this is your chance. If you were Confirmed in another tradition, but would like to be part of our Anglican brand of Christianity, this is your chance.

Whatever your decision, I love you all and look forward to February 14!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Rutherford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The first name "Tom" is written above the last name "Rutherford", which is written in a larger, more prominent script.

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 | COTMServants@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 | youthminister@churchofthemessiah.com |

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

407-656-3218 or office@churchofthemessiah.com

Vestry Minutes * November 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

Mary Kay Predmore, *Senior Warden*
Email: marykayp413@aol.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 December 2020

Opener at 7:30am: Mary Kay
Predmore

Closer after 1:00pm: Chris Brown

Vestry Meeting Host: Chris Brown

2020 Financial Report

(as of October 2020)

Operating Income.....\$550,485.19

Operating Expenses.....\$531,460.61

NET.....\$19,024.58

ALL Building Fund Income....\$124,097.13

ALL Building Fund Expense...\$144,175.44

NET.....(\$20,078.31)

If you need to leave something for
Vestry or Staff, you may use their
mailboxes in the office.

The Office is open
Monday-Friday

9-5

2020 November Vestry Minutes
Sunday * November 22, 2020, * 2:30pm

Present (in person or by ZOOM video conferencing): Rector Tom Rutherford, Senior Warden Mary Kay Predmore, Junior Warden Chris Brown, Clerk, Joyce Taylor, Joe Eiden, Wendy King, John Peacock, Doreen Stachowski, Wally Stewart, Patty Tate, and Treasurer Bob Tate.

Absent: Ron Bouton (ill), Brian Seguin (work schedule changed), and Dawn Wirbel (traveling)

FORMATION: Patty Tate led Noonday Prayer, based on Psalm 136:1-3: "Give thanks to the LORD!" Tom Rutherford invited us to share what we are currently thanking God for in our life and in our Church.

II. **INFORMATION:**

A. **Vestry Ministry Team Reports:**

1. **Outreach Team** Doreen Stachowski reports

- a) The Thanksgiving gift cards have been purchased, and the families have been contacted. All 20 are from the Church this year.
- b) Children's Minister, Angela Lopez and I are going to shop for the Edgewood Children's Ranch for some small gift or stocking to add to the gift cards they have requested. Gifts will be delivered in early December.
- c) The girls at Foster Friends of Central Florida asked for a Xbox, and we have purchased one. Joyce Taylor will purchase some games and deliver it to them.
- d) The Angel Tree is for children of parents in prison. Angela and I are working through the details and are waiting for response form the initial letter we sent to the children's guardian.
- e) Our next in-person or ZOOM Outreach meeting will be in February 2021.

2. **Ladies' Night Out:** Wendy King reported God blessed us with \$5600 for the Building Fund from the event. Vestry thanked Wendy and her team of very hard workers for all the effort involved in putting on such a successful event!

3. **Messiah's Way:** New Ministries begin November 29 (the 1st Sunday of Advent). Please utilize your volunteers this year.

B. **Staff Reports:**

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

- a) The Financial Report was emailed separately.
- b) As you can see from the Financial Report, our income is slowly creeping up. We are praying that trend will continue. We haven't withdrawn any money from savings yet. Praise the Lord. He is providing just what we need.
- c) We had 2 sets of parents test positive for COVID-19, and they are keeping their children home and waiting test results. We are praying that it does not come into the preschool. Our carline procedures for drop-off and pick-up are protecting us. As of now all staff and children are remaining healthy.
- d) The preschool teachers are planning a virtual Christmas pageant this year to avoid a large group gathering. We will video record each classroom singing, and Julie Altenbach will narrate the Christmas story. Jeremy Adams will combine all the recordings for us. We could not accomplish this without their help!
- e) We are having our annual Christmas Shopping Day fundraiser on December 12. We will be limiting the number of children this year due to COVID.
- f) Our annual community outreach program of donating to the Mustard Seed will also continue this year. We hope we will be able to help many families in need this Christmas.
- g) We are doing everything we can to keep things as normal as possible this year.

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

- a) The SHINE kids had a Disney Villain themed cooking camp on October 30. One of our regulars invited 2 friends, and some kids that I have not seen in months joined us. We cooked a full day's worth of food: breakfast, lunch, dinner and 2 snacks. They took dinner home in to-go containers. Karen Stewart joined us and taught us how to make caramel apples. The kids called these the Queen's poison apples! Some of the parents asked me to host another cooking camp over Christmas break. I am looking into scheduling it now. These events offer childcare for days when there is no school and parents have to work. They also facilitate the formation of friendships. We pray before every meal, which is new to some of the kids so we take turns and include everyone.
- b) I have been trying several methods of getting Sunday materials out to the families who have not yet returned to church. I think I have finally found one that everyone enjoys. I have made a Google classroom, set up to look like the SHINE room. I import videos, music and projects for each week. I have also used it in actual Children's Church to see if the kids enjoy it. I have gotten the seal of approval from the kids at church and at home. I will continue this until the majority return to church. The link to the classroom is sent out via Constant Contact on Saturday afternoons. Julie developed a cute graphic to accompany the link each week. My intention is to send it only to families who are not currently attending due to COVID. I don't send it if someone just plans on not-coming on a particular Sunday. In person Children's Church and Shine are still happening even though my volunteers are not comfortable returning yet. I appreciate the dedication they showed by offering to come in only for their scheduled Sunday, but have told them they can return as they feel comfortable. I have extended that same message to people who have signed up to volunteer in 2021.
- c) We are enjoying some fall lessons on pumpkin pie (which we ate for breakfast in Children's Church!), pumpkin seeds (which we also ate) and Honey Smacks cereal. (we did not eat this because it's gross!). We made woven paper pumpkins, leafy bottomed hedgehogs and will soon make turkeys to decorate our homes for Thanksgiving. The main message of all the lessons has been: We all have so many things to be thankful for that we need to talk to God about them all the time, not just on Thanksgiving. We have gifts and talents that will grow like pumpkin seeds. We are thankful for treats that don't last long (like the pie), and we need to remember the things that last longer (our relationships and salvation) and express thanks for them as well. We learned that names are important and sometimes people live into the meaning of their name. (Jacob=deceiver) and how a simple change in the name of something/someone changes the way they are viewed. (Sugar Smacks to Honey smacks, Jacob to Israel).
- d) Outreach: Because of my love and concern for kids, I often get involved in projects that are larger than I first imagined. I am working on the Angel Tree prison ministry currently. I was drawn to this ministry because I know all too well the sadness that comes from being separated from a parent. Kids do not understand why the absent parent isn't there and often just feel unloved by that person. The easy part of this project is to provide a gift for each child enrolled in the program. The harder part is locating the children and incarcerated family members and establishing a relationship. As part of this ministry I have been asked to pray for each family member, present the Gospel to them and foster a relationship by sending cards and letters as well as invitations to church events. We have scheduled a small party for the children receiving gifts where the Daughters of the King will be assisting with presenting gifts, praying with and for families as well as documenting the event with pictures. I will follow up with a letter and invitations to the families and will try to coordinate communication with the inmates. At this point I am not feeling called to take on that part myself. Part of my research in locating the inmates was looking at their records. While I have great compassion for kids who have family struggles, and I do know the feeling of sadness of knowing your parent is in prison, I do not have the words to reach out to the incarcerated.

- e) On a more exciting note, as part of our ongoing partnership with Dillard Street Elementary I have ordered some brag tags that will be given to the kids who reach their reading goals in K-2nd grade. I designed their tags with the school mascot and the message "I am an accelerated reading Champ" For the 3-5th graders they will receive one for every Sunshine State book that they read. The tags are made with the cover of each book on one side and a congratulatory message on the other. At the end of this school year I will be donating trophies to the kids who read all 15 books. My kids loved this program when they were in elementary school, so I wanted to extend the same joy to other kids.
- f) From various fundraising efforts I have right around \$300.00 to go towards Christmas gifts for the children in need at Dillard Street. I have a resource for very inexpensive children's toys, so I am coordinating with Vestry Outreach person Doreen Stachowski to purchase as many gifts as we can with that amount.

3. **Facility Minister Jeremy Adams reports:**

- a) We're continuing to see rental cancellations due to COVID, however, we do have a few rentals on the calendar to finish out the year:
 - b) Feeding Children Everywhere (an Orlando based non-profit organization) will be using our kitchen on November 21st to film an educational series on how to cook nutritious meals using supplies they provide to families at no cost.
 - c) Horizon West Theater Company will be presenting their children's winter show "Elf Jr." on December 11th and 12th. Tickets will be available, and the show will be live streamed. The Parish Hall and Youth Hall West will be in use Monday - Saturday from 3pm-6pm d) that week.
 - d) Messiah School for the Arts will be presenting their Winter Concert on Friday, December 18th in the Parish Hall
 - e) Messiah School for the Arts is hosting a weekly dance class in the Parish Hall on Mondays from 3:30pm - 4:30pm
 - f) The Parish Hall roof is leaking again in the same place. I contacted Tom Tanenbaum Roofing and they will be sending a team out to investigate. I believe it will be covered under the warranty in our previous contract, but I'll update everyone when I have more information.
 - g) I ordered 6 replacement sound panels for the Parish Hall that will go up once we're certain the roof is no longer leaking
4. **Finance Minister Jane Cartelli reports:** The U.S. Government keeps tweaking the rules for the Payroll Protection Program. We're still waiting until they solidify before we do anything about applying for forgiveness of the loan.
5. **Music Ministry:** Linda Ellison reports: Although the number of volunteers in Music Ministry continues to be somewhat reduced due to COVID, we still have a faithful group of people who give their time and talent. We have adapted to having a small number of singers instead of our Messiah Choir as well as reduced numbers in our 11 am Worship Band. I have chosen or arranged music to be more suitable for smaller groups. Lately I have been focusing on hymns, even more than usual. I've been working on new piano arrangements for them, as well as variations on the organ sounds from our new keyboard. It's been interesting to search our hymnal for unfamiliar hymns that have great words, but a poor tune, and putting them to a tune that we know. An example is the sequence hymn that we sang yesterday, Nov. 8th - #454 - "Jesus came, adored by angels". It has excellent words, and the fourth verse connected well with the New Testament reading. However, it doesn't have a good tune, so we sang it to #410 - "Praise, my soul, the King of heaven", which almost everyone knows. Since the words are on the screen these days, we could also possibly explore the possibility of singing some well-loved hymns from the hymnals of other denominations, such as "How great thou art", and many more.

6. Office Minister Julie Altenbach reports her recent projects:

- a) Assisted with preparing for Ladies' Night Out
- b) Servant Keeper (our parish record software) merged with a company called, Faithlife. I took a webinar to investigate what the merge will offer in terms of new services. I am scheduling a demonstration and time to speak with a representative about some of the services that might be beneficial for us.
- c) I designed an email template for the Children's Church lesson Children's Minister Angela Lopez creates each week, and I'm sending email to each child's family with the lesson links.
- d) Facebook offers assistance with promoting and boosting posts and events so we can reach more people. I spoke with a Facebook representative who offered advice for the posts we used to promote Ladies' Night Out. I will continue to use what I learned to promote other events and our regular services as well as Diving Deeper.
- e) On November 13th, Father Tom and I invited Office Angels from this past year, as well as Office Angels for 2020 to a lunch to thank them for being a part of this ministry and for us to get to spend time getting to know each other better.

C. COVID-19 Response: We're still attracting lots of attention online: 600-2,000 viewers a week for our worship services and 200+ for Diving Deeper.

D. Bradford Fisher's ordination process: We will pray for Bradford and send him out as a missionary as he leaves to do his Field Education at the Episcopal Church of St John The Baptist in Washington Shores in Orlando. He starts that on the 1st Sunday of Advent (November 29) and will be away from us through Pentecost (May 23, 2021). He's scheduled to be ordained a deacon in September 2021.

E. Vestry Nominees for 2021-23: Tom Rutherford invited the folks on the list that was emailed separately to stand for election. They are not all the folks that were suggested last month. The ones that were suggested, but who are not on this list were either not eligible to serve or have current life issues that would make Vestry membership unhealthy for them.

F. The roof of the house at 227 North Main Street is still dry!

G. Tree trimming: Mark's Tree Service took off dead limbs from the oak tree threatening the library on the Tilden St side of the campus, and the Lay Weeders trimmed many other trees on their workday on November 14. Thank you Wally Stewart for interacting with Mark's Tree Service, and thank you John Peacock for coordinating the Lay Weeders.

H. Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death (TVSD):

1. Jill Brown, trained 8 people from the Anglican Church of the Redeemer in Jacksonville, Florida for grief ministry, using the resources Greer McBryde developed. The training was via Zoom on-line meetings because of the Covid-19 pandemic and lasted 10 weeks from August 15-October 17, every Saturday for one and a half hours. This was the first time long-distance, on-line training has been used for TVSD.

2. Our next TVSD group will meet in the spring of 2021.

III. DISCUSSION (to help make a decision next month): 2021 First Draft Wish Budget: The Finance Committee met this past week to look and pray over the 1st Draft Wish Budget that was emailed to you previously. They recommend adopting the Budget as presented. Vestry discussed the proposed Budget and will take it home to pray over and discuss with our constituents in the parish family, so we can make any necessary changes and adopt a Budget at our December meeting and publicize it to the parish family in January.

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

- A. Vacant lots on Woodland Street:** We have someone interested in buying our two vacant lots. The Vestry discussed this and felt we need to keep them.
- B. 2021 Diocesan Convention Delegates:** Convention is Saturday February 6 and all online. In addition to all our clergy, we need 3 lay delegates and up to 3 lay alternate delegates. One of our Lay Delegates must be a member of the Vestry. Vestry elected Anthony Beckford, Chris Brown, and Janice Hull as Delegates and our Seminarian Laura Cook and Senior Warden Mary Kay Predmore as our Alternate Delegates.

V. MEETING MINUTES & FINANCIAL REPORT:

A. Minutes from the last month's meeting: APPROVED.

B. Last month's Financial Report from Treasurer Bob Tate: APPROVED/

- 1. Operating Account:** Giving last month was \$13,462.49 LESS than expenses. That DECREASES our SURPLUS year-to-date to \$19,024.58.
- 2. Building Fund** net income last month was \$6,011.93 LESS than our \$11,996.01 monthly mortgage and other expenses, INCREASING the DEFICIT year-to-date to \$20,078.31. The Building Fund deficit and the Operating Account surplus are \$1,000 away from cancelling each other out, which means overall giving so far this year has pretty much kept up with expenses...for the first time in MANY years!
3. Someone suggested reminding our parishioners – especially those who are still sheltering at home and not attending worship in person – that they can give by mail, online, or by phone. We'll include that reminder in the weekly email, monthly *Messenger*, and Sunday bulletins in December.

The Meeting closed with prayer and adjourned at 3:25

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce Taylor, Vestry Clerk

STITCHES BY LEYLA



**WOULD YOU LIKE THIS ON A
SHIRT, JACKET, CAP, OR
ANYTHING ELSE?**

For \$15, Leyla at **Stitches by Leyla**
at 13020 West Colonial Drive in Winter Garden
will embroider this on any piece of clothing you take her.

Tell her Father Tom sent you!

See her website : StitchesByLeyla.com

407-614-3123

PRESCHOOL NEWS

The preschool is beginning the celebration of the Lord's birth by first collecting toys for The Mustard Seed Charities. For several years we have been able to collect a truck-full of toys for families in need. During this time when we know many families are struggling, we hope to collect even more for those who need our help. This community service project helps the children to learn the joys of giving. The entire staff at our preschool works to teach the children about sharing Christ's love not only during the holidays but every day.

This year there will not be a live Christmas pageant due to COVID-19 restrictions. We are creating a Virtual Christmas Pageant for the families to enjoy. I would like to give a special thank you to Julie Altenbach and Jeremy Adams for their help with this project. We would not be able to do this without their help.

On December 12th, we will be holding our Annual Christmas Shopping Day. This event allows parents to finish up their Christmas shopping while the preschool staff watches their children for a few hours on a Saturday. The children will make a special gift to give to mom and dad while they play with their friends and participate in lots of fun Christmas activities.

The preschool will be closed December 21- January 4. The teachers will return for a work day on January 4. The students will return on January 5.

On behalf of the entire staff we wish everyone a very Merry and Safe Christmas.







Disney Villain Cooking Camp



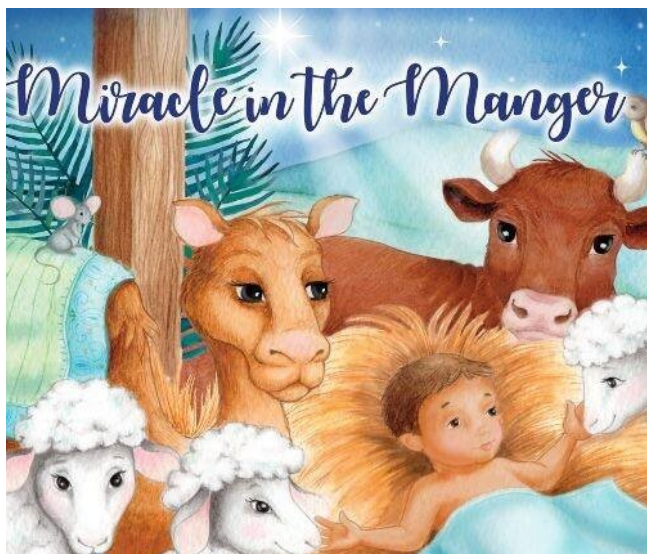
The kids made: egg casserole, cinnamon rolls, corn dog muffins, seasoned fries, BBQ ribs, dirty rice, sugar cookies, caramel apples, and a color swirled juice. Then they danced and sang their hearts out to the movie Descendants.





Merry Christmas to all of the children and families! It has been a strange year, but we still found some ways to have fun, hang out and love each other. It has been a tremendous blessing to me to share a small part of your child's life! I wish you all a blessed holiday season, pray for your safety and health as well as the time we can all worship and play together at church.

Love, Ms. Angela



Please join us on December 24th at 5 pm for our Children's Service.

We will be socially distanced, and we will be presenting the story *A Miracle in a Manger*. For health reasons there will be no costumes or participation from the children. There will be Christmas goodie bags!



GarineAdams@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

Messiah Youth Band entertained at Ladies' Night Out.



Meet the newest staff member, Isabella Eaton. Isabella is a talented dance instructor that began offering lessons on Monday afternoons.

Our youngest student, Yester Adams, performing at Alive Girl's Retreat.





ACTIVATE

YOUTH

**Contact Youth Minister, Murph Borno at
youthminister@churchofthemessiah.com
or (407) 413-4220, or via remind once
you receive a link.**

Activate Youth Ministry

This has been an interesting year. SARS-CoV-2, being an election year, and long standing social, economic, and cultural issues that have never been completely addressed. One thing has remained constant. God has been with us, and will continue to be with us, through the end of time. While our sense of normalcy was interrupted, our youth have amazingly rolled with the punches, and not allowed the craziness of the world knock them off center. We continue to have a core group that meets weekly via zoom, and are still learning, laughing and growing together in our relationship with Jesus. With another six months in-front of us before any vaccine gains are realized, we will have a Christ centered approach and attitude towards others in these times of stress, strife and discord. We will be having open hearts and minds towards everyone, and to be respectful of all people, especially those who may think or feel differently than we do. There are many people who are struggling mentally, emotionally and spiritually. We will endeavor to serve and minister to them in safe and loving ways. Please pray with the youth and me, that people will have faith that GOD will provide courage, strength and peace as he leads us through the valley ahead. He will if you let him! We have the most awesome kid's, make sure you tell them that you love them as often as you can! Please reach out if you are in need of anything (prayer, logistics support, conversation, etc.), we are here to love and serve you. 😊

Please feel free to contact me anytime!

Grace and Peace

Murph Borno

Activate Youth Minister

Messiah's Missionaries



**Changing the
world for Jesus:
one child,
one person,
one family,
one community at
a time.**

Joyce Taylor attended Christ the King Church in Hiawasse, Georgia on October 25, 2020.



We prayed for Bradford Fisher on November 22nd as we send him out as a missionary to do his Field Education at the Episcopal Church of St. John The Baptist in Washington Shores in Orlando in preparation of his ordination as a deacon.



A Groundbreaking Ceremony was held November 7th for Criswell Court on Center street in East Winter Garden which will be the site of four future Habitat homes.

This project has a special place in the hearts of Messiah folks as it was named after Bill Criswell who passed away last year.

Bill was a volunteer with Habitat for many years and started the program to build homes for wounded vets called Home at Last.

Father Tom spoke at the event to share Bill's story and included some memories and stories of his years at Messiah and Habitat.



Father Tom with Habitat for Humanity Volunteers, Cherie Mayfield and Patty & Bob Tate.





The Chronicles of Seminarian Laura Cook

Hi from the Great North!!

As we enter December, I cannot express how much I miss you all! I cannot believe we're already in December in this crazy year. The city of Toronto has been put into another lockdown where only essential travel, work and grocery shopping are allowed. So we are in tight quarters here with serious limitations in the building. In all of this, I'm reminded how wonderful our professors and Chaplain are how hard they are working to help keep everyone sane. Jesus is always really good about sending us just what we need, when we need it, isn't he?

At the writing of this I am unsure if I will be home for Christmas. My passport had to be renewed and is still somewhere in the U.S. and with the border restrictions and shutdowns, there are just a whole lot of unknowns! So that would be my prayer request— please pray for wisdom for a good time to come home and for a certain U.S. passport to make its way back to Canada.

I still love participating and live streaming church every week— a little bit of home is so nice.

Love and miss you all!

Laura



A trip to the
Winnie The Pooh
Exhibit before
the museum
shut down!

A snowy night walk!



Church of the Messiah Library

Librarian: Regina Seguin

library@ChurchoftheMessiah.com



Dear Messiah Family,

Happy New Year! I am very excited about all we have accomplished in the library this past year and all we have planned for the coming year. Since last year, we have added dozens of new books and DVDs, both from your generous donations and hand selected items we purchased to fill gaps in our collection. We also removed a number of outdated and damaged books to make room on our shelves. To guide that work going forward, I wrote, and the Vestry approved, a new collection development document, which outlines the library's mission, goals and criteria for adding new items. We also added a new mobile book cart which we have been using for themed book displays. If you haven't seen it, stop by the library and check it out! This month, we will have Advent and Christmas books on display.

But! The most exciting work is what's planned for the coming year. My goal is to develop an online catalog of all our library materials. More about this to come in the months ahead!

Prayers for a happy healthy Advent and Christmas season! Please email me at library@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com any time!

Love,
Regina

Book Reviews by Helen Farnsworth



This month I read two books: **PAUL THE APOSTLE: Missionary, Martyr, Theologian**, by Robert E. Picirilli, and **CHRISTMAS: A Gift For Every Heart** by Charles F. Stanley,

I still have about 20 pages to go to finish **PAUL THE APOSTLE**, but I recommend it for anyone interested in really delving into the circumstances and dates, as well as the meaning of Paul's story in Acts and the time, recipients, and purpose of his epistles. In other words, it is esoteric. But it would make a good reference with which to study the epistles if you really want to dive deeply.

The reason I ended up reading **CHRISTMAS: A Gift For Every Heart** is that I went to Fit Books to pick up (I thought) **The Lights In The Church**, which I found on my cellphone and specially ordered. As it turned out, only **Amazing Grace**, the 2-DVD set I reviewed last month, had come in; but in looking around, I spotted Dr. Stanley's book, and thought it would be perfect to review—even if I DID only have overnight to read it. It was definitely worth it. Dr. Stanley puts the cookies on the bottom shelf where the children (including yours truly) can get to them. He starts off by pointing out that many people who can't wait to unwrap their Christmas gifts leave the best one of all **unwrapped**: the Lord Jesus Christ, "God with us." Then he proceeds to "unwrap" the gift for the reader, and even suggest the perfect gift to give the One who's incarnation we celebrate at Christmas. It's an easy and delightful read, and good for sharing, especially with someone who hasn't yet unwrapped God's most awesome gift.



December



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|-------------------------|
| Alcoholics Anonymous Open Meeting every night at 7:00 p.m. Women Only: Tuesday 6 pm Men Only: Thursday 6 pm https://cflintergroup.org/ | | 1MSftA 10-11:30 am Fr. Tom's Day Off Advent Series 5-6 pm in the library | 2 | 3 | 4 MSftA First Friday Drum Circle at 6:00 pm | 5 MSftA 11-12 pm |
| 6* Sunday School 8am Rite 1 *9:30 Rite 2 *11:00 Rite 3 11:30 All Souls Service 2:30 Activate Zoom 4pm French Service 5:00 Diving Deeper 4:30 Shine 6:00 Dinner- Picnic Style 7:00 pm Rite 3 BAG SUNDAY | 7 DRIVE THRU COMMUNION Noon-1:00 pm MSftA 4-8:30pm | 8 MSftA 10-11:30 am Fr. Tom's Day Off Advent Series 5-6 pm in the library | 9 MSftA 3:45-5:30 10am Holy Communion 11am Bible Study (library) 5:30 pm Bible Study Youth Hall 6- Choir Practice | 10 MSftA Online Classes Only | 11 | 12 MSftA 11-12 pm |
| 13 * Sunday School 8am Rite 1 *9:30 Rite 2 *11:00 Rite 3 11:30 All Souls Service 2:30 Activate Zoom 4pm French Service 4:30 Shine 6:00 Dinner-Picnic Style 7:00 pm Rite 3 | 14 DRIVE THRU COMMUNION Noon-1:00 pm MSftA 4-8:30pm 6 PM Daughter's of the King Meeting in Library | 15 MSftA 10-11:30 am Fr. Tom's Day Off Advent Series 5-6 pm in the library | 16 MSftA 3:45-5:30 10am Holy Communion 11am Bible Study (library) 5:30 pm Bible Study Youth Hall 6- Choir Practice | 17 MSftA Online Classes Only | 18 | 19 MSftA 11-12pm |
| 20 * Sunday School 8am Rite 1 *9:30 Rite 2 *11:00 Rite 3 11:30 All Souls Service 2:30 Activate Zoom 4pm French Service 4:30 Shine 6:00 Dinner-Picnic Style 7:00 pm Rite 3 | 21 DRIVE THRU COMMUNION Noon-1:00 pm MSftA 4-8:30pm 6:30 pm Bible Study (Library) | 22 MSftA 10-11:30 am Fr. Tom's Day Off 6:30 Men's Group Advent Series 5-6 pm in the library | 23 MSftA 3:45-5:30 10am Holy Communion 11am Bible Study (library) Christmas Eve, Eve 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall | 24 5:00 pm Children's Service Parish Hall 5:30-6:30 Drive Thru Communion 7:00 pm Rite I & 8:30 French & Creole 10:30 Rite II | 25 11:00 am Service in the Church | 26 MSftA 11-12 pm |
| 27* Sunday School 8am Rite 1 *9:30 Rite 2 *11:00 Rite 3 11:30 All Souls Service 2:30 Activate Zoom 4pm French Service 4:30 Shine 6:00 Dinner-Picnic Style 7:00 pm Rite 3 | 28 DRIVE THRU COMMUNION Noon-1:00 pm MSftA 4-8:30pm 6:30 pm Bible Study (Library) | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

Happy Birthday

2– Ken Carr
Mary Katulic

3– Rachel Ellerbe
Robert Faughnan
Ina Haughton

4– Gloyce Fulmer

5– Kayley King
Barbara Knappman

7– Yester Adams

8– Keline Julien

9– Garine Adams
Xonia Book
Nancy Laracuente
Kirk Smith

10– Winford Alleyne
Ernest Lyons

11– Terry Anthony
Ella Duppenthaler

12– William Carr
Brandon Imes

13– Lena Candes

15– Robert Gilber

16– Marc Imes

17– Andrea Robertson
Joe Wolfe

18– Marilyn Kelyman

19– Ryan Jamail

22– Mike King
Darlene Powers
Walter Seguin

25– Sue Riley

27– David Peterson
Bailey Wise

30– Casey Cook

31– Barbara Peterson
Ginger Sirola

Happy Anniversary

5– George & Anida Daniel

11– Eric & Katy Joiner

19– Leo & Nadia Henry

20– Craig & Jill Brown

21– Jason & Michelle Alford

22– Dennis & Pattie Range
Bob & Lynn Somers

23– Hector & Stacy Figueroa

31– Penn & Geraldine Remington

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

If you did not see your birthday or anniversary listed in the Messenger this past year, please call the office at 407-656-3218 or email us at office@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com so we can add your special days.

If you will not be able to serve, please call or email the office . We understand this could change week by week.

Sunday Servants 8:00 AM

| 8:00 Service | December 6 | December 13 | December 20 | December 27 |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1st LEM | Mary Kay Predmore | Joyce Taylor | Linda Bouton | Deborah Townsend |
| 2nd LEM | Deborah Townsend | Mary Kay Predmore | Ron Bouton | Joyce Taylor |
| Lector | Alex Hujik | Aliena Gaye | Deborah Townsend | Valery Rice |
| Altar Server | Mary Kay Predmore | Aiden Morrison | Mary Kay Predmore | Mary Kay Predmore |
| Ushers/Greeters | Jay Predmore Pete Glynn & Nancy Glynn | Ron Bouton Marsha Dymond | Joyce Taylor Jay Predmore | Pete Glynn & Nancy Glynn |
| Prayer Intercessor | Nancy Glynn | Wally Stewart | Joyce Taylor | Wally Stewart |

Sunday Servants 9:30

| 9:30 Service | December 6 | December 13 | December 20 | December 27 |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1st LEM | Timothy Rutherford | Julie Altenbach | Timothy Rutherford | Stacey Beck |
| 2nd LEM | | | | Kelsey Beck |
| Lector | Jay Williams | Wendy King | Merrily Peacock | Jay Williams |
| Altar Server | Yolwenn Alexandre | Chris Brown | Osni Alexandre | Sophie Alexandre |
| Crucifer | | | | |
| Torch Bearers | | | | |
| Ushers/Greeters | Alex Babcock Ken Miller | Jay & Patty Williams | Deborah & Chuck Grunder | Osni, Sophie & Yolwenn Alexandre |
| Prayer Intercessor | | | | |

Sunday Servants 11:00

| 11:00 Service | December 6 | December 13 | December 20 | December 27 |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| LEM #1 | Helen Farnsworth | Vita Mazzaluna | Helen Farnsworth | Vita Mazzaluna |
| LEM #2 | | | | |
| Lector | Vita Mazzaluna | Patti Tate | Vita Mazzaluna | Patti Tate |
| Altar Server | Giada Mazzaluna | Yolwenn Alexandre | Yolwenn Alexandre | Giada Mazzaluna |
| Usher/Greeter | Richard & Kelley McRae | Mary Katulic | Richard & Kelley McRae | Mary Katulic |
| Prayer Intercessor | | | | |

Sunday Servants 7:00

| 7:00 Service | December 6 | December 13 | December 20 | December 27 |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| LEM | | Marvin Haughton | | Marvin Haughton |
| Lector | Wendy King | Valery Rice | Craig Brown | Cara Adams |
| Altar Server | | | | |
| Usher/Greeter | Raul Lopez | Raul Lopez | Raul Lopez | Raul Lopez |
| Prayer Intercessor | Wendy King | Jill Brown | Wendy King | Jill Brown |

Readings

| | December 6 | December 13 | December 20 | Christmas Services | December 27 |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1st Lesson | Isaiah 40:1-11 | Isaiah 61:1-11 | 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 | Isaiah 9:2-7 | Isaiah 61:10-62:3 |
| Psalm | Psalm 85 BCP 708 | Psalm 126 BCP 782 | Canticle 15 BCP 91 | Psalm 98 BCP 727 | Psalm 147 BCP 804 |
| 2nd Lesson | 2 Peter 3:8-15 | 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 | Romans 16:25-27 | Titus 3:4-7 | Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 |
| Gospel | Mark 1:1-8 | John 1:6-8, 19-28 | Luke 1:26-38 | Luke 2:1-20 | John 1:1-18 |

Ladies' Night Out 2020

God showed off in so many ways for this event and it is so sweet to look back and see the many blessings. Thank you to everyone that donated food, wine, supplies, talent and time. Thank you to everyone that participated by coming to the event, or through our first ever Bidding Owl On-Line Auction.

We exceeded last year's donations even with the obstacles of COVID. Our net proceeds are over \$5,600 and still growing. All proceeds will go to the Building Fund.

We hope you will join us next year.
Wendy King and Marci Babione



Thank you to the Messiah School for the Arts Band for sharing your talent and beautiful voices with us. You set the atmosphere for our event and did an amazing job!

Thank you to the following businesses who sponsored our event.

Babione Kuehler & Company
Mike the Mechanic
Kelly's Foods
Celestial Center Massage
Signco Architectural Signage Corporation
Creative Concrete of Central Florida
Fulmer Dry Cleaning
Publix in Winter Garden

Thank you to the following business that donated gift certificates or gift cards for our online auction.

Lake Meadows Naturals
Sweet Dee's Cupcakery
The Bulk Pantry
The Sacred Olive
The Local Butcher
AntiquiTEAS
Morthan Cheese
The Crooked Can
Donevette's Confections
Bonefish Grill

Thank you to the vendors that hosted a booth at the event. You are all amazing and your crafts, gifts and talents made the event a success!

Brittany Kolacki Photography
CM Solutions Paper Quiling by Cheri Mayfield
Color Street nails by Vita Mazzaluna
Custom Knives & Wood Carvings by Scott Hamilton
Daughters of the American Revolution by Karen Boyden
Fall & Christmas Crafts by Becky Gossett
Jewelry by Therese Smyntek
Knitted Items by Marsha Dymond & Nancy Glynn
Messiah School for the Arts by Garine Adams
Pampered Chef by Jeanne Earp
Porcelain Angels by Ken Anders
Prayer Warrior Beads by Wendy King
Tama's Restaurant & Bakery by Marie Tassie
Art & Cultural Mahogany by Maude Tassie
Trades of Hope by Veronica Lugo
The Celestial Center Massage
Thirty One Bags by Valerie Johnston
Young Living Essential Oils by Sonya Silva

Ladies' Night Out 2020





Ladies' Night Out Shoppers



**Children at 11:00 Service
helping the band.**



Parking Lot Paint Crew

Frank & Ellie Chase

