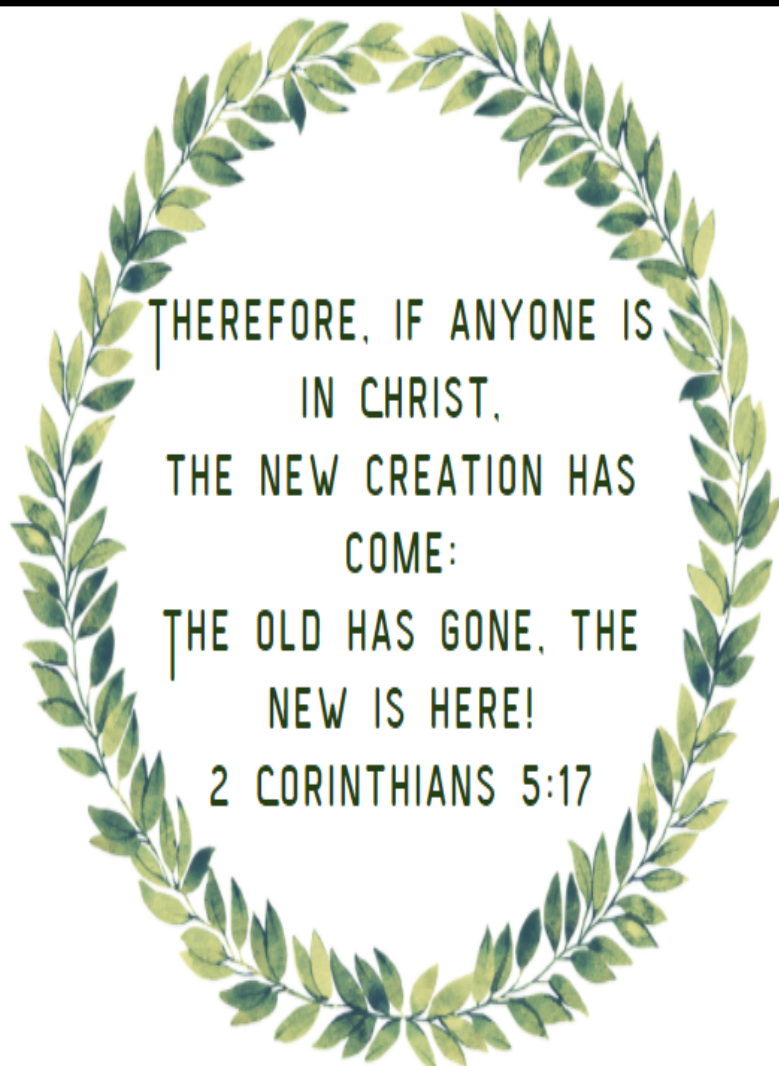


THE MESSENGER

January 2021

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)

5:00 pmDiving Deeper Bible
Study with Father Tom Rutherford

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

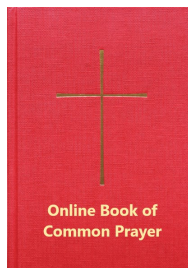
Jane Cartelli, Finance Minister

Office Hours: Monday through Friday

9am—5pm

Click the Buttons Below To Stay Connected

You Tube



407-656-3218

241 North Main Street
Winter Garden, Florida 34787

office@ChurchoftheMessiah.com

*From the
Rector*



To Mask, or NOT to Mask. THAT is the question!

In an attempt to lessen the spread of COVID-19, the Mayor of Orange County and the Bishop of our Diocese have both issued proclamations requiring us to wear a face-covering (mask, bandana, neck gaiter, etc.) when we're together.

I know that. You know that.

That's why I haven't made a big deal about masks:
We ALL know the guidelines.

Some of us follow them fastidiously. Others of us...
not so much.

But since we all know the guidelines, and we all have access to the same information about the disease and the risks of catching it, I have chosen to trust you to pray, think, research, and make your own decision about what you think is the best way to avoid and fight the pandemic.

And just as I don't harangue you about wearing seat-belts in your car or paying your taxes, I'm not going to be the "Mask Sheriff" telling you what you need to put on – or leave off – your face.

Instead, about masks, I'm following the Anglican stance on lots of things:

All may. Some should. None must.

ALL MAY wear a face-covering at any event in the life of our parish family, and we have masks available in the Narthex if you arrive without one, or forget yours, or leave it in the car, and want to don one.

SOME SHOULD wear a face-covering, due to age, health, pre-existing medical conditions, or concerns about catching or unknowingly spreading the disease.

NONE MUST. We're all grownups, and we all have the capability, the right, and the freedom to examine the evidence and make our own decisions about our own health, which includes whether or not to wear a face-covering.

I take this stance because different ones of us have reached different conclusions based on that same evidence:

We have folks who are not attending worship in person, because we don't require masks.

We have other folks who are attending, but who wouldn't, if we did require them.

We have folks who are scared to death of the disease... and for good reason.

We have others who think the concerns about the pandemic are overblown.

We have folks who have not left their homes, except for doctor's appointments, since last March.

We have others who have not changed any of their habits or routines.

We have folks who haven't seen family or friends in person for months.

We have others who touch and hug and interact with family and friends with impunity.

We have folks who think our bishop and government have not gone far enough with their orders to fight the disease.

We have others who think the ecclesiastical and governmental guidelines are draconian, excessive, counterproductive, unconstitutional, unfaithful, unbiblical, or just plain silly.

We have folks who can't wait to get the vaccination, and others who won't get it no matter what.

Who's right?

Each one of us thinks, "I am!"

And I respect and honor each of you in your decision.

If you choose to stay home, the Messiah family will continue livestreaming worship, posting events on YouTube and FaceBook, offering Drive Thru Communion, Mail Out Communion, and monthly postcards and phone calls.

If you choose to attend in person, we will continue offering you all our regular opportunities and events to grow in faith, hope, and love together with your Messiah family.

And how's this working for us so far?

Of the 450+ folks in the Messiah family, over the past year, about 2 dozen of us have tested positive for COVID or had enough symptoms to believe they had it.

Only two of those were sick enough to be hospitalized, and they were out in 3 days and have recovered.

Everyone else has also recovered – some more slowly than others.

But no one has died, and no one who got it suspects they caught it at a church event.

That is not to discount the seriousness of the pandemic or to deny it's real; several of us know folks or have relatives who have been horribly sick or died from it, and that is profoundly sad.

But what we're doing seems to be working:

We've added extra cleaning on Sundays and between events. We have blue lines and X's on the floor, on the altar rail, and in the pews to encourage us to stay 6 feet apart. We have extra chairs out in the Parish Hall so you can spread out as much as you like. We're projecting all the lyrics and liturgy, so nobody has to touch books anyone else has. And we're avoiding food and drinks at parish events.

In addition to all that, we're praying... which I believe is protecting us from COVID and mitigating its effects, just as our prayers keep most hurricanes away and lessen the impact of the ones that visit.

We're doing all the group stuff to keep us COVID-free, but, for EACH of us ... To Mask or NOT to Mask. That is the question.

That's up to each of you.

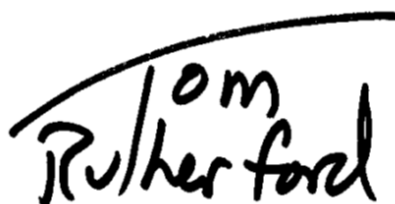
And I maintain my stance: All may. Some should. None must.

But I will wear one out of love and deference to those of you who feel a mask makes our time together safer.

And for those of us who prefer NOT to wear a mask, I invite you to do the same.

And for those who are staying away because some folks are NOT wearing masks; please note: Most folks ARE, and there's plenty of room to stay away from those who aren't. Please come back. I miss you.

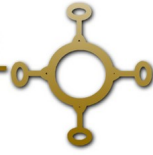
Whether you choose to mask or not to mask, I love you all.

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".

Save
the
Date



Church of the
MESSIAH



Annual Parish Meeting

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 24TH AT
5:30 PM IN THE PARISH HALL
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A PICNIC
STYLE DINNER.**

WE WILL ALSO BE LIVESTREAMING

**BRING YOUR OWN FOOD,
DRINKS, PLATES & UTENSILS.
WE WILL BE PRESENTING THE
2021 BUDGET AND ELECTING
NEW VESTRY MEMBERS.**

Who Ya Gonna Call

LOVING GOD INREACH	LEADER	PHONE	EMAIL
Acolytes	Murph Borno	407.413.4220	Louis.m.borno.civ@mail.mil
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	Mary Kay Predmore	352.551-4293	Marykay413@aol.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	eidenj@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	Louis.m.borno.civ@mail.mil
LOVING EACH OTHER	LEADER	PHONE	EMAIL
Bread Patrol	Olga Huebner	623.760.7086	thechefolga@hotmail.com
Casserole Patrol	Deacon Julie Altenbach	407.462.8001	juliealtenbach@churchofthemessia.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	Louis.m.borno.civ@mail.mil
Kitchen Krewe	Patty Tate	321.331.1435	pattyjotate@yahoo.com
Lay eucharistic Visitors	Deacon Julie Altenbach	407.462.8001	juliealtenbach@churchofthemessia.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

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: John Peacock

Closer after 1:00pm: Chris Brown

Vestry Meeting Host: John Peacock

2020 Financial Report

(as of November 2020)

Operating Income.....\$606,723.32

Operating Expenses.....\$577,569.71

NET.....\$29,153.61

ALL Building Fund Income....\$134,524.19

ALL Building Fund Expense...\$153,567.98

NET.....(\$19,043.79)

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, Ron Bouton, Joe Eiden, Wendy King, John Peacock, Brian Seguin, Doreen Stachowski, Wally Stewart, Patty Tate, Dawn Wirbel, and Treasurer Bob Tate.

Absent: None

FORMATION: Chris Brown led Noonday Prayer, based on Luke 2:8-12, Tom Rutherford invited us each to share how Jesus was born into our lives.

II. INFORMATION:

A. Vestry Ministry Team Reports:

1. Outreach Team Doreen Stachowski reports

a) All Christmas ministries were completed to include:

- (1) Dillard Street Elementary School Partners in Education
- (2) Christmas food gift cards for 20 families
- (3) A group Christmas present for the Foster Friends of Central Florida
- (4) 51 Christmas gifts for the Edgewood Children's Ranch
- (5) Angel Tree gifts for children whose parents are in prison

b) In addition, and within budget, we were able to buy presents for a family within the Church that was struggling this year and needed help for their 3 children.

c) Volunteers worked with the Christian Service Center sorting food to ship to their downtown location.

d) Volunteers worked with the Apopka Pregnancy Center to coordinate a Christmas party for the mothers and their children.

e) There is so much need in our community and we will have an Outreach meeting in February to decide where we will allocate the budget for 2021. The letters have started to come in from different charities asking for our help.

f) God has really blessed the Church of the Messiah and the Outreach team with the love and compassion and willingness to work all hours by our Children's Minister Angela Lopez. Thank you, Angela, for your giving spirit and love of our church and community!

2. 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: The Financial Report was emailed separately.

2. Children's Minister Angela Lopez reports:

a) The kids in Children's Church both in person and virtually have been traveling around the world to learn how Christmas is celebrated in other countries, or what other winter holidays are observed. We first took a plane to Israel and learned all about Hanukkah. We are learning geography, history, and customs as well as our own Advent traditions. From Israel we took a train to Holland, then a cruise ship to Australia. We still have to travel to Mexico and the Congo. I have been inserting pictures of the kids into my Google classroom lessons, it's been a fun way for the kids who are in person to see friends they miss, and my virtual kids get to see themselves included in the fun. We made a cork Holy Family ornament to add to the church Jesse Tree. The kids will take their ornament home after Christmas.

- b) In SHINE we are going deeper into the traditions of kids around the world. We had chocolate gold coins from the dreidel game. We had several types of Dutch candy, some with fruit and nuts, some with marzipan, hazelnut cream, and some lovely Dutch cocoa truffles. On Advent 2 we decorated the Jesse tree with beautiful purple ornaments and some hand-made felt Jesse Tree ornaments that I purchased from the Silver Shekel downtown. We each took 2 ornaments and looked up the corresponding Bible verse before we hung them on the tree. Our pajama and toast party was a hit! It was the largest crowd I have had at SHINE since March! We played Christmas games, had Nutella toast with chocolate milk and shared loads of laughs. We will be painting ornaments next week and learning about piñatas!
- c) There has been a lot going on in the lives of the kids: lost pets, headaches, testing at school, medical tests, and of course the ongoing stress of the Corona Virus. Many of the kids are continuing to ask when things will be normal and why the virus has not gone away yet. They have been great about praying for each other and asking for prayers.
- d) I have been very busy with outreach, we bought Wal-Mart gift cards and goodie bags for 51 kids at Edgewood Ranch. Doreen Stachowski and I delivered them to the Director. As a church we provided gifts for 31 Angel tree kids. I have been contacting the guardians of the children and coordinating the pick-up of the gifts. Several Daughters of the King joined me in praying for the families and distributing gifts and literature to about ½ of the families. The remaining gifts will be distributed throughout the week. As partner in education with Dillard Street Elementary we have been sponsoring children for Christmas for the past 3 years, this year the budget was a bit tighter, as I was working only off of previously raised funds. I was still able to provide 3 toys each to 10 kids. We had a parishioner ask for assistance with gifts for 4 children and since there was room in the outreach budget, we were able to shop for those children providing each with 2 outfits, 3 toys, 1 stuffed animal and one blanket each. We also passed out 20 grocery gift cards to families within the church. Everyone has been very generous, and the recipients have been very appreciative. It truly has been a blessing spreading joy around the community.
- e) For the Children's Christmas Eve service there will be a narrated slide show called "Miracle in a Manger". I have been blessed with several volunteers who are baking cookies for everyone at that service. Thank you to the Daughters of the King sisters who stuffed the goodie bags with books, treats and prizes that tie in to the message!!
- f) The ADVENTure boxes have been a huge hit! I passed out 30 of them and have seen many pictures of happy creative kids working on the activities. As I run into the kids around town, they tell me what they have played or read the previous day. I offered something very similar to this for EASTER, and the families enjoyed it. I think this is something I will continue, possibly on a smaller scale, even after the pandemic passes. It offers a lot of flexibility and sets the scene for family fun time.

3. Facility Minister Jeremy Adams reports:

- a) This month we hosted the Horizon West Theater Company's children's production of Elf Jr. The show went well with minimal issues and they are actively looking for future availability for more rentals. Thank you to everyone that helped to be gracious hosts to their organization!
- b) I will be reaching out to our previous renters in the new year to see if they have any needs for our facility in 2021. Overall, rentals have slowed down considerably since March, however, with the new COVID vaccine looming on the horizon, I anticipate that our rental schedule will start to pick up again after Easter next year. If you know of anyone who needs a hall for a party or any type of event please let them know that we are open.

- c) Many of the rentals for the kitchen have not panned out due to licensing issues on the client side. We're able to rent the kitchen to any licensed caterers or private chefs. Unfortunately, the bulk of the leads we've received are from food trucks looking for a commissary kitchen, which we are not interested in, because it would subject us to surprise health inspections and storing some of the food trucks' equipment...and we don't have any extra storage space.
- d) This month we've had some touch up work happen around the church that I'd like to mention. THANK YOU to the following volunteers:
 - (1) Bobby Field brought his pressure cleaning company out to clean our sidewalks and walkways, and he is planning on coming around once more next week.
 - (2) Chris Brown and Wally Stewart repainted the parking lot stripes.
 - (3) Wally also inspected our irrigation system to get us ready for the "dry" season.
 - (4) Bill Adams repaired several plumbing issues.
- e) Tanenbaum roofing came out to inspect the Parish Hall roof once more and were unable to find a leak. The replacement sound panels are in, but I'm waiting for one more strong storm to see if the leak reappears. So far I haven't seen any further evidence of leaks in the roof since Tanenbaum roofing last visited. Either way, I plan to have the panels up before the Christmas Eve service on December 23rd.
- 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. **Office Minister** : Julie Altenbach reports her and the Office Angels' recent projects:
 - a) Helping Children's Minister Angela Lopez prepare her Advent-in-a-Box project for our parish children.
 - b) Distributing the Ladies' Night Out Auction Items
 - c) Preparing the Christmas Service Bulletins
 - d) Helping the Outreach Committee with the Angel Tree gift distribution
 - e) I was able to record the narration for the Preschool Christmas Program
 - f) Promoted the Messiah School for the Arts Winter Concert and our Christmas Services on social media
 - g) I continue to mail communion and check in with folks that are staying home.
- 6. **School for the Arts:** Garine Adams reports:
 - a) As we end the year, we are thankful for still being able to create and participate in our arts community. Thank you for all the prayers and support throughout the year. 2020 was a year of many challenges, but also many blessings. This year we've taught 689 lessons and 33 group classes and counting. We've given \$1,946.45 in scholarship funds and provided funds for two of our students to attend weekend long bible retreats. Our weekly lesson student number has grown to 21 individual lesson students, and we have 5 arts teachers on our weekly payroll. Our third and final recital of the year is coming up this Friday and will be livestreamed for those who'd like to watch from home at 6:30pm, December 18th, 2020 through Facebook and YouTube. We started a Hip Hop dance class for middle school age students that is starting to grow in popularity this past November too. Look out for more dance classes taught by Isabella Eaton!
 - b) In March 2020 we began offering virtual lessons that has opened our "doors" to out of town students from all over the state. Also, our Youth Band had the pleasure of having our first full evening concert playing worship music for the Messiah Ladies Night Out in addition to providing offertory music for the 9:30am and 4pm French Service.

c) Future plans for 2021

- (1) Shakespearean YouTube Series starring our very own Ken Anders
- (2) Virtual Revival for Youth on February 19th, 6:30pm (Interdenominational)
- (3) Spring, Summer, Fall Recitals
- (4) Messiah School for the Arts Youth Band First United Methodist Church youth partnership
- (5) Adult Tap Class
- (6) Preschool movement/dance class
- (7) Acting/Theatre class
- (8) Continuing to grow and expand our student base

C. **COVID-19 Response:** Music Minister Linda Ellison has expressed concerns about how close the computer operator is to her as she plays at 8 & 9:30, so Facilities Minister Jeremy Adams spent \$60 on longer cables, so the computer can be farther away.

D. **Bradford Fisher's ordination process:** He's doing Field Education at the Episcopal Church of St John The Baptist in Orlando 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 20 folks you suggested last month to stand for election. The following 5 agreed to be nominees: Marci Babione, Steve Borst, Ron Lancioni, Vita Mazzaluna, and Sarah Wolfe.

F. **Annual Report from your ministry Team:** Please write a less-than-one-page report of what your Team did in 2020 – a paragraph or two will be fine! Please email them to JulieAltenbach@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com by January 8, so she can produce the Annual Report to be available Sunday January 17, so folks can look over it before the Annual Parish Meeting Sunday January 24 at 5:30pm in the Parish Hall.

III. DISCUSSION (usually based on the decision next month): None

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

A. **2021 Proposed Budget:** The Finance Committee recommended adopting the Budget as presented. Vestry APPROVED. The Budget will be publicized in the monthly *Messenger*, the weekly email blasts, and the Annual Report.

B. **Housing Allowance Resolutions for our clergy:** The Internal Revenue Service allows clergy to receive a housing allowance as non-taxable income. The clergy tell us how much of their compensation should be allocated to Housing Allowance, and the Vestry formalizes that in resolutions in December. The Housing Allowance is revenue neutral for the parish: it doesn't affect the total amount paid to the clergy person; it just divides that amount into the two categories. Father Soner Alexandre doesn't need one of these, because we provide a house for him, which the IRS doesn't count as taxable income. Vestry APPROVED the resolutions.

C. **Thank You gifts for our salaried program staff:** Since we appear to be ending 2020 with at least a \$29,000 surplus (SEE THE NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT), Tom Rutherford encouraged us to give the salaried Program and Logistics Staff (Jeremy Adams, Soner Alexandre, Julie Altenbach, Jane Cartelli, Linda Ellison, and Angela Lopez) a Christmas gift to recognize their extra-efforts through COVID-time. Tom is NOT asking for this for himself; in fact, he's asking us not to give him one. Vestry APPROVED a \$250 gift card in gratitude for their hard work during this difficult year. We gave gifts cards, because if we gave them cash or a check, that would be taxable income.

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 \$10,129.03 MORE than expenses. That INCREASES our SURPLUS year-to-date to \$29,153.61. HALLELUJAH!
2. **Building Fund** net income last month was \$1,034.52 LESS than our \$11,996.01 monthly mortgage and other expenses, INCREASING the DEFICIT year-to-date to \$19,043.79.

The Meeting closed with prayer and adjourned at 3:40 pm/

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce Taylor, Vestry Clerk

Messiah's Missionaries



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

**Joyce Taylor attended St. Peter the Fisherman Episcopal Church
on November 29th.**

**If you visit another church, please put your name on the bulletin
and put it in Julie's mailbox, or email the information to**

Office@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

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.





ADVENTure Boxes

The Adventure boxes were packed with family crafts and activities for the 4 weeks of Advent, with a few surprises added in. I also included a guide book and a parents prayer resource. I have received so many cute pictures and text from the kids. I missed doing large group activities but this turned out to be a really fun project to keep everyone plugged in and socially distant at the same time.



Nativity scene by Yester Adams, age 3

The Adventure boxes were packed with family crafts and activities for the 4 weeks of Advent, with a few surprises added in. I also included a guide book and a parents prayer resource. I have received so many cute pictures and text from the kids. I missed doing large group activities but this turned out to be a really fun project to keep everyone plugged in and socially distant at the same time.



Nativity scene by Yester Adams, age 3



ADVENTure Boxes



Violet's finger print art.



Logan doing the I Spy Puzzle

Charlee made a beautiful TP roll Nativity with her family.





The children made cork Holy Family ornaments this year. I scored a bunch of corks from the rummage sale not knowing how I would use them, we had left over felt from our Lent banner project so this was a FREE and beautiful memento for the kids to take home. Thanks to Ms. Debbie for manning the glue gun while I led the lesson!! It was fun to have her back in children's church.



Outreach Angels: Linda Susan and Karen made super cute Rudolph bags for the Angel Tree gift recipients! 29 children were given gifts this year.



Our 7 pm Acolytes rocked their pjs after the SHINE Christmas party, they got serious when they needed to but it was super silly getting dressed out with fun pjs underneath.



Crafts & Games



fun & friends



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

December was relatively quiet for the kids. We did work in a servant hood opportunity for one of the parishioners by weeding their lawn. We also had an outdoor, socially distanced event for Christmas, and it was a blast throwing the Frisbee, nerf-ball, and just having fun being together. We also 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 significant vaccine gains are realized, we will have a Christ centered approach and attitude towards others in these times of stress, strife and discord. Looking to start a visitation rotation for those who have not been able to get out, taking one or two youth at a time for short outdoor, masked visits. The intent is to share a little love and hope. 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

**PLEASE WELCOME OUR
NEWEST STAFF MEMBER**

VITA MAZZALUNA— MEDIA MINISTER

VITA WILL BEGIN JANUARY 1ST



I am very honored to be a part of the Messiah Staff. My husband, Romeo, and our 2 children, Donato "Donny" (15) and Giada (11), have loved the Church of the Messiah since we began attending. I have been serving as a LEM since our first "Messiah's Way" sign up opportunity. Additionally, I have enjoyed assisting the Outreach Team over the years and serving as an actual committee member for the 2020 church year. I cannot imagine being a part of any other church family! I truly feel the Lord led us to COTM since I have grown as a Christian exponentially since joining the Messiah Family, in no small part due to the strength of faith of our clergy and many of the Family Members I now call friends. In this new position, I am looking forward to growing our Messiah Family.

Some of the things Vita will be doing as our Media Minister include:

- ***Work under the supervision of the Office Minister as a team member** with the Rector, Clergy, and other Staff in the ongoing mission and ministry of the parish.
- ***Attend weekly Staff Meetings** and opening supper of our annual Vestry Retreat.
- * **Support the Office Minister to produce and distribute all Parish Publications** through print, email, social media, and the website.
- * **Team with the Office Minister to oversee and curate our Website and Social Media:** (If qualified Volunteers emerge, these tasks may be delegated, under the Media Minister's supervision)
 - Collect and compile content from the *Messenger* and other sources and upload it to the website and church social media frequently.
 - Scan through the website monthly and social media weekly to add and/or edit content to keep it current.
 - Interact with our web developer to add new features and repair any problems.
 - Discover how to target specific areas and demographics through social media, analyze whether that would be helpful for us, and, if so, make it happen.
 - Produce videos and collect pictures and stories to post online and share with the *West Orange Observer*.

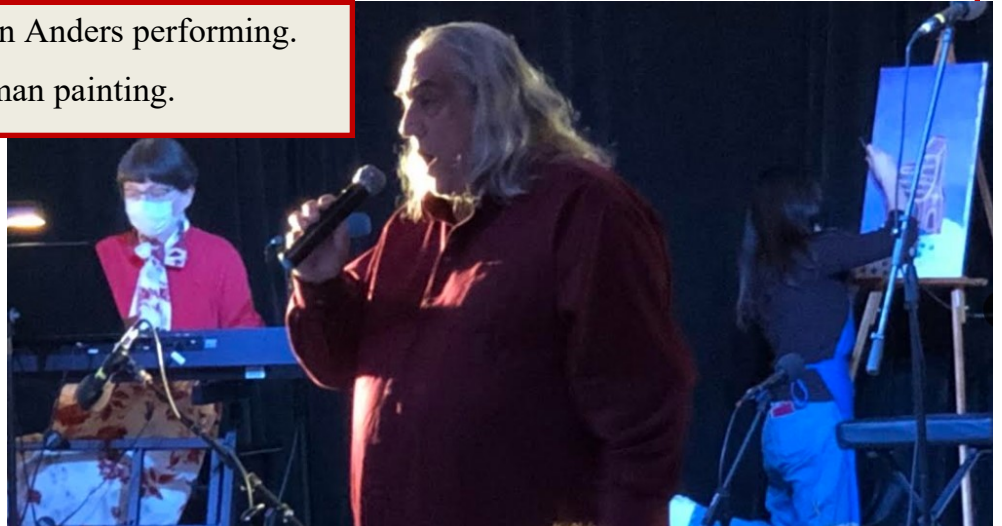
You can reach Vita at VitaMazzaluna@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com



GarineAdams@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

Winter Performance was held
December 18th in the Parish Hall and streamed
online

Helen Farnsworth and Ken Anders performing.
Jessica Brueggeman painting.



MSftA Youth Band

Jeremy Adams and
Osni Alexandre attended
Alive Camp - "Man Up"



Church of the Messiah Library

Librarian: Regina Seguin

library@ChurchoftheMessiah.com



Dear Messiah Family,

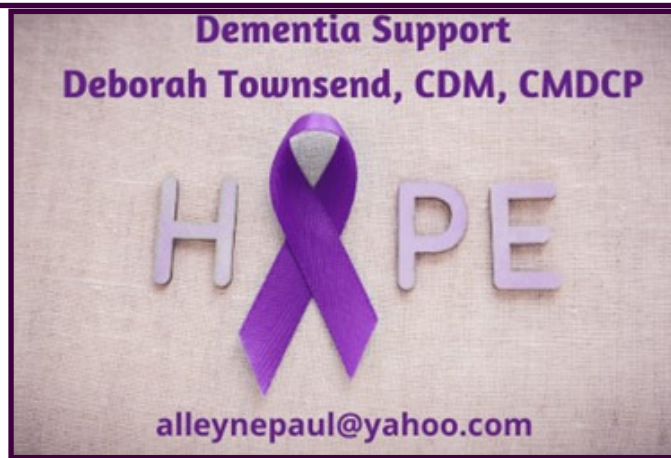
Merry Christmas! I want to begin the year 2021 by saying thank you. Thank you to Father Tom and our Vestry for supporting the library. Thank you to Deacon Julie and the Office Angels for helping me envision, organize and label our collection. Thank you to those who donated to our library this year. Thank you to those who checked out materials! And thank you to all of you who prayed! I look forward to serving you through our library in the new year.

Please email me at library@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com any time!

Book Reviews
by Helen
Farnsworth



I didn't get much reading done this month, but the children's book I did read is excellent: **The Lights in the Church**, by Marilee Joy Mayfield, with beautiful illustrations by Max Dolgany. It's a charming story about two children, a brother and sister, who get lost in the snow. They follow the hoof prints of the deer to a lighted church. The scenes in the stained glass windows come to life, reliving the miracles of Jesus before the children's eyes. It is written in what I would call informal poetry. (That is, the meter is not exact by any means, but it adds charm, just the same.) And it has a wonderful surprise conclusion. I think any child would be enchanted with the story and the illustrations. It came too late for the December newsletter; but as it turned out, the story isn't specifically Christmas. It's just a wonderful teaching tool for children.



Now that we understand a bit about dementia lets discuss some early signs of dementia.

While dementia is not only about memory loss it is one of the first signs we may see in our loved ones. We may realize that our loved ones may forget simple things, such as what they were doing or where they are going. Memory loss which affects their day to day functions should be cause of concern. Short term memory loss, which is characterized by a person's ability to remember events probably twenty years ago but is having difficulty to remember what happened ten minutes ago.

Caregivers should take note if the person in their care begins to have difficulty in performing everyday tasks. Simple tasks such as buttoning a shirt, or brushing one's teeth. If these tasks seem to frustrate the individual one should take note. It should also be of some concern if routine tasks take longer to perform and cause the person to become frustrated.

While we may think that it is expected that someone would get frustrated if they are unable to perform routine tasks, we must also be aware that with early signs of dementia a person becomes easily agitated. They may have some difficulty expressing themselves or saying the right words, saying what they are thinking may not be easy. You may be speaking to the individual and they may not comprehend what you are saying.

With all these changes taking place with our loved ones, we may observe a lack of enthusiasm or interest in performing any activities. They may sit in front of the television without even knowing the name of the show they are watching, what they are looking at or how long they were sitting there. If they can tell you the name of the program it will be a while before they can relate any details.

While these are some of the early signs of dementia, we must not assume that it is dementia. However, if you notice more than two or three of the above signs or you notice any of these changes you should begin to document the changes. We cannot assume the presence of dementia, however it may be time to take consider the possibility and get a support team for your next course of action, which may include a conversation with firstly with your love one followed by the family doctor.

Deborah Townsend, CDP, CMCP



January



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/					1 The Office is closed in observance of New Year's Day	2 MSftA 11-12 pm
3* 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	4 DRIVE THRU COMMUNION Noon-1:00 pm MSftA 4-8:30pm	5 MSftA 10-11:30 am Fr. Tom's Day Off	6 MSftA 3:45-5:30 10am Holy Communion 11am Bible Study (library) 5:30 pm Bible Study Youth Hall 6– Choir Practice 7:15– Praise Band	7 MSftA Online Classes Only	8	9 MSftA 11-12 pm
10 * 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	11 DRIVE THRU COMMUNION Noon-1:00 pm MSftA 4-8:30pm 6 PM Daughter's of the King Meeting in the Church	12 MSftA 10-11:30 am Fr. Tom's Day Off	13 MSftA 3:45-5:30 10am Holy Communion 11am Bible Study (library) 5:30 pm Bible Study Youth Hall 6– Choir Practice 7:15– Praise Band	14 MSftA Online Classes Only	15	16 MSftA 11-12pm
17 * 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	18 DRIVE THRU COMMUNION Noon-1:00 pm MSftA 4-8:30pm	19 MSftA 10-11:30 am Fr. Tom's Day Off 6:30 Men's Group	20 MSftA 3:45-5:30 10am Holy Communion 11am Bible Study (library) 5:30 pm Bible Study Youth Hall 6– Choir Practice 7:15– Praise Band	21	22	23 MSftA 11-12 pm
24* Sunday School 8am Rite 1 *9:30 Rite 2 *11:00 Rite 3 11:30 All Souls Service 2:30 Activate Zoom 2:30 Vestry Mtg. Library and Zoom 4pm French Service 4:30 Shine 5:30– Annual Parish Meeting 7:00 pm Rite 3	25 DRIVE THRU COMMUNION Noon-1:00 pm MSftA 4-8:30pm	26	27MSftA 3:45-5:30 10am Holy Communion 11am Bible Study (library) 5:30 pm Bible Study Youth Hall 6– Choir Practice 7:15– Praise Band	28	29 Vestry Retreat 6-9	30 MSftA 11-12 pm Vestry Retreat 9-1

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1– Jean Bossicot
Jossy Wirbel
Gwenney Wirbel

2– Kaera Julien
Philip Wilkinson

3– Travis Smith
Tom Wirbel
Reagan Wise

4– Yolande Alexandre

6– Craig Brown

7– Andrew Brandenburg
Betty Flood
Vivian Johnson

8– Sandi Johnston

10– Melody Wise

11– Jeremy Adams
Angelica Gray

13– Rona Delicate

15– Jeanine Kirkland
Dennis Range

16– Lisa Borst
Siobhan Faughnan
Lily Gold

Charles Stewart
Bob Tate

17– Nikki Imes
Dawson Peacock

18– Jonathan Hill

19– Kenneth West

20– Sue Cardaci
Nancy Snow

21– Trudie Carr
Megan Gonsalves
Jovanni Paul

23– Joel Lopez
Heather Lynn
Vince Snow

25– Mason Cottle
Jean Hood

27– Aiden Carroll
Betty Morgeson

30– Barbara Ellerbe

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

**Please Pray for our
expectant mom
Kathy Tate
(Bob and Patti Tate's
Daughter-in-law)**

KATHY IS DUE IN JUNE

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	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
1st LEM	Mary Kay Predmore	Deborah Townsend	Linda Bouton	Deborah Townsend	Ellie Chase
2nd LEM	Deborah Townsend	Joyce Taylor	Ron Bouton	Joyce Taylor	Frank Chase
Lector	Alex Hujik	Valery Rice	Deborah Townsend	Aleina Gaye	Alex Hujik
Altar Server	Mary Kay Predmore	Aiden Morrison	Mary Kay Predmore	Mary Kay Predmore	Mary Kay Predmore
Ushers/Greeters	Jay Predmore Pete & Nancy Glynn	Marsha & Jay Dymond	Joyce Taylor Jay Predmore	Ron Bouton Pete & Nancy Glynn	Jay Predmore
Prayer Intercessor	Joyce Taylor	Wally Stewart	Nancy Glynn	Wally Stewart	Joyce Taylor

Sunday Servants 9:30

9:30 Service	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
1st LEM	Mary Lynn Levine	Stacey Beck	Julie Altenbach	Mary Lynn Levine	Stacey Beck
2nd LEM		Kelsey Beck			Kelsey Beck
Lector	Jay Williams	Dawn Wirbel	Merrily Peacock	Dawn Wirbel	Jay Willimas
Altar Server	Katy Babcock	Aidan Brandenburg	Francesco Fulvi	Chris Brown	Osni Alexandre
Crucifer	Asher Rutherford	Beowulf Rutherford	Asher Rutherford	Beowulf Rutherford	Asher Rutherford
Torch Bearers	Beowulf Rutherford	Asher Rutherford	Beowulf Rutherford	Asher Rutherford	Beowulf Rutherford
Ushers/Greeters	Jay & Patty Williams	Alex Babcock Ken Miller	Deborah & Chuck Grunder	Alex Babcock Ken Miller	Jay & Patty Williams
Prayer Intercessor					

Sunday Servants 11:00

11:00 Service	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
LEM #1	Vita Mazzaluna	Helen Farnsworth	Vita Mazzaluna	Helen Farnsworth	Vita Mazzaluna
LEM #2					
Lector	Patty Tate	Paul Buzzonetti	Ralph Groves	Paul Buzzonetti	Patty Tate
Altar Server	Sophie Alexandre	Yolwenn Alexandre	Giada Mazzaluna	Yolwenn Alexandre	Giada Mazzaluna
Usher/Greeter	Richard & Kelley McRae	Mary Katulic	Joe Wolfe	Mary Katulic	Richard & Kelley McRae
Prayer Intercessor					

Sunday Servants 7:00

7:00 Service	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
LEM	Kathy Quesenberry	Marvin Haughton	Kathy Quesenberry	Marvin Haughton	
Lector	Wendy King	Craig Brown	Valery Rice	Wendy King	Craig Brown
Altar Server					
Usher/Greeter	Raul Lopez	Raul Lopez	Raul Lopez	Raul Lopez	Raul Lopez
Prayer Intercessor	Wendy King	Jill Brown	Wendy King	Jill Brown	Wendy King

Readings

	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
1st Lesson	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Genesis 1:1-5	1 Samuel 3:1-20	Jonah 3:1-5,10	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm	Psalm 84 BCP 707	Psalm 29 BCP 620	Psalm 139 BCP 794	Psalm 62 BCP 669	Psalm 111 BCP 754
2nd Lesson	Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a	Acts 19:1-7	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Gospel	Luke 2:41-52	Mark 1:4-11	John 1:43-51	Mark 1:14--20	Mark 1:21-28

CELEBRATING JESUS' BIRTH



**Ms. Angela and the Smith's
with their ADVENTure
Nativity Scene.**

**Asher, Beowulf and Logan
helping to decorate the church
for our Christmas Services.**



Hanging of the Greens!



The Knappman's

The Mayfield's and Cook's



The Peacock's



The Sydnor's



The Greenwell's



The Smith's



The Tate's



Priests and Praise Band



Children's Minister, Ms. Angela passing out ADVENTure Boxes



Esther Gonzalez



Sheena and her daughter, Phoenix



The Cook's and The Mayfield's