



“Uniting People to Jesus Christ, the Messiah”

Annual Parish Meeting Reports 2020

January 19, 2020

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2020 Annual Meeting Agenda

January 19, 2020

- I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer – Fr. Kyle**
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- III. Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes 2019**
- IV. Review of 2019 Finances and Presentation of 2020 Budget**
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Annual Parish Meeting Minutes
Church of the Messiah
January 27, 2019

Polls Open for Vestry and Delegate Election

Motion Chuck Dettmann moved at 10:44AM that the polls for annual Vestry and Delegate nomination be opened. Motion was approved.

Present

The Rev. Kyle Tomlin, Senior Warden Frank Landymore, Junior Warden Al Creel, Murray Cheston, Rachel Wilson, Bill Riggs, Volunteer Parish Administrator Charles Bee, Treasurer Matt Small, and approximately 48 parishioners.

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Fr. Tomlin called the meeting to order at 10:42AM and began with an opening prayer.

Approval of 2018 Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

Motion Chuck Dettmann moved that the Annual Parish Meeting Minutes dated January 21, 2018, be accepted with no amendments. Motion was approved.

Review of 2018 Finances and Presentation of 2019 Budget

Treasurer Matt Small reviewed the 2018 finances and presented the proposed 2019 budget. He thanked the congregation for their continued generosity. The church met its tithing obligations for 2018, and monthly payments were made to the First Fruit recipients. There was an approximately \$7,000 shortfall, and undesignated funds were used to cover the deficit.

The 2019 budget has an approximate \$12,000 deficit. Several line items have been adjusted to offset the deficit.

There is a small decrease in the number of pledging units for 2019. Two previously pledging families have relocated out of the area. New members and families are encouraged to pledge as they are able.

The Finance Committee will discuss quarterly pledge statements with Michele Brantley, the church's bookkeeper.

Motion Chuck Dettmann moved to accept the 2019 budget as presented. Motion was approved.

Questions or Comments Related to Submitted Reports

No further discussion.

Areas of Parish Life Where Volunteers are Needed

The following worship committees are in need of volunteers for the upcoming year: Acolytes, Lectors, Chalice Bearers, Projectionists, and Altar Guild.

Many of our children who have previously used the nursery have “aged out,” and are now old enough to attend Sunday School. However, our congregation now has some young children who would benefit from utilizing the nursery. Rachel Wilson has volunteered to tend the nursery, and several other volunteers are still needed, as well.

The newly-formed Women’s Guild has deep cleaned and organized the parish hall, kitchen, classroom, and library. Thank you to all who contributed their time and efforts! As a reminder, please tidy up after yourself after participating in events at church. The church’s sexton, Spencer Chandler, is responsible for regular custodial maintenance. Chris and Garry Stegall are temporarily relocating to Texas; thus, a volunteer is needed to step in the leadership role for the Women’s Guild.

Any Other New Business

1. If you have a key to the church, please ensure that you are locking all doors and turning off all the lights before you vacate the premises.
2. Additionally, if you need to enter the parish house for any reason, please lock the top deadbolt before you leave.
3. Fr. Tomlin completed his coursework for his doctoral degree (DMin) in Spring 2018. He submitted his final paper in May 2018, and his work is currently under review. He anticipates that he will officially graduate in one year.

Results of Election

1. Election of Vestry Members by Acclamation -- **Motion** Chuck Dettmann moved that Darren Felsburg and Becky Weber become Vestry members for 2019, and that they complete a three-year term. Motion was approved.
2. Election of the Annual Diocesan Delegate by Acclamation -- **Motion** Chuck Dettmann moved that Murray Cheston become the 2019 Annual Diocesan Delegate. Motion was approved.
3. Election of the Annual Diocesan Alternate Delegate by Acclamation -- **Motion** Chuck Dettmann moved that Holly Perrow become the 2019 Annual Diocesan Alternate Delegate. Motion was approved.
4. Election of the Regional Delegate by Acclamation -- **Motion** Chuck Dettmann moved that Matt Small become the 2019 Regional Delegate. Motion was approved.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Motion Chuck Dettmann moved that the meeting be adjourned, and the time was 11:24 AM. Motion was approved.

The meeting concluded with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Wilson, Secretary

Rector's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

God is faithful and we are blessed! I think that that about sums up the year 2019 here at Church of the Messiah. Having said that, I'd like to take a few minutes to reflect on these two statements and to point out how they are true for us.

God is faithful. In the Scriptures, God has made us – those who have been baptized into His Name, His faithful Body the Church – a promise that He will never leave us nor forsake us and that He will be the One to bear fruit in and through us by the working of His Holy Spirit, and so He has done. As I look back over the past year, I see numerous places where Jesus, in all His faithfulness, is at work in this parish through His Holy Spirit giving life; bringing healing, comfort, and peace to weary consciences; bearing fruit; and working faith in all of you. From the conversations that I have with you to the attendance I regularly see at our services and Bible studies to the way that I see us praying for one another and loving one another, all of it is a sign of Jesus's faithfulness to us to be present among us and bear fruit through us. We cannot take credit for this, and this, of course, is in no way something we deserve, but we have a gracious King and Lord who has called and chosen us and loves us, and, consequently, His faithfulness to us remains unshakeable. For that we owe Him much thanks and praise! And I have no doubt that He will continue to keep and uphold us as a church family in the coming year.

We are blessed. Over the past year, we have seen many blessings here at Church of the Messiah. One of the biggest, of course, was the ending of our debt of \$68,000, which the Vestry and I put forward as a goal for us two Annual Meetings ago in 2018. In a matter of roughly 18 months, through your generous giving, creative ideas, and hard work, we managed to eliminate our debt, thereby making us a debt-free church, something that sadly not many churches can claim. But of course, this is just the first step in a larger plan to make ourselves a financially healthy church through generous giving and good stewardship. That's the goal that we now have before us and it's what our Vestry will be working on in the coming year.

Beyond this, we have also seen the blessing of new members. Over the course of the past year, we have had several new individuals and families regularly join us for worship on Sunday mornings. About 15 of those people have now asked to officially join Church of the Messiah and I am currently in the process of doing transfers and preparing Catechism classes for those who will join through Reception or Confirmation. It is such a blessing to have all of you new folks join us in worshipping our Lord!

There are, of course, many other blessings that I could name, and I am sure that there are a number you can think of as well, but for interest of space and time I'm going to mention just a few areas where I see blessings abounding in our church. First, we have a thriving Missions and Outreach program that has been very committed to engaging more with our local community and its needs. Second, we have a great group of individuals committed to loving and serving the Riverbend High School students snacks and drinks each Tuesday. I know many students have

been blessed by this ministry. Third, we have a very dedicated Vestry who has worked hard this past year to keep us financially solvent, to be good stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us, and to work to bring better overall organization to our common life as a church. I can say that we have had two wardens, Frank Landymore and Al Creel, who have given very graciously of their time and energy to the upkeep and maintenance of our physical plant and the management of our finances. As I said before, we have been very blessed by God this past year, and for that we owe Him all thanks and praise!

Now, this is not to say that we don't have our challenges to face in the coming year. Much like every other church, we do. The two big ones, of course, are finances and younger members. Being a totally self-sufficient church – we receive no financial support from the Diocese or the Episcopal Church; all our finances come from your giving – we are always reliant on your generosity and faithfulness to keep this church operational, so that we can continue to share the Good News and to love and serve our neighbors. That said, I would encourage all of you to keep up your financial commitments to the church in the coming year. Together, you have pledged more this year than last, which is wonderful news (thank you for that!), and your continued giving should ensure that we are able to keep moving ahead with our calling as a parish.

As for younger members, it is important to recognize that we live in a post-Christian culture today. What this means is that fewer young people are interested in church. Many have never grown up in church and have no sense of what church is about, except that they have some vague ideas that tell them it's just a place of rules and regulations. Of course, that is not the case. The Church is about proclaiming the love and forgiveness of God in Jesus Christ and His Kingdom of grace and mercy. That said, the answer to this difficulty is not to get gimmickier as a church. No, the answer lies in finding ways to get outside our walls and engage with people. As we engage with people and get to know and love other people, then we'll have genuine opportunities to share the hope that is in us and to invite them to join us at church. Then, when we do invite these new friends to church, it won't be for "Christianized" versions of what passes for entertainment in the world around us, but for a Gospel message filled with joy and hope, and for a worship service that has deep roots, substance, and history in the liturgical and Christ-centered worship of the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

So, all of this is to say that for 2020, I'd like us, as a church, to think of creative ways to get outside our walls and engage with our neighbors. What are some different ways that we can love and serve them in Jesus's name? What are some ways that we can connect with those who are sick, struggling, and hurting? What are some ways that we can share the love of Jesus with our neighbors? I would ask you to please pray about this and think about this through the coming year.

Well, the longer I sit here and write, the more I realize that there are many other things that I would like to say to you, but let me conclude by thanking you for your love and support for me and for my family, and for your patience and understanding as I serve both you as your pastor and the Fredericksburg Region of our Diocese as its Dean. Even though I have a lot on my plate week-in and week-out, it is always my great joy and privilege to proclaim the Gospel to you and to see God at work in and through you. For that, I give Him all thanks and praise! Amen.

Vestry Reports for 2019

Senior Warden Report

Frank Landymore

Major Accomplishments for 2019

From the administrative perspective, the past year has been very productive in terms of both planned activities and grass roots initiatives.

- The Debt Reduction Campaign was successfully concluded, and all outstanding debts were paid off.
- Adopted a quarterly schedule for Vestry meetings to replace the previous monthly schedule. This is an accepted best practice and the new schedule has worked well.
- Coordinated with the Church Insurance Company of VT & NY on our claim for damages related to the sewage backflow problem in the parish house. The company reimbursed the church for the cost of cleanup, sanitizing, and carpentry repairs.
- Drafted input for review of the measurable goals section of the church's Mission Statement. The Vestry updated our Mission Statement to include measurable goals in May 2018. The Vestry conducted its first annual review of our progress on these goals at the April 2019 meeting. It was a useful exercise and the Vestry concluded that we were making good progress in meeting our objectives.
- Created a Memorandum of Understanding for the Spotsylvania County English as a Second Language program. The MOU outlines the responsibilities of the program in connection with their use of church facilities for their instructional activities. The MOU follows the guidelines set forth by the Church Insurance Company of VT & NY.
- Adopted a Gift Acceptance policy for use by the Vestry. This type of policy is an accepted best practice of stewardship and helps support any planned giving stewardship activities in the future. It provides guidance to the vestry as well as potential donors. This draft is based upon several policy examples provided by the diocese.

Junior Warden Report

Albert Creel

Met with Father Kyle and Sr. Warden Frank Landymore on a monthly basis to review the vestry agendas, and to discuss different happenings and issues throughout the year.

Met with Father Kyle, Sr. Warden Frank Landymore, the treasurer and the bookkeeper throughout the year to review the budget and expenditures.

Church:

Had Total Comfort Heating & Air Company come out to check and clean our units per our yearly maintenance schedule.

Throughout the year took care of changing the lights in the sanctuary as needed.

Will continue to look into the problem of what is causing the light pole in front of the Church and some of the lights in the parking areas to not work properly.

At various times of the year I helped Helen Creel and Tom Moreland deliver school supplies, Thanksgiving offerings, and Christmas offerings to Spotsylvania County Department of Social Services.

Attended several Mission and Outreach Committee meetings.

Helped the Mission and Outreach Committee fix dinner twice during the year at the Thurman Brisbane Homeless Shelter.

Helped with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, which was a big success with approximately 65 people in attendance.

Maintained the Church yard and hills as needed through volunteers and the services of David Whetzler.

Had the door lock at the main entrance to the Church reworked

Had David Whetzler replace the two broken fence posts on the side of the Church property.

Replaced the lock on the mailbox.

Parish House:

Parish House had a plumbing problem in the first-floor bathroom. Called in a plumber to locate problem. Once located, had to call in a septic tank company to clean system. As a result of water damage due to bathroom issue, called in a Restoration Company to clean affected areas. Then had a contractor to replace all bathroom fixtures and flooring in bathroom and hallways.

In Father Kyle's office had the air condition and heating unit serviced.

Thanks to ALL committee members for all your support during 2019 and all who helped or assisted in maintaining the church property and buildings.

Fellowship Report

Rachel Wilson, Fellowship Liaison

2019 was a terrific year for fellowship at Church of the Messiah! Thank you to all of the committee and subcommittee leaders who contributed their time, energy, and ideas in order to facilitate meaningful fellowship opportunities for our congregation.

1. Fellowship and Social Planning Committee - This past year, the Fellowship and Social Planning Committee organized and hosted a variety of events, including a game night, Young Lives Rabbit Run, and International Luncheon. The International Luncheon raised \$676.00 towards the Debt Retirement Campaign.

2. Coffee Hour - The Coffee Hour Committee continued to serve refreshments after services this year. There are an adequate number of hosts; anyone interested in serving in 2020 should contact Laura Jones for more information. Thank you to our coordinators Laura Jones and Mary Anne Cheston, and to all of our hosts, for your dedication and service!

3. Fall Bazaar - Church of the Messiah held its second Fall Bazaar in September 2019. We increased the number of crafters and vendors at our event this year. COTM also offered a raffle table, craft table, and food sales. Our event was well-attended, and we received positive feedback from both visitors and vendors. The net proceeds from the Fall Bazaar totaled \$3,256.00, and these funds went towards the Debt Retirement Campaign. Thank you to everyone who planned, coordinated, and volunteered to help with this event!

4. Women's Guild - The Women's Guild has branched out into two areas of ministry: Monthly Book Club and Hostess/Hospitality. This past year, the Book Club met six times, with an average attendance of 12-14. Looking ahead to 2020, the Hostess/Hospitality subcommittee is planning to provide a welcome gift for first-time visitors of COTM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Wilson
Fellowship Liaison

Worship Report

Becky Weber, Worship Liaison

ACOLYTES – by the end of 2019 we had 10 acolytes. We welcomed 2 new acolytes this year. We had 1 social gathering for our young acolytes. In 2020, we have 2 acolytes graduating high school. We will be looking to train a few more acolytes during the year. In addition, we hope to have at least 2 social activities for our young acolytes.

ALTAR GUILD – throughout 2019 numbers decreased. The biggest need is a few more dedicated folks to assist in pairs for each service.

COFFEE HOUR , CHALICE BEARERS, GREETERS, LECTURES, USHERS – all of these areas have had some flux during 2019 but going strong by the end of 2019. Looking into 2020, all areas will be looking to have a training for new volunteers.

MUSIC – Rochelle will have a separate report for this area.

PROJECTORS - Projector team includes 5 dedicated volunteers. They rotate a lot because several can only work occasionally. All in all, things seem to be going along fine just now.

Missions and Outreach

Darren Felsburg via Helen Creel

2019

Mission and Outreach Committee

Activities and Achievements

1. Held a congregation briefing on the committee's purpose and achievements for 2018. The biggest take-away for the committee was that the congregation wished to have the emphasis of the actions to be switched to local programs.
2. Continued the Teen Tuesday ministry during the school Year.
3. Changed from providing food to the Fredericksburg Food Bank to the Spotsylvania Department of Social Services (DSS) Food Bank and delivered food throughout the year.
4. The committee, along with Samantha Bouchard, met with the DSS Special Programs Coordinator Jackie Brett in April to get an understanding of what her jobs entail, what the needs are and how our church can provide assistance.
5. Provided two dinners for the Thurman Brisben Center, the homeless shelter, during the year. The committee purchases, prepares and serves the food. At the November dinner, the committee was joined by Monica Potter and daughters Amanda and Caroline.
6. Provided financial support for ESOL.
7. In addition to the dropping of first fruits support for the Paul Stephon Foundation, which was approved in 2018 and enacted upon in 2019, the committee recommended to the Vestry that SAMS and the Anglican Frontier

Missions be dropped from support as well, so the church can concentrate on local ministry.

8. Provided backpacks and school supplies to DSS for back-to school help for local families.
9. The committee voted to sponsor a booth at next year's church bazaar.
10. Met with Elizabeth Snader of the Campus Christian Community (CCC) to determine how the church can further support them. Invited her and CCC students to our church, and she and three students did attend a service. The committee committed our church to membership on their board, which had been done in the past. The committee will also provide meals for their Thursday evening meetings upon occasion.
11. Made arrangements to gather food and gift certificates for six families for Thanksgiving and delivered them to DSS.
12. Gathered gifts for Operation Christmas Child and delivered them to DSS.
13. Followed up on attempts to obtain use of Amazon Smile for church members. This has now been accomplished, thanks to Madeline Johannes's efforts.
14. Recommended that the church provide gift certificates to McDonald's, Burger King Chick-Fil-A, etc. to hand out to people arriving at the church looking for help during Teen Tuesdays.
15. The committee voted to have Elizabeth Snader of the CCC, A.J of the Inland India Missions and Jackie Brett from DSS come to brief parishioners during 2020, to be approved and scheduled by Fr. Kyle.
16. Voted to use year-end unspent funds for kitchen improvements for the CCC.
17. Provided flowers to Madeline for her excellent support for the committee for the year.
18. Changed the Prayers of the People to reflect the changes in the organizations supported by the parish.

Christian Education

Bill Riggs, Christian Ed. Liaison

(See Reports Below in the Christian Ed. Section)

Worship-Related Reports

Music Ministry Report

Rochelle Felsburg, Music Director

It's hard to believe but this January marks **my 10th year** at Church of the Messiah. I remember my first official Sunday, near Epiphany, 2009, as I got to know the choir/band members and my family became part of this congregation. Jimmy was in 5th grade (now he's in the Army). This was my first liturgical staff position, so I was a little nervous; but over the years I have learned much. Thank you for your trust in me and support over the years. Being a music director in any church, with our culture's strong musical tastes and opinions, can be a tight wire to walk sometimes. I appreciate Fr. Kyle supporting my work with Resonance and allowing us to lead you in worship each week. It is a joy to serve the Lord in music!

Thank you to **Resonance** (choir and band) for your loyalty each week to rehearsals, coming early to church, and your music which leads us in our faith-walk each service. Your dedication and love for service is a joy to work with. Considering most of our members are above the age of 70, they are a testament to the fact that "God isn't done with you yet!" Music service has no age limit. Also, thank you to **Daniel and Rachel Wilson** who cover for me when I'm gone and bless us with their piano/clarinet duets.

We started a **Bell Choir** this fall. They don't have a name yet, and it's not going to be the "Ding A Lings"! They played on Veteran's Day weekend and on Christmas Eve. The team of 6 works hard each week and you will hear them more this year.

The bell choir and Resonance led a **Christmas Carol Sing-Along at Chancellor's Village** on December 1. The room was packed with residents and the response was overwhelmingly positive. I hope to do this again this December and possibly do a summer hymn-sing event.

Thanks to all who participated in our **Superheroes Christmas Pageant** on December 22. The costumes, cute skit, and music all helped prepare us for the week of Christmas in a fun creative way.

Sing-cerely Yours,

Rochelle D. Felsburg

Altar Guild Report

Donna Dettmann, Altar Guild Directress

The Altar Guild of Church of the Messiah is open to all ladies, gents and teens that are willing to serve at our Lord's table.

We started 2019 with eight members (4 teams of 2, to cover each week of the month). In 2019, health problems caused three of our members to leave our guild. A request was sent out to the congregation for new members and we were blessed to have a team return to the Guild. We are still in need of additional members because a team will be leaving in March.

Please pray about becoming a member of the Altar Guild. If you have any questions call:

Donna Dettmann, 540-786-1916

Directress of COTM Altar Guild

Prayer Ministries Report

Gary Carlmark

Church of the Messiah is blessed with a significant belief and trust in the power of prayer. To cover parish prayer needs, Messiah has multiple prayer opportunities. They are as follows. The Intercessors Prayer Ministry, a group of 12 members of Messiah who daily pray for the needs of congregants. The intercessors are accessed thru prayer slips placed in the prayer chest, emails and emergency phone requests. Emergency requests are received 24/7 via phone to the individuals and numbers listed at the bottom of each Sunday service bulletin. The Wednesday evening Prayer and Praise ministry held at the sanctuary prayer rail. During the 11 am Sunday service there is a Prayer Corner ministry where individual prayer and prayer for others is offered. Finally, but not least, is all the small group prayer that takes place weekly throughout the parish. Included here would be the Tuesday/Thursday Morning Prayer Service, Men's and Women's Bible Studies and home group bible studies having prayer as part of their discipline.

In a very basic Concordance, there are over 40 scripture references identifying prayer and praying. In Jesus' cleansing of the Temple, He states; "It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer..." and in Thess. 5:17, in one of the Apostle Paul's closing instructions to the Church of Thessalonica, he states, "pray without ceasing." James 5:16 also states "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

Make praying a regular part of your between-Sunday-service worship, then watch and see what God does in response.

Prayer and Praise

Robert Dickinson

We meet Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in the sanctuary. This a time to pray for all concerns from worldwide to individual needs as well as Thanksgivings. We continue to invite all to attend, whether once a year or every week. We invite you to talk to the following people for an understanding of the Holy Spirit at work in this ministry: Robert Dickinson Jr., Al Creel, Tom Moreland, or Frank Landymore.

Christian Education Reports

Sunday School/Youth Ministry

Samantha Bouchard

2019 At-a-Glance for Children's and Youth Ministry

Spring 2019

- Sunday School consisted of one elementary level class held during the service (about half an hour of class time). Typical class size each week was about two to five students. Two teachers took turns teaching each week. During this semester, the liturgically-oriented curriculum we had been using was completed. High school and middle school aged children stayed in the service this semester.
- Sam met every other week with students in small groups (middle school) or one-on-one (high school) to work through a workbook called, *What's Up: Discovering the Gospel, Jesus, and Who You Really Are*.
- An Easter Egg hunt was put on for elementary-aged students.

Summer 2019

- Saturday Morning Bible Camp was held at the Felsburg's house for elementary-aged students. The theme was Psalm 23. The students (6 total) and volunteers (3 adults and 2 middle/high school helpers) spent the morning in class learning about Psalm 23 with stories, lessons, crafts, and songs. Then at lunchtime, parents were invited for a pizza lunch and time in the Felsburg's pool.

Fall 2019

- Sam Bouchard was on maternity leave from August until mid-November.
- Sunday School started *The Jesus Storybook Bible* curriculum and met at its new time of 9:30am, between the two services (an hour and fifteen minutes of class time). One combined level class for elementary students led each week by three teachers in rotation. Typically, there are anywhere from two to seven students in attendance. Students are served snacks during Sunday School now that it is a longer class time.
- In November, Sam, along with 1 adult volunteer and 3 student volunteers, helped set up the Operation Christmas Child collection site at Salem Baptist Church. After setting up the site for the collection week, the volunteer crew went to Cici's pizza for dinner.
- Also, in November, Sam resumed meeting one-on-one with her long-term high school student. The first meeting, Sam and her student shopped to stuff an Operation Christmas Child Box for a young girl. Subsequent meetings were used to catch up to a certain point in the *What's Up* workbook so that Sam can combine this one-on-one meeting with another high school student who was a little further along in the workbook. These combined meetings are to begin in January 2020.
- Sam's spending for the year: \$92.40 from the Youth Group Budget; \$191.39 from the Sunday School Budget.

Looking ahead to 2020:

- Once a month, small group meetings, with two high school girls, to continue study in the *What's Up* workbook.
- Intended once-a-month meeting with middle school boys to work through the *What's Up* workbook.
- Easter Egg Hunt for elementary school students.
- Social meetings for combined middle and high school students.
- Service opportunities for middle and high school students.
- 5 graduating seniors this year.
- Summer 2020, VBS elementary students will be Christmas themed, directing our hearts to the reason for the season. Rochelle and Sam have settled on the title, "O Come Let Us Adore Him."

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study

Susan Carlmark

This group meets each week from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., September through May. We typically have fellowship luncheons at the end of each 'semester' and one during the summer.

Susan Carlmark continues to oversee and facilitate the group, providing teaching as needed.

We are primarily a Bible study with Heart Prep questions done at home followed by discussion and teaching. However, fellowship and prayer time are part of the program.

January – May 2019 found us studying the Book of Jonah, learning how to share our own testimonies and studying the Books of Ruth and Esther. From September until Christmas, 2019, we took an in-depth look at the Lord's Prayer. Application of Biblical truth is always part of what we consider.

There are currently 13 active members (we are praying more will join us in this new year!) Discussion is open and lively. Care for one another is deep. Growth in the Lord is obvious! We praise Him for all He is doing among us!

Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study

Gary Carlmark

The Men's Bible Study meets Saturday mornings, 7:30 to 9 a.m., mid-September thru late May, in the Fellowship Hall.

Studies are typically video series with companion study guides for each participant and are often from Ligonier ministries. Most of the studies last 6-8 weeks and then a new study begins.

In the past we have studied a wide variety of topics, such as the Pentateuch/Torah, the Holy Spirit, Martin Luther and the Reformation, the Burning Bush, God Alone, and many more.

Currently we are finishing up The Parables of Jesus and are beginning a six-week study on the Sermon on the Mount.

This men's Bible study has been active for close to 15 years and is open to all adult men age 18 and older.

We offer solid Bible study, relevant discussion, friendly fellowship, and coffee and donuts.

For more info, contact Matt Small.

Rector's Bible Study

The Rector's Bible Study, led by Fr. Kyle, meets twice a month on Tuesday afternoons at 12 p.m. It is a year-long Bible study that is held in the Sanctuary of the church in order to make it accessible to those who have trouble with stairs.

Over the past several years, we have been working our way through a number of Paul's Epistles. In the past, we spent time in his Epistle to the Romans, and more recently, we have been focusing on the prison letters of Paul (those which he wrote while imprisoned in Rome before his martyrdom), i.e. Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. We are currently finishing up his Epistle to the Colossians. Once we finish that Epistle, we will be moving on to his Epistle to Philemon, which is the last in the group of prison letters.

Following Philemon, we will continue making our way through the remainder of the New Testament, looking at the letters to the Thessalonians, the Pastoral Epistles, the Catholic Epistles, Hebrews, and finally the Apocalypse, otherwise known as the Revelation to John.

This is a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith and in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Please consider coming out to join us!

Sunday Morning Adult Education

Each Sunday morning from August through May, between 9:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Fr. Kyle leads a study of the Scriptures in the Sanctuary. This year's focus is the Book of Genesis, specifically, "Jesus in Genesis." During this study, we examine not only the narrative of Genesis, which tells us about things such as the Creation, the Fall, the Flood, Abraham and his sons, and Joseph in Egypt, but we also look at how these events point forward to God's promise

to reconcile and save the world through Jesus Christ. This is a great opportunity to become more familiar with the Old Testament, which is something that many are unfamiliar with, and to do so with the understanding that both the Old and New Testament fit together as one book that tells us about the love of God for us in Jesus Christ. Please consider joining us for this study!

The Law-Gospel Book Club

For the past year and a half, every other Tuesday, Fr. Kyle has been leading a discussion group with several of the younger men of the parish around books that help us to recognize the distinction of Law and Gospel. We meet in various group members homes around food and drink, and read portions of the selected books together, followed by discussion about the material presented. In the past, we have read through Mockingbird Ministries helpful book, “Law and Gospel: A Theology for Sinners (and Saints),” and Rod Rosenblatt’s short little book titled, “Christ Alone.” Currently, we are reading a book by Donovan Riley called, “Crucifying Religion: How Jesus is the End of Religion.” For those who have attended, this has been a very fruitful time of recognizing how God operates on us by His two words of Law and Gospel.

Parish Goals for 2020

Church of the Messiah, Episcopal

Mission Statement: Uniting People to Jesus Christ, the Messiah

How will we live out this mission statement?

1. By proclaiming the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ as the only means of forgiveness and salvation for sinners.
2. By rightly proclaiming and teaching about God’s means of grace (Baptism, the Preached Word, and the Lord’s Supper).
3. By having worship services that are liturgically and musically Christ-centered and dynamic.
4. By seeking to equip all the saints, young and old alike, through Gospel-driven Christian education.
5. By living out, in the power of the Holy Spirit, our Lord’s call to love one another, pray for one another, and care for one another in word and deed.
6. By regularly encouraging each and every parishioner to use their God-given gifts within the life of the Body of Christ.
7. By actively seeking opportunities to engage those outside the church with the Good News of Jesus Christ, both in our daily, individual lives and in our corporate church life.

What are our goals as a congregation of Christ from 2018-2020?

1. ***To get out and connect with others in the community with an aim of evangelizing.*** We will do this by committing to a minimum of 2 outreach events per year either on-site or in the community.
2. ***To have a vibrant children and youth ministry.*** We will do this by offering a regular, weekly, Christ-centered Sunday School program for all the age groups of the children in our parish; by providing Christian discipleship in one-on-one settings with our pre-teens and teens; by holding an annual VBS program; and by participating in at least one service-oriented mission trip or local activity per year.
3. ***To provide opportunities for growing in the knowledge and love of Christ through a solid foundation of Christian education.*** We will do this by offering a weekly Adult Education class on Sunday mornings during the program year, which will be scripturally-focused and Christ-centered; by offering a Lenten teaching series for each of the 5 Sundays in Lent and by offering these teachings in video format through YouTube; by offering an annual Catechesis class for those preparing for Confirmation/Reception, but also for those interested in growing in their knowledge of Christ; by encouraging small group formation and the practice of Bible study in those small groups; and by offering regular, weekly Men's and Women's Bible study groups.
4. ***To minister to the aged in our community and not allow them to get lost.*** We will do this by offering a monthly Holy Communion service at Chancellor's Village; by arranging rides to church for those elderly in our congregation who may not drive or who may need transportation; and by organizing and encouraging a parish visitors group that would be committed to visiting the elderly, shut-ins, and those in hospital and nursing home settings. We will maintain an active intercessional prayer ministry for those with physical and spiritual needs.
5. ***To be financially stable and to be good stewards of the all the resources that God provides for us as a church.*** We will do this by: a.) Maintaining a contingency reserve adequate to cover three months operating expenses; b.) Create a capital replacement account that is funded on an accrual basis from income; c.) Create a financial management and administrative policy manual; d.) Begin the annual budget process in August and finalize the budget in September, so that it can be presented to the congregation prior to the annual pledge drive; and e.) Retire any existing debt.

Approved and Adopted by the Vestry of Church of the Messiah, Episcopal on May 15, 2018

Vestry Nominee Bios

Lois Griffin Powell

Lois G. Powell was born in New Haven, Connecticut and grew up in Milford, Connecticut. Her family was a member of the St. Luke's Episcopal Church in New Haven, CT. When she married Selven Powell after college and moved to Bay Shore, LI, NY, she joined St. Peter's Episcopal Church. While attending that church she was a Lector and a member of the Altar Guild. Both of their sons were in the Children's Choir and attended St. Peter's Elementary School before attending Bay Shore Public School. She taught in the Bay Shore school district. When she returned to teaching after starting a family, she taught in the Babylon school district, both on Long Island.

Selven and Lois bought a home at Lake of the Woods, Locust Grove, VA in the year 2000 and moved here permanently in 2004. They became members of Church of the Messiah in 2005. Lois has served on the Vestry for two terms in the past and was on the search committee that brought Father Kyle Tomlin to our church. She was the scheduler for the Chalice Bearers, did the scheduling for the Lectors, and taught Sunday School. She presently sings in the Choir and is a Lector.

Tom Moreland

Tom Moreland has been a member of the Church of the Messiah for the last 5 years. During this time, he has been very active in the church community. For the last 3 years, he has been the facilitator for Teen Tuesday and been on the Missions & Outreach committee. While serving there he has been the liaison to the Dept. of Social Services in helping with the Holiday Hope Christmas program and the Thanksgiving food basket drive. Before that, he worked on the Operation Christmas Child project for the parish. He also collects weekly all the food that is donated by COTM and brings it to the Dept. of Social Services Emergency Food Pantry. Throughout the year, he helps with setting up the signs for the church to advertise church events and he keeps our outdoor weekly-announcement church sign updated with current information. He also has assisted with setting up the grounds for the Fall Bazaar. Every year he also volunteers to help with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Tom was baptized in March of 1971 and has been a practicing Episcopalian since then. He is as member at-large of the Brotherhood for St. Andrew, which is a life-long membership. He has been married to Fran for 57 years and has 2 sons (Thomas and Kevin) and 1 grandson, Jacob. He was with the US Airforce for 10 years and was an employee of Giant Food of MD for 36 years. He retired in June of 1999 and currently resides in Salem Fields.

Diocesan Convention & Regional Delegate Nominees

There are currently no nominees for the positions of delegates to Diocesan Convention or Regional Meetings.

Yearly Facts about Messiah

Average Sunday Attendance:

2017 – 90

2018 – 93

2019 – 92

Baptisms:

2017 – 5

2018 – 1

2019 – 2

Confirmations:

2017 – 3

2018 – 0

2019 – 7

Receptions:

2017 – 4

2018 – 0

2019 – 4

People Receiving Communion:

2017 – 4894

2018 – 4597

2019 – 4631

Total Active Members:

2017 – 104

2018 – 97

2019 – 95 (268 members are currently inactive)

Communicants in Good Standing:

2017 – 101

2018 – 87

2019 – 93

Others Active (Non-Parishioners):

2017 – 47

2018 – 55

2019 – 56 (13 of these have requested transfer or reception; I am currently working on this)