



*Because He
Loves Us*

**CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH
2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING JANUARY 30, 2022

Agenda - Annual Parish Meeting

January 30, 2022 5:30 p.m.

1. Fellowship and Food
2. Opening Prayer
3. Election of Secretary
4. Vestry Election
5. Ministry Reports & Questions
6. Presentation of 2021 Budget
7. Other
8. Closing Prayer

2021 Vestry

Tom Rutherford, Rector

Marci Babione, Children & Youth

Steve Borst, Fun & Fellowship

Ron Bouton, Properties

Chris Brown, Jr. Warden , Properties

Joe Eiden, Missions & Evangelism

Wendy King; Fun & Fellowship

Ron Lancioni, Worship

Brian Seguin, Communications & Publicity

Doreen Stachowski, Missions & Evangelism

Wally Stewart, Business & Development

Bob Tate, Treasurer

Joyce Taylor, Sr. Warden, Clerk, Pastoral Care

Sarah Wolfe, Pastoral Care



The Rector's Report for 2021

This time last year, we were praying and thinking, "SURELY the pandemic will be over soon..."

God answered our prayers with a "Not yet" ...and don't call me "Shirley!"...but he's been gracious and is getting us through ... just as he promises.

Here's what happened in 2021.

By the numbers: we had 9 baptisms, no weddings, and 10 burials (none of which were from COVID).

Our Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) in-person was 209 – a drop from our pre-pandemic ASA of 328. Our Online Average Weekly Viewings were 388 for the English service and 477 for the French service, for a **total average of 865 folks watching our online services every week.**

I'm still amazed at how many folks join us virtually!

But the most important stuff was what we did in person with each other. Here are the month-by-month details:

JANUARY:

4 (Monday) – I offer Drive Thru Communion.

When the pandemic began, and the Bishop forbade in-person worship, we offered Drive-Thru Communion every day of the week, except Saturdays. When we were able to resume in-person worship, we continued offering Drive-Thru on Sundays after the 9:30 service and Mondays from noon-1pm and again from 5-6pm, for those who watched us online and wanted personal contact with a clergy person. Drive-Thru was a sweet time of touching in, praying together, and sharing the Sacrament. We dropped Sunday Drive-Thru when people transitioned to in-person worship and quit coming on Sundays. We continued on Mondays through June, when the number of communicants dropped to one.

6 – At the Wednesday morning Eucharist, we celebrate the Epiphany, when the Wise Men showed up to give Jesus gifts, and God revealed himself to non-Jewish people ... like most of us.

At noon, our parish staff gets together – as we do every week – to eat lunch and check in with each other, pray for you, and coordinate how we serve you and our community.

That afternoon, I hear the Confession from one of our parishioners. Like the Roman Catholic Church, we offer you the option of private Confession with a priest. Unlike the Roman Catholic Church we do not REQUIRE you to do that. Our stance about private confession – and LOTS of things! – is: All may. Some should. None must. If

you'd like to make a private confession, please contact Father Soner Alexandre or myself, and we will be honored to let you unburden your conscience.

Senior Warden Mary Kay Predmore and I meet to pray for you, as we did every week in 2020 and will do every week until we get our new Senior Warden at the end of this month.

7 – I offer Chapel to our Preschoolers, which I do every Monday and Thursday morning. We look at parts of the building and what they tell us about Jesus and how he loves us, and I pray for each child and their teachers.

Father Soner, Deacon Julie Altenbach, and I attend the first West Orange Ministerial Association (WOMA) lunch of the year. Every month, local Christian leaders gather to pray for the community, encourage each other, and enjoy a lunch hosted by a church or ministry in the area. It's a way for the leaders of all the different "brands" of Christianity to get to know and trust one another, so we can love and serve our community as friends and coworkers, rather than competitors and rivals.

10 – On the 1st Sunday after the Epiphany, the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, we baptize Charlie Joiner and Clara Duppenhaler in the morning and **Phoenix Haughton** in the evening, the first of 9 baptisms this year.

13 – Our Clergy Team meets – as we do twice a month – to check in and encourage each other and pray for you and our community.

14 – I meet with a couple for their Premarital Preparation before their wedding. An out-of-town priest is officiating their wedding, so I'm glad to step in and provide the preparation our Canons (the laws of the Church) require.

Our delegates to Diocesan Convention (Anthony Beckford, Chris Brown, seminarian Laura Cook, Janice Hull, Mary Kay Predmore, and all our Clergy) attend the Pre-Convention ZOOM Meeting to go over the 2021 Diocesan Budget.

21 – Deacon Julie, Father Soner, and I attend the Deanery Clericus at All Saints' Winter Park, which is a lunch with the Bishop and fellow clergy from the Central Deanery, which are the other parishes in Orange County.

24 – Our Vestry meets – as we do every month – to pray together, pray for you, and conduct the business of the parish family. Please see the Vestry Minutes published in the monthly *Messenger* newsletter and on the website to see what’s happening every month.

We had our Annual Parish Meeting, when we celebrate all God’s done in the past year; say “Thank You!” to our retiring Vestry members: Senior Warden Mary Kay Predmore, John Peacock, Patty Tate, and Dawn Wirbel; present the 2021 Budget; and elect Marci Babione, Steve Borst, Ron Lancioni, and Sarah Wolfe as our new Vestry members. I appoint Joyce Taylor to be our Senior Warden this year.

25 – My wife Debbie and I fly to Nashville, Tennessee to visit my 90-year-old dad as his Christmas present. He lives with my sister, and his health is declining, so we go several times this year to take care of him and to give him and my sister a break from each other (!).

28 – Our Diocesan Convention delegates ZOOM to practice how to vote at the upcoming virtual Convention.

29 – Senior Warden Joyce Taylor and I meet to pray for you... as we do every week for the rest of the year.

The Vestry meets for an in-house retreat to pray together, get to know one another, and organize themselves for ministry. Vestry elects Chris Brown as Junior Warden. Bob Tate continues as our Treasurer, and Joyce Taylor volunteers to be Clerk to keep minutes of all the meetings.

FEBRUARY:

4 – I attend the West Orange Ministerial Lunch.

6 – Our delegates attend the Diocesan Convention online to conduct the business of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida. I get elected to the Standing Committee, which is a council of advice to the Bishop, who participate in screening people for ordination as deacons and priests in this diocese, and who get a voice in every Bishop election in the Episcopal Church. I’ve served on this Committee twice before in the past 25 years.

8 – I attend the Ordination of Deacons at the Cathedral Church of St Luke in Orlando.

11 – I attend Business After Hours (BAH) with the West Orange Chamber of Commerce as a way to meet leaders, movers, and shakers in our community; to give our parish family more visibility in our area; and to interact with unchurched people with the hope of attracting some to worship with us.

14 – Bishop Greg Brewer visits our French Service to celebrate, preach, confirm 18 of us, and receive 2 more into the Messiah family.

At SHINE Kids’ Club that afternoon, I burn the palms leftover from last year’s Palm Sunday to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

16 – Our ACTIVATE teenagers host the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and everyone begins Lent a pound or two heavier.

17 – Ash Wednesday. At Noon and 7pm we remember we are dust, and to dust we shall return, and from 5-6pm we offer Drive Thru Ashes for those who chose to watch us online.

Vestry Outreach Team leader Doreen Stachowski and I present a check to the Christian Service Center to help renovate their dining area and kitchen.

18 – I attend my first Standing Committee meeting of the year.

Vestry moves its meetings from the 3rd Sunday to the 3rd Thursday of the month to accommodate a member whose work schedule changed and has him working on Sunday afternoons.

20 & 22 – I join Junior Warden Chris Brown and his team of volunteers on a lift to paint the steeple cupola and bell tower, rewire the parking lot lights, treat the big cross to paint it later, and trim some trees. Thank God for people not afraid of heights!

23 – I attend the first Commission on Ministry (COM) meeting of the year. The COM helps the Bishop screen, encourage, and develop people who want to be ordained deacons or priests. I’ve served on this team since 2001.

25 – I attend the Advisory Committee for the Hope Center, a new ministry coming to Winter Garden to help low-income people with food, clothing, and finding work.

MARCH:

4 – I attend the West Orange Ministerial Lunch.

6 – I celebrate the life of Billy Burch, a former parishioner. We do several funerals like this a year for folks who used to be in the Messiah family or who don’t have a church family of their own as an act of kindness and compassion and as part of our ministry in our community.

17 – We baptize Sterling Wilkinson, Philip and Anna Clare Wilkinson’s son at the Wednesday morning service, because that’s when all the grandparents were able to travel here for the glorious occasion.

18 – I attend the Standing Committee in the afternoon and chair the Vestry meeting that evening.

20 – I celebrate Communion at the conclusion of our Women’s Retreat.

21 – I celebrate and preach for the Sunday services at Christ Episcopal Church in Cedar Key, Florida while their Rector (and my good friend) Father Jon Davis is away leading a church leadership conference. Our capable Clergy and Music Teams cover all the bases here while I’m away.

23-24 – I attend BACAM (the Bishop’s Advisory Committee on Aspirants to Ministry) as part of my duties on the Commission on Ministry.

BACAM is 2 days of interviews with people who feel called to ordination as deacons or priests. At the end, the COM makes recommendations to the Bishop whether each aspirant should continue in that process... or not.

26 – As part of our Lenten journey We walk the Way of the Cross, which are the 14 pictures on the walls of the Church between the stained-glass windows that depict Jesus’ steps on that first Good Friday from his trial before Roman Governor Pontius Pilate through his death on the cross and burial in the tomb. Deacon Julie officiates at noon, and I lead it that evening.

27 – Lay Weeder Workday as a dozen of us rake leaves, pull weeds, trim bushes, and spread mulch to spruce up the place for Holy Week and Easter.

28 – Palm Sunday as we gather under the big cross to bless our palm fronds and parade into the Church to remember Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem on that first Holy Week.

31 – We walk the Way of the Cross again on Wednesday in Holy Week.

APRIL:

1 – I attend the West Orange Ministerial Lunch.

We eat a Last Supper together on Maundy Thursday, and take Communion with our grandchildren from All Souls’ Church, as their Vicar Father Matt Ainsley celebrates, and I preach

3 – Our Altar Guild folks clean, polish, shine, and get our sanctuary ready to celebrate the Resurrection.

Children’s Minister Angela Lopez hosts an Easter Party for our elementary aged children, and I lead messy games to end the event.

4 – Alleluia! Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

8 – Debbie and I attend a Deanery Clergy Social with many of the other clergy couples from Orange County.

10 – I teach “The Early Church: A Missionary Model” for the Institute of Christian Studies, our diocesan Deacon School.

15 – I attend the Standing Committee in the afternoon and chair the Vestry meeting that evening.

18 – We celebrate the life of longtime faithful member Lynne Passilla.

27 – I attend the Commission on Ministry.

May:

6 – Vestry members Wendy King and Wally Stewart and I attend a Giving Conference at All Saints Church in Winter Park. They tell us to do what we’re already doing!

Senior Warden Joyce Taylor and a team set up the Compassion Journey in the Narthex hallway and library in preparation for Compassion Sunday.

7 – I take Communion to a couple who are staying home because the wife is going through chemotherapy. If you cannot make it to church due to your health, please call the office, and one of our Clergy Team will come visit, pray with you, and bring you Communion.

9 – Mothers’ Day and Compassion Sunday. We celebrate our mothers and 30+ families here volunteer to sponsor children in poverty through Compassion International.

11 – I attend a ZOOM Standing Committee meeting to begin our work toward electing our next Bishop when Greg Brewer retires in mid-2023. An episcopal election takes THAT long to arrange, gather candidates, do the election, get the approval of a majority of the bishops and other Standing Committees of the other dioceses in the Episcopal Church, and then pull off an ordination... with several thousand participants and worshipers.

20 – I attend the Standing Committee in the afternoon and chair the Vestry meeting that evening.

23 – Pentecost! We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and enjoy a Pentecost Picnic with our family from all 5 Sunday services.

26 – Children of the Messiah Preschool Graduates their latest crop of students. I’m there to hug each child, give them a Bible story book, and pray for their families.

JUNE:

1 – Our Preschool Day Camp gives kids and parents a break from each other.

3 – I attend the West Orange Ministerial Lunch.

5 – I officiate as Lionel and Karen Williams renew their wedding vows for their 40th anniversary. If you'd like to renew your vows, talk to me. I'd love to help!

8 – A dozen of us long-time Messiah folk attend former rector Art Dasher's funeral at the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Orlando. After his retirement, Art converted to Catholicism... which in no way diminished our love and appreciation for him and his time as our rector from 1970-1977.

That evening Debbie and I attend another Deanery Clergy Social.

9 – I attend Susan Shannon's funeral at the Cathedral Church of St Luke in Orlando. Susan was a faithful mover and shaker in our diocese who served on the Commission on Ministry with me for 20 years, and bounced back and forth several times serving on the Diocesan Board (the Vestry of the Diocese) and the Standing Committee.

17 – I attend the Standing Committee in the afternoon and chair the Vestry meeting that evening.

19 – I join our ACTIVATE Youth Group for a Saturday Play Day to say "thank you" and "good-bye" to Volunteer Youth Minister Murph Borno and to welcome Garine Adams to that position.

20 – We pray for and bless our dads for Fathers' Day.

21-25 – Vacation Bible School attracts a parish hall full of excited children and faithful volunteers. I get to lead games!

26 – We celebrate the life of Tyrone Ramotar.

28 – We offer Drive-Thru for the last time. No one comes, which showed it was time to end.

JULY:

1 – We host the West Orange Ministerial Lunch.

4 – Happy Birthday, America!

6 – We have the first Men's Supper in 18 months, as the Bishop lifts his ban on food events! Wally Stewart and Ted Malans fry fish!

10 – We celebrate the life of longtime parishioner Dawson Peacock and lay him to rest in the Memorial Garden.

12-14 – My family meets in New Smyrna Beach for our annual vacation together with all my grown children and their kids.

15 – I attend the Standing Committee in the afternoon and chair the Vestry meeting that evening.

18 – Now that we can have food again, Wendy King throws an ice cream social! And we relaunch Sunday Suppers.

21-22 – Diocesan Soul in the City Mission Project in Lakeland and Mount Dora. Our teens pick up litter, pressure wash, move furniture, and organize a clothes pantry for a social services ministry the first day, and play the second day.

26-30 – Our teens join the youth from First United Methodist Church of Winter Garden for Mission Week at a farm in Winter Garden, a social services outreach in Clermont, and at the United Methodist Camp in Leesburg. We host the closing supper and ceremony.

31 – The Rummage Sale gives all our families the opportunity to clean out their closets and garages, pick up some of other people's stuff, and earns \$4,000 for the Church at the same time! Thank you, Ron Bouton, and your excellent Team!

AUGUST:

1 – We celebrate the life of longtime parishioner Pete Glynn.

2 – Father Jonathan French meets with our Vestry and Staff to check us out, as we apply for a \$150,000 grant from the Diocese to pay half the salary for an Apprentice Rector. Jonathan is the gatekeeper for that grant. **We pass!**

3 – I cook for Men's Supper, because a good Rector'll do that!

5 – I attend the West Orange Ministerial Lunch.

6 – The Preschool Staff greets all our new students and their families at Meet Your Teacher.

7 – I officiate as Clive McCalla and Camille Phillips renew their wedding vows.

12 – I bless Timothy Henry's apartment. If you would like your home, business, or car blessed, please call one of our priests, and we'll be there. It's what we Clergy do: dress funny and bless things!

14 – I travel to Lake Placid, Florida, to help ordain Robin Reed to the priesthood as part of my ministry on the Commission on Ministry, and because I'm a team player in the Diocese. It's good for us old longtime clergy to be there to encourage the newbies!

15 – Seminarian Laura Cook preaches a fine sermon 4 times before she returns to Toronto, Canada for her last year in seminary.

16-18 – Debbie and I fly to Nashville to celebrate my dad's 91st birthday.

19 – I attend the Standing Committee in the afternoon and chair the Vestry meeting that evening.

20 – We celebrate the life of Tina Sydnor's mother Catherine Sizemore.

21 – We baptize Killen Cook on Saturday, because that's the only day all his out-of-town family can be here.

22 – We baptize Paris, Bella, and Dylan McCulloch, grandchildren of former members Duncan and Ruth McCulloch.

That afternoon, we celebrate my 25th anniversary as your rector. NOT LONG ENOUGH!

24 – I attend the Commission on Ministry.

25 – I join a ZOOM Standing Committee meeting with the Bishop.

28 – We host the diocesan Conference on Ministry which introduces the ordination process to those considering a call to be ordained a deacon or priest. Our own Facilities Minister Jeremy Adams and Children's Minister Angela Lopez attend to begin exploring a call to be deacons.

SEPTEMBER:

1 – With COVID numbers climbing, the Bishop puts a ban on food events again, thus throwing our Sunday Suppers back to picnic style.

2 – I attend the Deanery Clericus, a lunch with the Bishop and other clergy from our Deanery.

5 – We begin the online Messiah's Way: challenging us all to pray and ask the Messiah what he'd like each of us to do with and for him in 2022.

Facilities Minister Jeremy Adams, Office Minister Julie Altenbach, and I attend All Soul's last Sunday with us, so they can express their gratitude for all we've done to host them for 18 months of the pandemic, when Orange County Public Schools wouldn't rent space to them for their fledgling congregation.

9 – I attend a launch meeting for the Parish Profile Project Team, which will send a couple of folks to each congregation in the diocese to produce a short written and video glimpse of that church to help the candidates in our Bishop election get to know our diocese.

11 – Several faithful Lay Weeders spend a Saturday spreading out the oak mulch from removing 4 dead trees and grinding the stumps. Thank you, Wally Stewart and John Peacock for assembling the Team, and thank you Harry Hull and your friend Len-ny for bringing your tractors to move the grindings.

16 – I attend the Standing Committee in the afternoon and chair the Vestry meeting that evening.

19 – We celebrate 71 years of service in our community at our Parish Birthday Party.

23-25 – I attend the RADVO (Radical Vocations) Conference in Dallas, Texas to promote our Diocese and fish for our Apprentice Rector. RADVO's goal is to attract young people to consider the priesthood as a career.

26 – Diving Deeper kicks off its 10th year, with a year-long look at the New Testament. It meets each Sunday afternoon from 5-6pm in the Library and is posted online. About a dozen folks attend in person and another 150-300 watch it online.

27 – We celebrate the life of Michael Samuels, who was not part of the Messiah family, but whose family needed a place for his funeral.

28 – I attend another ZOOM Standing Committee meeting about our upcoming Bishop's election.

30 – As condition of our receiving the Diocesan grant for our Apprentice Rector, I join the first of a monthly Residency Coordinator ZOOM call I now have with other pastors who have interns, residents, and apprentice pastors.

OCTOBER:

3 – St Francis of Assisi shows up and blesses a pack of dogs for our annual Pet Blessing for St Francis' Day.

7 – We host the West Orange Ministerial Lunch.

11 – I attend a Parish Profile Project Team meeting.

13 – I join the monthly Residency Coordinators' ZOOM call.

14 – Office Minister Julie Altenbach and I host a lunch for our volunteer Office Angels to thank them for their ministry to our parish family and to orient the new ones to their duties.

16 – We celebrate the life of Chadd Smith, Bill and Patti Smith's youngest son.

17 – We host a video viewing of Fred Ridley’s funeral. Fred was a neighbor of parishioners Ansel, Ina, and Marvin Haughton. He was an assistant pastor of a church in Chicago. His funeral was there, and we showed the video of that service for his friends and family who live here and couldn’t make it to the service in Chicago.

18-20 –I attend the annual Diocesan Clergy Conference at Canterbury Retreat and Conference Center in Oviedo.

21 – I attend the Standing Committee in the afternoon and chair the Vestry meeting that evening.

26 – I attend a Commission on Ministry Meeting.

We celebrate the life of Janet Robinson.

28 – I attend the West Orange Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours.

31 – We host Trunk or Treat in our Main Street parking lot for parish and neighborhood children and give away 120 hot dogs and a ton of candy.

NOVEMBER:

1 – I celebrate Eucharist for our Daughters of the King as they celebrate All Saints’ Day and the anniversary of their chapter’s formation in our parish.

I attend a Parish Profile Project Team ZOOM.

4 – I attend the West Orange Ministerial Lunch.

That evening the Ladies' Night of Beauty packs the Parish Hall with women pampering themselves with sweet-smelling stuff. The event raises several thousand dollars for the Operating Fund. I'd tell you more about it, but I don't know more, because I don't pass the physical to attend!

8-13 – Debbie and I go to Nashville to care for my dad while my sister goes on vacation.

10 – I attend a Standing Committee ZOOM about the upcoming bishop’s election.

17 – Office Minister Julie Altenbach throws a Thanksgiving Lunch for the Staff.

18 – I attend the Standing Committee in the afternoon and chair the Vestry meeting that evening.

20 – Children’s Minister and Acolyte Wrangler Angela Lopez and I train a new crop of acolytes and enjoy a lunch together.

25 – Thank you, Lord, for everything!

27 – I give Last Rites to Norma Hirbi, former parishioner Lori Jowett’s mother.

28 – Bishop Brewer allows us to offer Communion with wafers and intinction (dipping them in the wine). It’s not yet ideal, but it’s a start back to “normal!”

DECEMBER:

3 – We host the West Orange Ministerial Association lunch.

3– Light Up Winter Garden packs downtown with 3,000 people. I coordinate the event with the City, and our Worship Band provides the music.

4 – The Parish Profile Project kicks off with the Messiah family being the first parish they visit and record a video tour.

Our Outreach Team and ACTIVATE Youth throw a Christmas Party for the Edgewood Children’s Ranch, providing a pizza supper, an art project, and presents for all the children.

7 – I attend a Standing Committee ZOOM meeting about the upcoming Bishop’s election..

8 – I join the month Residency Coordinator ZOOM.

10 – I attend the Messiah School for the Arts winter concert to applaud our parishioners taking music lessons.

16 – I attend the Standing Committee in the afternoon and chair the Vestry meeting that evening.

17 – I attend a Chamber of Commerce Ambassador photo-op at the new Tractor Supply store in Winter Garden.

I attend the SHINE Kids’ Club Christmas Party.

18 – I help our Altar Guild vacuum, dust, polish, and preen our space to get it ready to celebrate the Messiah's birthday.

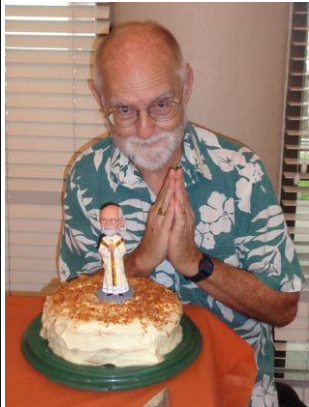
23-25 – We start our Christmas celebrations on Christmas Eve EVE with Contemporary Communion in the Parish Hall with the Worship Band and continue on Christmas Eve with Children’s, Traditional, and French services, and on Christmas morning with Quiet Communion on guitar. 541 folks worship with us in person and another 695 watch us online!

26 – We baptize Mateo Jean at the French service, the last of our 9 baptisms this year.

Even with COVID raging around us, 2021 was a GREAT year!

- ✦ Though a couple dozen Messiah folk caught COVID, and we had 2 parishioners who died WITH it, no one died OF it.
- ✦ We have given away 1,000 servings of Communion every month for the 21 months of the pandemic, while many dioceses and parishes have not had “real” communion for that whole time.
- ✦ Though we offer Mail-Out Communion for folks watching us online, the numbers of people asking for that has plummeted, which is because folks are coming back in person!

Whatever life sends us in this new year, I can't wait to see what the Messiah has for us in 2022.



I love you all!

Tom
Rutherford



Associate Rector, submitted by
Rev. Soner Alexandre

First, it is good always to have a heart of gratitude and thanksgiving towards God. We should be thankful to HIM with all that is within us, with all our heart, spirit, soul, and body, for his protection and healing from this pandemic and other diseases that could destroy our lives.

Through this short report, I want to remember all the blessings God has bestowed upon the Messiah Family throughout the year 2021. He gave us strength, patience, compassion, kindness, and love to realize works for his glory, especially for the confirmation of ten members of the Haitian Congregation by Bishop Brewer on February 14, 2021.

While some thought that things would be better, 2021 proved to be another year of dealing with challenges and restrictions from a pastoral perspective. However, with our Tech Minister, Church of the Messiah quickly adopted to digital transformation to increase attendance. As a result, many people regularly watch our services online, expressing their satisfaction.

In addition to my regular duty of preaching, celebrating, teaching, attending staff and clergy meetings, leading Bible study on Wednesdays and Sundays over the past year; I have led a ZOOM activity each Thursday for two years with people from Canada, Brazil, Chile, Haiti, Guadeloupe, and the United States. Each week, we do a different activity. The first and second Thursday we do Bible Study, third Thursday we discuss a social topic, fourth Thursday, we pray.

I am doing a D.Min (Doctorate in Ministry on Congregation Development) at Bexley Seabury Seminary, Chicago. I am thankful to God, who gives me the intelligence and audacity to do it. I am also very grateful to each of you, particularly to Fr. Tom, for your flexibility and encouragement. I am halfway finished, and the final step is to write the thesis. I still need your prayers of support.

I keep receiving requests from Xodus to return to the prison ministry at Lake Correctional. Unfortunately, my R-1 Visa was expired in April 2021, and my driver's license as well and the Immigration Service has had my application to extend my Visa for

10 months and not approved it yet, nor have they given me an answer why. Father Tom is actively pursuing clearing this up. Therefore, I cannot do pastoral visits outside of Campus.

Here are my pastoral highlights:

January: I partially attended the Diocese's Annual Convention on ZOOM.

20th -I officiated a service for Jonathan's Birthday at Maude's Restaurant.

29th -I blessed the house of the Jean Baptists in Pine Hills.

February 4th- I attended West Orange Ministerial Association. **19th** -I participated at a meeting at Hope Center in Clermont.

March 12th- I took communion to Jacqueline Lafontant in Kissimmee.

April 1st-I attended West Orange Ministerial Association. Before celebrating the 2nd anniversary of the Haitian congregation, I met with the Haitian consul of Orlando and Pine Hills Neighborhood Center to discuss services offered to the Haitian community. They were both present at the Eucharistic celebration.

May 15th– I attended the celebration of the International Day of Family at the Jean-Baptiste's house.

June 13th– I preached and celebrated two services at St Luke and St Peters Episcopal Church in St Cloud. Joyce Taylor took me there and drove round trip.

July 1st-I attended West Orange Ministerial Association

August 2020: Prayer and blessing the new house of Nadia Ismael in Pine Hills.

September 2nd- I attended the Clericus at All Saints, Winter Park. At the end, I had a one-to-one meeting with Bishop Brewer.

5th- I participated in the Funeral of my godson Lorvens Florestal in Fort Lauderdale.

15th- I met Canon Justin Holcomb about my D.Min and discussed the possibility of publicizing the Haitian Congregation on the diocese website.

October 2020: 7th, I attended West Orange Ministerial Association.

December 2nd- I attended West Orange Ministerial Association.

3rd- I attended “Light up Winter Garden” and gave the blessing in three languages.

18th I participated at the Funeral of Fr. Tony’s wife in Saint John’s of Kissimmee.

26th - I baptized Matteo Philimar Jean. His parents drove from West Palm Beach to baptize the child here.

To God be the Glory!

Soner Alexandre, Priest Associate



**Altar Party for French/Creole Service
to celebrate their 4th Anniversary.**



**Confirmants from the 4:00 pm service
on February 14th.**



Pastoral Care

submitted by
Joyce Taylor



The Pastoral Care Team was ever present to let our parishioners know they are loved and cared for during difficult times. Prayer Intercessors prayed with church family members during each of the services. Our Casserole Patrol offered meals to folks who were sick, grieving or hurting. Individual servings of communion were mailed to anyone who was unable to attend services in person and requested them. Neither the Transportation Team nor the DART assistance team were requested this year, but volunteers were available throughout the year if needed. We continue to give Publix gift cards to parish family members in need.

Sr. Warden Report: It has been an honor to serve as Sr. Warden this year. I think that one of the most important things we can do for one another in the Messiah Family is to pray for each other. Meeting with Fr. Tom every week and praying for all of you has been a highlight of each week for me. Because we attend different services and often don't meet those who attend one of those "other" services, it is our prayers for one another that binds us together. It is always wonderful for me when I get to meet someone I've been praying for and hear how God has answered those prayers! I consider being part of such a loving (and praying) church family to be one of the greatest blessings of my life. I love you all!



Father Tom sitting on the bench across from the church on a Friday praying for our Messiah Family.

JR. WARDEN

submitted by Chris Brown

It has been my honor to serve The Church of the Messiah family as the Junior Warden for 2021.



As many of you do, when I walk through the doors into the Sanctuary, I feel a sense of peace and being at home. As in previous years, it has been my mission to maintain the church as any of us would our homes. In 2021 we replaced dry wall in Fr. Soner's home, replaced drywall in the Youth Hall pantry, painted the bell tower, cleaned the bell, replaced many lights, and replaced security lighting, among many other repairs and replacements. It takes a team to get this done, and I would like to thank those who volunteer their time through Messiah's way. I thank all of you for affording me the opportunity to serve on Vestry as Junior Warden.



Some of the work crew enjoying lunch.



Mike King replacing light fixtures.



This year has been another busy one for me and the Office Angels. Each week we have 14 Office Angel volunteers, and three substitutes who staff the phones, helping with projects and greeting folks. I couldn't and wouldn't want to do my job without them. We have hosted several events including the Virtual Diocesan Convention, Vestry Retreat, Conference on Ministry, Ladies' Dining Out, funerals and receptions for parishioners, as well as others in the community, West Orange Ministerial Luncheons, and many more.

In March, I facilitated the Ladies' Retreat. Garine Adams, Debbie Rutherford, Ginger Sirola and Patty Tate provided music. We heard speakers and had great small group discussions about how we have had to pivot as we follow God. We ended the retreat with Father Tom celebrating Eucharist and sharing our insights from the retreat.

Angela Lopez and I started hosting Supper and Sharing. It is an opportunity for people to have a small group without having to commit weekly or monthly. Everyone is welcome and can invite their friends and neighbors.

Mary Kay Predmore and I started a Church of the Messiah Book Club. We read a book each month and meet on the 4th Thursday of the month to discuss it and how we see God in the book.

I was invited to join the Commission on Ministry and with the blessing of Father Tom, attended my first ZOOM meeting in August. I am the representative for two people in the process for ordination and it is a blessing to be part of their journey.

In November, I taught a class to the second year Deacon students at the Institute for Christian Studies. It was a great day.

Tech Minister, Vita Mazzaluna and I have become an awesome team. We have created a visual representation of all the things we are doing at COTM to make sure we record, publicize and keep track of all that is happening at COTM (and it is a lot!) We offered our first Tech Support class in December and are excited about future classes.

When the ministries of the church have events, I meet with them to see what the Office Angels and I can do to help with their efforts. We have assisted with Ladies' Night Out, Vacation Bible School, Preschool events, Regina our Librarian and the Messiah Library and many others. If you are planning an event, come see me and we can talk about how we can be of assistance.

Each week we have parishioners, vendors, delivery people and others calling or stopping by the office. The goal is to offer hospitality so all who come feel welcome in God's house. We stop what we are doing, offer a drink or snack and listen. Sometimes we pray, others we help if we can, but always, we make sure they know they are welcome at Church of the Messiah.



Office Angel Luncheon



Ladies' Retreat



Submitted by Garine Adams

The Youth Group has been volunteering all year. We had a busy summer volunteering with First United Methodist Church's Mission Week in Central Florida, the Diocese Soul in the City in Lakeland, handed out candles for Light Up Winter Garden, as well as helped provide a Christmas party at the Edgewood Children's Ranch. The youth seem fired up about going out and helping the community. We also had some fun get-togethers throughout this ever changing year; like our summer sports day, Nerf battles, and game/movie day after our day at the Springs got rained out. We had a record number of youth participate at Alive Ministries Summer Camp and the Fall Boy's and Girl's Retreats this year at North Florida Christian Service Camp in Keystone Heights, Florida.

Throughout the year we studied the book of Mark, delved into emotions and feelings, as well as took a look at our lives in a liturgical way to better understand where we can make the changes necessary to live a life like Jesus.

We're planning to be part of the diocese Soul in the City Mission Week in Deland in late July 2022 as well as planning our own mission week earlier that month. Please pray and then contact Garine Adams if you'd like to help volunteer or fund the upcoming trips. It would be great to have two more committed adults to help drive and minister to the youth those weeks.



ACTIVATE Playing Yoda or Proverbs?



Submitted by Garine Adams

We had three recitals throughout 2021. They are all available through the links on the church's Facebook and YouTube pages as well as Messiah School for the Arts' Facebook page. We are continuing to fill up our lesson schedules, so thank you for all the prayers! We're up to about 34 weekly lesson students, and we're looking for an additional teacher to teach voice and piano.

Drama Club for middle/high school students meets weekly on Thursdays from 3-5 pm in the Parish Hall. They will have a Spring performance in 2022. Preschool music and movement with Becky Sego from 10-11 am on Friday mornings is going great! Lots of laughter and giggles.

Messiah Youth Band has had the opportunity to lead worship each week at Activate Youth on Sundays at 5 pm, offer five offertories this year at the Church of the Messiah 9:30 am and 4 pm services, as well as lead worship at First United Methodist Ablaze Youth Group over the summer. They always headline our school recitals, so you can see them play the final song on any of our online recitals.



Winter Recital

Messiah Preschool

submitted by
Barbara Ellerbe

The preschool ministry went through another unusual year in 2021. Covid protocols limited preschool activities for a majority of the year. The classes remained isolated from each other, mask protocols were in place, and all celebrations were limited to classroom groups.

Despite the disruption in normal activities, I am happy to report that enrollment remained high. We have waiting lists in all classrooms. This is due in no small part to the dedication of our amazing teachers and their hard work which has given us a favorable reputation in our community.

The preschool's summer camp was a great deal of fun. We were at capacity again during the summer as we explored the Outback and Safari themes. These themes allowed for many fun activities outside to help with social distancing.

In August, we welcomed new staff members Sondra Ryan, Kathy Syzmanski, Kio Perez and Therese Duhon. These additions were made to our outstanding returning staff Stacey Duppenhalter, Missy Cottle, Jill Smicherko, Melody Wise, Sandra Lopez, Noemi Gonzalez and Kaila Woods. In October Kio Perez resigned from her position. Kaila Woods left November as well. In November we welcomed Angelina Barrett and Fitzzy van der Reit.

In December the preschool celebrated the birth of our Lord with classroom parties. Because we were unable to have a large gathering for a Christmas Pageant, Garine Adams made adorable videos of each classroom performing a Christmas song for their parents. Mask restrictions were lifted and we are praying for a much more typical 2022.

I am so very grateful for the opportunity to serve the youngest members of our church family.



Children's Ministry
submitted by
Angela Lopez

This was a year of fluctuating attendance due to different variants and surges of COVID. We have the majority of our families back, and it has been a great blessing to minister to them, and I get so much joy from bringing Jesus and his love to the children here. Our kids had a challenging year full of loss and disappointments but COTM is a soft place full of love and we got through everything together with smiles and laughter. Here is an outline of the year, please see previous vestry reports for details.

- *Minecraft fun day cooking club
- *I assisted our volunteer youth minister with the virtual youth revival.
- *We had an Avenger's series and learned how to be more like Bible heroes than comic book heroes.
- *We broke down the Nicene creed in SHINE and worked on memorizing it.
- *Spring break cooking club day
- *4 day conference on Children and the emotional/mental health issues caused by Covid
- *Jesus in Jelly Beans spring series, this was also shared via website for families who were still at home
- *Family movie night with Fun and Fellowship
- *Proverbs and pop culture activities in SHINE
- *Curious about Jesus? Lesson series
- *SHINE Back to Bible basics due to having so many new SHINERS! I have been averaging 18 kiddos!
- *Easter party with egg hunt and outside games
- *Nursery reopened
- *Teacher appreciation at Dillard Street
- *Gross, weird and squishy stories from the Bible
- *Ran out of my gift Bibles due to so many kids asking for them! Blessed with a \$200 donation to buy more!
- *VBS, Epic Battles of the Bible, which I wrote and designed
- *I took over as Acolyte Wrangler as our previous volunteer moved. I love spending the extra time with the kids as they prepare in the morning.
- *Co-hosting monthly soup and sharing fellowship events

- * Leading a “ladies of leisure” Bible study on Wednesday afternoon, this has been going on for 3 years
- *provided/made daily lunches for the Activate Mission Week participants
- *God Speaks lesson series, hearing what God wants to tell you
- *Fondue and fun night
- * Adopt a Bible Buddy program
- *Little Mermaid Cooking Club
- *Parish Ice Cream Party with Fun and Fellowship
- *Thank you for covering the \$1,711 a month for our insurance for 6 months! That allowed my family to pay only \$295 a month to keep the coverage we had for the previous 18 years as my husband started his new job. We are now back on an employer sponsored program that costs us \$556 a month. I qualify for insurance through the church but it has always made more sense to be on my husband’s plan.
- *Painted the church nursery
- *Taco bar for preschool teachers
- *Jesus in Jeans series, seeing Jesus in our everyday lives
- *ice cream field trip to downtown WG
- *Angel lessons in SHINE
- *Spiritual realm lesson series
- * Trunk or Treat
- *5th Sunday fun days!
- *Dillard Street Christmas Angels
- *Thanksgiving basket outreach
- *Friendsgiving party
- *Edgewood Ranch Christmas party
- *Dillard Street Dragon store donations
- *Attended child abuse prevention seminar
- *Learned to navigate the new Safeguarding God’s Children program
- *Fall Fun day cooking and art camp
- *Acolyte pizza party and training day
- *Grinchmas party
- *Christmas pageant
- *Eli the Donkey Advent adventures

Grateful to be serving the King,

Angela Lopez
Children’s Minister

**Angela Lopez &
Julie Altenbach at
VBS**



Games at VBS

Little Mermaid Cooking Camp



Children’s Easter Party

**The Jazzy Shepherd performed
on December 24th at the Children’s Service**





Facilities Ministry

submitted by Jeremy Adams



Finance Minister



submitted by Jane Cartelli

I'm pleased to report that we saw a significant increase in our rentals in 2021. We had a total of 21 contracts signed by 11 different clients generating a gross total of \$20,921.88 in rental income with an additional \$6,177.50 contracted for 2022. The total amount of the contracts signed in 2021 was \$27,099.38, that's a growth of approximately 94% since 2020.

In addition to the parish hall and sanctuary, we also rented out the library, youth hall, parish hall kitchen, and Tilden Street parking lot this year. Some highlights of the year include continuing our relationship with Horizon West Theater Company, working with location scouts in the Orlando film industry, and signing contracts with a new theater company that will be performing their premier show in January 2022.

Other facilities highlights for 2021 include: installing a new ceiling in the east side of the Youth Hall, cleaning the bell in our bell tower, our sanctuary being featured in an Advent Health commercial, hosting services and meetings for our granddaughter church All Souls, and providing space for Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church to host a repast for a member of their congregation. Thank you to our Junior Warden, Chris Brown, for the excellent work he did throughout the year coordinating the big projects, and the rest of the building repair and maintenance team for all of the help and making themselves available.

The roof in our parish hall leaked sporadically throughout the year. It was inspected and patched after each leak. I am told by the roofing company that the leaks are being caused by rusty roof nails that have lost their tops. Other than some cosmetic damage to old soundproofing panels, these leaks haven't caused any notable damage. It is my understanding that we should expect these periodic leaks to occur until the roof is replaced.

As always, please continue to let me know if you see anything around the campus that needs to be fixed.

Thank you everyone for the love and support this year. It's such a pleasure to work here at the Church of the Messiah and my family is eternally grateful for our Messiah Family.



Jeremy Adams and
Alex Babcock
at Work Day in February

It might look to many as if the COTM staff consists of less than a baker's dozen. It might surprise you to know that between church, preschool and school of the arts, Church of the Messiah has over 40 W2 employees. Due to the recording requirements of the IRS, health insurance vendors, Episcopal Pension System and Workers Compensation insurance, the days of handling the payroll with a check register and a single Excel sheet are gone. In the first quarter of 2021 we began to change to accounting software that includes what we need to comply with the IRS regulations for submitting payroll reports electronically and keep track of employee hours for pension requirements, healthcare eligibility, tax reporting, etc. As we began to ramp up in late January, I came down with COVID and we could not fully implement the system until April.

In the second quarter of 2021 we moved to direct deposit of all Church, Preschool and MSFTA employees. At this time, we began working with the pension provider to bring all the eligible employees at the preschool into the pension system.

The third quarter was a continuation of working back and forth with the various vendors to have more payments automated where possible and where they can be verified prior to payment.

In the fourth quarter the pension vendor finally started giving us the figures to bring the teacher pension payments current. They have not completed their final figures yet.

I have been enjoying writing back and forth with some parishioners who have included messages and prayers with their tithes in the mail. I continue to enjoy discovering how COTM has grown over almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of a century and continues to thrive during a time when other parishes have struggled and even close. Church of the Messiah is a special place and surely reaps favor and blessing from our Lord.

FUN & FELLOWSHIP

submitted by Wendy King

The women's dining club met in May, for the first time since COVID prohibited gatherings. Instead of dining at local restaurants we brought the dining club to the church. Starting in May, Janice and Julie worked with local restaurants to cater a meal on the 1st Tuesday of each month in the Parish Hall. The women had the choice to bring their own meal or pay \$15 for the catered meal. The local restaurants included Olive Garden, Ellie Lou's, TooJay's, and Tijuana Flats. Janice also introduced a fun way for the ladies to socialize by drawing numbers and changing seats when it was time for dessert. This new change helped us get to know even more ladies of COTM.

The men's supper is also held on the 1st Tuesday of every month but, due to COVID and the Bishops recommendations, the men's supper was sporadic in 2021. The men's supper returned in July with a fish fry, then stopped again. They started back up in November and December but decided to follow the women, and Ellie Lou's catered the Men's Supper.

On Maundy Thursday we offered a Simple Soup Supper. We had three different types of soup with crackers and bread. After the meal we all attended the Maundy Thursday service.

For Mother's Day, the Fun & Fellowship Team made a Mother's Day prayer magnet that we handed out to the ladies that attended the church services and drive through communion.

For Father's Day, the Fun & Fellowship team baked homemade chocolate chip cookies that we handed out to the guys that attended church services and drive through communion.

On May 23rd we celebrated Pentecost with a true family picnic. Each family brought food & drinks, and the Fun & Fellowship team provided the dessert. We had homemade strawberry shortcake. It was a hit. Julie prepared a slide show for us to enjoy during the meal.

On July 18th we celebrated National Ice Cream day at 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall. We had homemade vanilla, chocolate and strawberry ice cream with all the toppings. This too was a big hit.

August 22nd we celebrated Fr. Tom's 25 year Anniversary with a Luau style party. We had a beach themed cake, a wide variety of Hawaiian themed food, including Fr. Tom's favorite Spam Sushi. The vestry presented Fr. Tom with a Timothy Schmalz plaque "When I was hungry and thirsty". Julie put together a slide show with photos of Fr. Tom through the years, and parishioners shared a special story of how Fr. Tom has blessed them and their family. You could tell that Fr. Tom is dearly loved as we had a full house.

September 19th we celebrated Church of the Messiah's 71st birthday with cake and a catered meal by Classic Catering.

Ice Cream Social Scoopers Wendy King, Kelley McRae & Vita Mazzaluna



Ladies' Dinner



Men's Supper



15th Annual Ladies' Night Out Fundraising Report submitted by Wendy King

Kitchen Krewe Ministry submitted by Patty Tate



The 15th Annual Ladies Night Out was held on November 4th.

*We had 19 vendors this year, including one that drove 560 miles to attend.

* 10 of our vendors were parishioners.

* Of the 57 items donated this year for our online auction, only 10 items did not sell.

* 14 items came from our rummage sale.

* 6 of the rummage sale items sold for a total of \$81.

Last year we had 16 vendors and 33 items on our online auction, with only 1 item not sold. Our auction sales netted \$1,578.42 after expenses. Thank you to all of our volunteers and vendors who donated their time, talents, and gifts. We couldn't have pulled off this event without you.

Thank you to the following companies who sponsored our event - Babione Kuehler and Company; Signco, Architectural Signage Corp; Mike the Mechanic; Kelly's Foods; Celestial Center Massage; and Creative Concrete of Central, FL

And thank you to the following companies who gave a large gift toward our online auction: Plantation Jewelers; Palm Casual; Lake Meadow Naturals;

West Orange Country Club; The Local Butcher; Driftwood Market; Writer's Block Bookstore; Polka Dotz Jewelry & Gifts; Trades of Hope

Our total earnings for LNO 2021 were over: **\$6,500.**

With the continued cases of COVID and COVID variant numbers increasing, the Messiah Kitchen remained quiet on many days with Coffee Hours halted or minimized, Potluck Suppers postponed and other food serving events reduced to bring your own picnic style for health and safety precautions.

On a positive note, the use of our new sanitizing dishwasher was a help to the Church of the Messiah Preschool. The teachers have used it and are continuing to wash and sanitize the toys! Angela Lopez worked hard at cleaning out unused items from the Youth Hall Kitchen and with Chris Brown and his helpers, the old pantry was renovated and reorganized so that overstock items from the Parish Hall Kitchen could be stored.

So who else helps the "Kitchen Krewe"? A big thank you to Harry Hull who keeps a close eye on the maintenance of the appliances in the kitchen! Mary Katulic, Kelley McRae and Deacon Julie keep things clean and in place for Coffee Hours. Wendy King and the Fun and Fellowship team do their part to help in our kitchen. And ever faithful Bob Somers comes by every week and launders any dirty towels.

In the latter part of this past year, these events started being planned again, thank God, and folks enjoyed getting together with church friends over a cup of coffee or a meal. We look forward to this and more just like at your house. Folks love to hang out in the kitchen!

Coffee Hour



Tech Minister



submitted by
Vita Mazzaluna

Highlights for 2021

- Recruited (and kept!) a volunteer team to run the livestream and slides at 9:30 am services and slides at 7 pm services.
- Upgraded Sanctuary camera and installed a new computer and Stream Deck to significantly improve the livestream.
- Installed the former Sanctuary camera in the Parish Hall – enabled easier livestream for Messiah School for the Arts Concert and Christmas Eve service.
- Have been working to keep all computers and related hardware and software up and running on the church campus, serving as first line of defense and recruiting other parishioners to assist before contacting vendors.
- Implemented an ads/announcements video to run within each service slideshow as well as filmed commercials for special events.
- Kept volunteer tech documentation updated, as things change.
- Created the weekly livestream posts for the 9:30 am and 4 pm services; as of December 2021, also created the livestream posts for Diving Deeper, including creating thumbnail images. By creating the livestream post early in the week, it is available to be seen all week as a post on our social media platforms.
- Edited the 9:30 am YouTube video to create a separate post for the sermon only, including creating a thumbnail.
- Several times per week, updated website for pertinent information (remove past events, added or updated recurring or upcoming events). Added and updated other pages as necessary.
- Checked computers for updates and installed any necessary to ensure the computers are ready Sunday without interruption.
- Uploaded the Sermon notes and Diving Deeper notes to the website.
- Beginning in December 2021, began to offer periodic (goal=monthly) technology classes for parishioners with Julie Altenbach.

I am pleased with what I managed to accomplish during my first year as Tech Minister! We had some bigger expenditures but those were mostly

planned when I was tasked with identifying better equipment for the livestream upon being hired. We did get some AMAZING bang for our buck with the equipment purchased and have been saving money on some of our vendor fees by identifying volunteers that help with many of our computer issues as they arise. I'm looking forward to a second year as Tech Minister, hopefully without needing to make any major purchases, and with more time to expand programs to reach existing and potential parishioners!



Vita & Wendy King filming a commercial.



Tech Gurus; Vita & Jeremy



Vita training Tech Minister, Wilna Brown

Music Ministry



submitted by
Linda Ellison

Although the Music Ministry was still dealing with reduced numbers all through 2021 due to the pandemic, we are thankful for those who generously gave of their time and talent.

Because of greatly reduced numbers in choir, I have spent more of my time preparing and composing piano pieces for preludes and offertories at the 8 am and 9:30 am services. New arrangements and adaptations of hymns and songs have also been an active pursuit. Because our 9:30 am service is livestreamed, I have received emails from friends and colleagues in other states and in Europe about our music, and of course, our sermons. A friend in Switzerland says it is “what keeps her going”. We appreciate all the amazing tech volunteers who have helped to make this happen.

The 11 am Worship Band has regained many members, and they continue to improve and expand their repertoire. We were once again able to perform for “Light Up Winter Garden” for a crowd of over 3,000 people.

One of the more rewarding uses of my time this past year has been my mentorship of Assistant Music Minister, Jeremy Adams. We have worked on vocal and piano technique, arranging and planning, and have had countless conversations about the multifaceted challenges that are involved in being a Music Minister. It’s been a joy to work with Jeremy, and it’s my desire to pass on as much knowledge as possible to him.

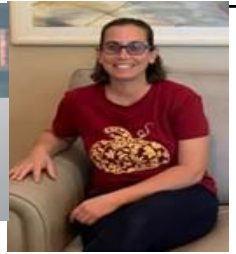
We are so thankful for many musicians who have blessed our church family by using their gifts during this time, and for everyone’s support and prayers.



**Worship Band performing at
Light Up Winter Garden**



COTM LIBRARY MINISTRY
submitted by Regina Seguin
Church Librarian



A new online catalog was developed for the library. In all, about 1,300 items were cataloged using the online platform LibraryThing. The public catalog interface uses TinyCat, a software developed by LibraryThing for small libraries, that costs \$6 per month. It can be accessed from the church's website. A page on the website was also created for the library. New books and media were added from purchases and donations throughout the year, and all items have been (re)labeled and organized.

Jim Passilla donated funds to renovate the library in memory of his wife, Lynne Passilla. Lynne loved reading and made her home a place for family and friends to gather as they enjoyed her hospitality. Jim wanted to honor Lynne’s memory by making the library a more comfortable and welcoming space for parishioners and members of our community. The renovation is still in progress, but with the addition of a new couch, and furniture, the library has already become a favorite place for people to gather. Several Bible study groups meet there every week. The COTM Book Club meets there every month to discuss the latest book, and the staff and clergy meet to have lunch, plan and pray for our parish family weekly. Please check the Messenger for updates and pray for the space to be one that invites all to come and feel welcome.



**Wednesday Bible Study
with Father Tom**



Wednesday Staff & Clergy Lunch



This year the Vestry increased the proportion of our Plate & Pledge income that we give for local missions from 2% to 5%. With those extra funds, we were able to assist the following ministries with either volunteers, financial donations or merchandise they needed during 2021.

Christian Service Center

- Volunteers
- Bag Sunday collected food items
- \$3000 donation for help with fixing their oven, shelves for pantry and more

Food Gift Cards for Parish Families

- \$150 donation per month
- Father Tom distributes to families in need

Father Soner Utilities

- \$300 donation per month to help with house utilities
- Charge to Outreach budget

Apopka Pregnancy Care Center

- Volunteers
- Participate in their annual Baby Bottle Boomerang
- \$3000 donation for new learning materials and their overall budget

Dillard Street Partners in Education

- Angela partners with them on needs
- Assist with Christmas presents for those unable to purchase for their children – Angel tree

Habitat for Humanity

- Volunteers
- Financial donation of \$10,000

Holiday Food Baskets

- Thanksgiving food baskets with gift card for meat
- Christmas gift cards as requested

Foster Friends of Central Florida

- Special treat at a water park during the summer
- Christmas stockings filled with misc. items and a gift card

Edgewood Children's Ranch

- Shopped and delivered needed food supplies during the summer
- Christmas party for children with pizza, gifts, and activities

Operations Christmas Child

- Communicated information on how to complete online shoe box gifts
- Information on what stores were collecting this year

Friends of the Troops

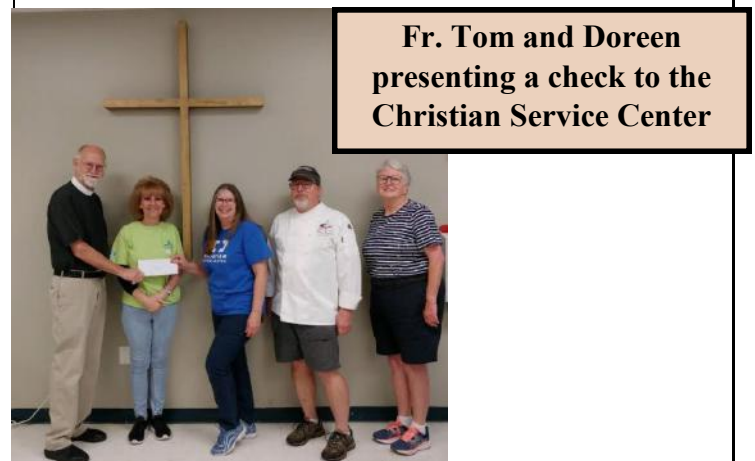
- Donated money for stamps to mail items overseas to service members serving our Country
- Seeking ways to assist next year

Thank you Cards for the Nurses at Southlake Hospital

- Donations were given in the form of gift cards by parishioners
- Thank you cards to show our appreciation for their service in the community

Haiti donation

- Sent \$1000 to the Diocese for distribution to Haiti relief
- Communicated information in the bulletin



Fr. Tom and Doreen presenting a check to the Christian Service Center



Tom & Doreen Stachowski, Amy & Joe Eiden and Anida Daniel at Edgewood Children's Ranch

Daughters of the King Welcomes Newest Members



Celebration of 25 Years as our Rector



Sunday Simple Suppers



Blessing of the Animals

**Father Tom offers
birthday blessings**



BUDGET Explanations for 2021

“**OPERATING INCOME**” includes “**Plate and Pledge**” (our tithes and offerings given in weekly worship) and all “**Other Income**” received with no strings or conditions. It funds the ongoing ministries of the parish and keeps the doors open and lights on.

2021 was a tough year. Giving in 2020, when the pandemic began, stayed the same as in 2019 as people continued giving, even though they weren’t attending worship in person.

Giving in 2021, however, was \$57,000 less than 2020, as it appears many folks who quit attending in-person also quit giving. Add to that decrease in giving **an increase in expenses of \$113,000** (SEE **Payroll** BELOW). That combination put us deep into the red for the year.

Graciously, **in 2020, God provided \$122,900 in Payroll Protection Program** money we didn’t need in 2020, so we tucked it away in “Designated Giving” until we were sure it was a grant and not a loan. The loan was forgiven in early 2021, and we converted that money into “Other Income,” which made it so **our year-end deficit was \$23,031.17**.

That looks and sounds bad, but it’s a bit less than the Surplus with which we ended 2020, so **we “broke even” through the 2 years of the pandemic**. That’s MUCH better than many other churches and businesses fared. **THANK YOU, JESUS!**

◆ “**OTHER INCOME**” in 2020 added up to \$177,772, and it came from the following sources:

◆ **The Payroll Protection Program** from 2020.

◆ **Walt Disney Corporation matches charitable giving by its Castmembers!** A number of Messiah folks work for the Mouse and take advantage of that program. If you are a Castmember and aren’t enrolled in that benefit, please contact the Parish Office, and we’ll tell you how to **DOUBLE** your gift to the Messiah family without costing you a penny more!

Our Fund-Raising events: Rummage Sale, Ladies’ Night of Beauty, etc.

“**OPERATING EXPENSES/OUTFLOWS**” are the funds spent doing ministry. In our budget, they are divided into four categories:

- **Inreach** is Loving One Another and taking care of our own needs in the parish.
- **Logistics** are those things necessary to do ministry: property maintenance, insurance, office supplies, utilities, publicity, and staff ministry expenses.
- **Outreach** is Loving our Neighbors who are outside the parish family and Loving God. “Worship” goes here because it is primarily directed outside ourselves toward God and for our visitors, most of whom get their first impression of us on Sundays. Outreach also includes the 12% of our Plate & Pledge Income we send to the Diocese of Central Florida and the 5% we set aside for local outreach and grocery gift cards for people in need.
- **Payroll** includes taxes, medical insurance, pensions, and salaries for our staff. **THIS was why expenses grew so much over 2020** as we paid several years’ worth of back pension benefits on several employees that we were unaware were eligible for those benefits. That expensive mistake has been corrected, and expenses this year will be significantly less.

“DESIGNATED GIVING” is money given for specific purposes such as altar flowers or the Building Fund. It also includes things that “pay for themselves” or are not part of the Operating Budget such as most youth events, coffee, and Fun & Fellowship events. It “runs through” the operating account without affecting the Operating Budget.

The largest chunk of Designated Giving goes to the **Building Fund**, which also includes **Capital Expenses**, which are major facility repairs or improvements like a roof or an air conditioner.

We've prayed frequently, fervently, and faithfully for the Lord to provide, and HE DID!

Please continue praying for God to provide. If in those prayers, you hear God say, “Give!” please obey.

The 2021 Income and Expenses at a Glance (rounded to the nearest \$1)

BUDGET Explanations for 2022

INCOME		EXPENSES		“NET”
OPERATING INCOME	\$740,620	OPERATING EXPENSES	\$763,651	(\$23,031)
BUILDING FUND INCOME:		BUILDING FUND EXPENSES		
Gifts	\$258,152	Mortgage	\$143,952	
Fundraising & Facility Rental	\$21,709	Principle Prepayments	\$48,000	
		Rental/Fundraising Expenses	\$2,571	
		Required Accounting Review	\$3,250	
Total Bldg Fund Income	\$279,861	Total Bldg Fund Expenses	\$197,773	\$82,088
TOTAL INCOME	1,020,481	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$961,424	\$59,057

How the Vestry arrives at an annual Budget (see the next page):

UNLIKE most churches, we don't look at last year's budget and just tweak it for next year.

Our Vestry plans in faith: praying and listening to God and our parishioners to discern what we believe the Messiah wants to do in his family in this next year. We research what that will cost, and THAT becomes the budget. We then pray for God to provide and trust he will.

Even as we trust God, we are frugal with his money: cutting unnecessary expenses in order to compensate for rising expenses we can't control, like insurance, utilities, and maintenance. And if we're in a deficit, and an expense is not absolutely necessary, we don't do that project.

Significant aspects in the Budget for 2022:

Staff got no raises.

- ◆ We set aside \$50,000 to fund half the compensation for an Apprentice Rector, to educate and equip a newly ordained person for 2-3 years and send them out to be a Rector. The other half of their compensation
- ◆ comes from a Diocesan grant we received. Tom Rutherford is actively seeking the person God wants us to prepare.

We still owe about \$1 million on the Parish Hall, nursery, library, kitchen, restrooms, and offices and still pay a \$11,996.01 a month mortgage. **Please keep giving to the Building Fund.**

**Church of the Messiah Episcopal
OPERATIONS COTM 2021**

January - December Actual Compared to Budget with Proposed 2022 Budget

	Total		
	Actual thru 12/31/21	Budget 2021	Proposed Budget 2022
<u>OPERATING INCOME</u>			
PLATE - COTM	477.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
PLEDGE - COTM	562,371.41	670,000.00	670,000.00
OTHER INCOME - COTM	54,871.71	25,000.00	25,000.00
GRANT PROCEEDS - APPRENTICE RECTOR			50,000.00
Total OPERATING INCOME - COTM	\$ 617,720.12	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 750,000.00
<u>OPERATING EXPENSES</u>			
<u>INREACH</u>			
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS	5,073.68	4,300.00	4,070.00
YOUTH PROGRAMS	717.45	3,200.00	5,000.00
CONGREGATIONAL CARE	527.36	400.00	2,900.00
PASTORAL CARE	0.00	200.00	200.00
LIBRARY	266.19	0.00	600.00
STEWARDSHIP	1,803.38	1,800.00	1,350.00
TOTAL INREACH	\$ 8,388.06	\$ 9,900.00	\$ 14,120.00
<u>LOGISTICS</u>			
ADVERTISING & SIGNS	2,236.00	1,200.00	2,500.00
COMMUNICATION - OTHER	836.79	1,200.00	750.00
PROFESSIONAL EXPENSE - RECTOR	910.25	1,356.00	1,356.00
TRAVEL - RECTOR	1,908.04	4,400.00	4,400.00
COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE	38,134.03	37,256.00	37,256.00
WORKERS COMP	4,163.47	5,300.00	5,300.00
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT FEES	917.10	996.00	996.00
ONLINE GIVING FEES	4,370.71	3,000.00	3,000.00
GENERAL OFFICE AND SUPPLIES	27,330.21	21,424.00	24,510.00
TELEPHONE	3,755.44	4,500.00	3,000.00
UTILITIES	42,447.39	60,000.00	50,000.00
NAMETAGS	126.00	0.00	100.00
PROPERTY REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	41,320.40	23,000.00	25,328.00
CHURCH MINI VAN	3,690.00	0.00	2,500.00
TECHNOLOGY	4008.58	0.00	2663.00
TOTAL LOGISTICS	\$ 176,154.41	\$ 163,632.00	\$ 163,659.00
<u>OUTREACH</u>			
CHARITY	28,783.12	35,000.00	35,000.00
DIOCESE	73,374.00	72,000.00	72,000.00
WORSHIP - ALTAR SUPPLIES	6,853.48	6,000.00	6,000.00
WORSHIP - MUSIC	2,121.69	3,838.00	3,838.00
WORSHIP- OTHER			
TOTAL OUTREACH	\$ 111,132.29	\$ 116,838.00	\$ 116,838.00
<u>CLERGY AND STAFF PAYROLL</u>			
WAGES	339,045.97	370,962.00	369,127.00
EMPLOYER PAYROLL TAXES	15,888.27	17,525.00	19,041.08
PENSION EXPENSE	61,881.39	67,254.00	51,127.02
HEALTH INSURANCE EXPENSE	48,257.60	36,468.00	62,825.40
STAFF RETIREMENT	2,903.30	0.00	7,091.04
TOTAL CLERGY AND STAFF PAYROLL	\$ 467,976.53	\$ 492,209.00	\$ 509,211.54
NET REVENUE FROM OPERATIONS	\$ (145,931.17)	\$ (82,579.00)	\$ (53,828.54)
OTHER REVENUE - PPP (Creorona Virus Aid)	122,900.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL NET REVENUE- SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ (23,031.17)	\$ (82,579.00)	\$ (53,828.54)



Parish Statistics at a Glance

	2017	2018	2019	2020 Thru March 1	After May 31	Online	2021	Online
Average Attendance								
8am	60	55	52	51	33		40	
9:30am	120	125	122	136	49	618	79	388
11am	82	81	81	74	33		40	
11:30am Spanish	14							
4pm French/Creole			23	28	18	704	25	477
7pm	40	41	40	36	21		25	
Combined	316	301	318	328	155	1,322	209	865
Wednesday 10:30am	14	17	17	14			12	
Private Communion	38	51	8		2		6	
LEV Visits	45	61	87		18		12	
Baptisms	14	18	18		3		9	
Confirmations/Receptions							20	
Weddings	6	2	1		5		0	
Funerals	14	14	11		10		10	
Operating Income	\$659,824	\$638,525	\$764,169	\$674,685			\$740,620	
Operating Expenses	\$659,262	\$666,830	\$684,585	\$651,497			\$763,651	
Net Operating	\$561	\$(28,304)	\$79,584	\$23,189			(\$23,031)	
Total Bldg. Fund Income	\$266,187	\$556,163	\$242,642	\$157,963			\$279,861	
Bldg. Fund Expenses	\$257,508	\$559,065	\$187,502	\$166,287			\$197,773	
Net Bldg. Fund	\$08,679	\$(2,902)	\$55,140	\$(8,324)			\$82,088	
Total Net	\$9,240	\$(31,206)	\$134,724	\$14,865			\$59,057	

Baptisms



Worship Band



**Fr. Soner and Wesny Dubic
at the 4:00 pm Service**

**Seminarian Laura Cook at
Wycliffe Theological Seminary in Canada**



Compassion International Sunday

