



The Church of the Messiah  
50 State Route 24 West,  
Chester, NJ 07930  
Phone: 908-879-7208

# The Messenger

The Rev. Margaret Otterburn, Rector

Carol King, Editor

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Website: [www.messiahchester.org](http://www.messiahchester.org)

January, 2022



## Regular Sunday Worship Schedule

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (spoken)  
indoors in sanctuary  
and via Zoom
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (w/ music)  
indoors in sanctuary & live-  
streamed on Facebook

## Mid-Week Worship Schedule

- Mon 8:00 am Morning Prayer via fcc \*
- Tue 8:00 am Morning Prayer via fcc \*
- Wed 8:00 am Morning Prayer via fcc \*
- Wed 9:00 pm Compline via Zoom
- Thu 8:00 am Morning Prayer via fcc \*
- Fri 8:00 am Morning Prayer via fcc \*

\* fcc services are by free conference call

## Messiah Vestry:

Rev. Margaret Otterburn, Rector  
John P. Treasurer

Elected Wardens: serving until (year)

(2022)	(2023)
Merica G	Dani P

Elected Members: serving until (year)

(2022)	(2023)	(2024)
Jackie M	Susan O	Debbie B
	Craig R	Julie C
	Dave S	Kathy K

“Happy New Year” are of course the usual words we use when sending a card or a greeting at this time of year. It would be so nice to think that the year ahead will be a happy one for everyone, but logically we know it will not be true. Still, it’s nice to say those words, and really mean them too.

However, we are still in “Covid-time.” The virus and its variants are spreading world-wide, so we are told. I am writing before Christmas so we do not know how Christmas will be spent as my son tested positive a week ago. I have not seen him since Thanksgiving. You, your family, me, more of my family, may get Covid, but assuming we all are protected none of us expect to be very sick. That is a possible outcome with hope bound up in it. Nonetheless, I know that whether or not my family can be together, Christmas will still come- that is the certainty. Christmas will happen-we will celebrate the Incarnation- God coming among us at Christmas. God has never failed us. We are blessed each year by this remembrance.

There have been many things which have been a blessing too, that have not failed in this Advent season. The Senior Resource Center had a very successful Festival of Trees and many of you volunteered to help. Your participation was a wonderful blessing (especially to me as the Board President). Julie, outreach minister, created a sign-up genius for the Christmas gift program; an opportunity for us all to buy gifts for 12 children whose families are now in transitional housing but were formerly homeless. By the closing date the altar area was swamped with packages and each child will receive a large bag full of gifts. I have been blessed with several donations for my discretionary fund which has enabled me to help several people whose resources are stretched at this time. Among them is one family we have helped several times – the summer backpack program supports the school the children attend in Irvington. Some time ago, the mother requested

the Sunday school materials should continue to be sent to the children and she is very appreciative of this ministry; she spends time presenting the materials to her two daughters.

A further blessing has been the joy many of us experienced on the Sunday before Christmas. Unlike 2020 we had an “in person” Christmas pageant. It was wonderful to see the children have such enjoyment as they told the Christmas story. Dani worked hard to direct it, dealing with many challenges. We were sad that one family had to stay home because of Covid, but glad the boy is not seriously sick. It certainly felt as though life before Covid was back with us again, as the children shared once more the Christmas story. The blessings continued as the dry weather allowed a group of 10 of us to go to Little Brook Nursing home to sing carols outside several windows for the residents to hear. Then we drove to Chester Area Senior Housing and sung more carols there. A gift of several hand crocheted scarves from Charlene became little gifts for each of the seniors who sat outside to listen.

For you? What blessings can you relate in these pre-Christmas days? Has someone helped you in a special way or have you been able to help someone yourself? You might have bought or received many gifts and gift giving is what we have grown accustomed to doing, but it can become a monster which overwhelms you. I hope you have it under control. The best gift of all is the one we celebrate at Christmas. We celebrate God’s gift of Jesus born into our world, born to show us how to live and born to be willing to die for us too.

May you know the joy of God’s gift to you, Jesus here in your heart, at this Christmas and through the year ahead.

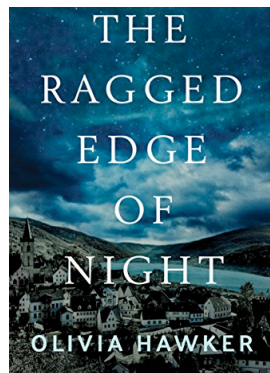
God bless you,  
Margaret+

## Book 'n Movie Night Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>

On January 4<sup>th</sup> we will gather at 6:30 pm to discuss the book of the month, which will be *The Ragged Edge of Night* by Olivia Hawker.

The monthly movie begins at 7:30 pm. It is free, as are the coffee and snacks! You are welcome to join us (lower parish hall.) If you did not read the book you are still very welcome to come, just for the movie.

You can also join the conversation by Zoom. Contact Margaret for the Zoom meeting number and password.



## January Birthdays

Jan 4	Marcus B
Jan 5	Susan O
Jan 11	Linda O
Jan 12	Pat H
Jan 12	Jim M
Jan 16	Debbie B
Jan 17	Julie C
Jan 18	Wil R
Jan 21	Nelson R
Jan 22	Terry L



## January Anniversary

Jan 31 Bernadette & Nelson R



## Saint Elsie's Thrift Shop Schedule

Thursdays 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Saturdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

50% off sales: Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>  
\$1 dollar sales: Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

Closed Saturday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>

## "Plus One" Campaign

This is a very simple way to remember families in need. When you go to the supermarket, just add one item to your cart. Your single item, added to everyone else's single item, will make a huge difference.



## Feast of the Epiphany Sunday January 2<sup>nd</sup>

We will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with services of Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10 am. The service will include the readings for the Epiphany; the arrival of the three Magi/kings to visit baby Jesus.



## Where do our Donations Go?

Jim & Mary Ellen T. bring donated food items to the Chester and Long Valley food pantries.

Margaret brings baby food, formula and diapers to North Porch.

## Neighbors in Need

"Neighbors in Need" in January is North Porch.

Always-needed items include formula; baby and toddler food; wipes; diapers—especially in large sizes (size 4 or larger.) They can be any variety; inexpensive ones are fine.



## Angel Tree Gift-Giving for Children in Transitional Housing



Thank you to all 20 participants in our annual Angel Tree program.

Special thanks to Thierry M. who delivered the gifts to the 4 families and 12 kids currently housed in Transitional Housing in Morris Township.

Again we thank The Community of St John for their contribution of knitted hats and scarves and gloves/mittens for the children.

## Habitat for Humanity Volunteering Opportunities

A number of members have expressed interest and we look forward to forming work partner teams in the near future. There is a new project site on Bennett Ave in Randolph, which has not yet posted work sessions.

If you are interested in serving, you must complete their on-line registration and watch their training videos and review their COVID protocols. There is also a waiver to complete.

<https://www.morrishabitat.org/volunteer/individuals>

Once you have completed your registration and safety protocols, contact Julie via email [juliekayecrawford@gamil.com](mailto:juliekayecrawford@gamil.com) to coordinate dates. Please note that if you take time to review their volunteer needs, there are also opportunities to serve at their warehouse and at their their administration site or Restore; and also to help plan for events.

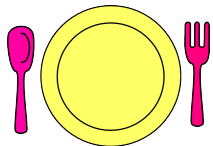
## Homeless Solutions Meal Preparation Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup> and On-Going

We now have an on-line SignUp Genius link for this ministry:  
[Messiah Homeless Solution SignUp](#)

This is an opportunity for “hands-on” ministry: cooking and serving the dinner at the Morris County Homeless shelter called Homeless Solutions. We serve there at least once a month (12+ times each year). Anyone aged 9 years or older is welcome to help. The sign-up sheet is also on the board in the parish hall.

Thank you to Terry L., Linda O., Julie C., and Margaret for their service this month. Each month we also have an on-call slot to fill. Upcoming service dates are Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>; and Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to know more about what is involved, talk to Margaret or any of the people who have already been there.



We intend this ministry to be a way to serve “hands-on” instead of just sending money; **but** serving about 35 people (the number currently housed there) costs roughly \$50 each time. Your financial support is also welcome. If you can

## What Does the Church Believe on Public Policy Issues? Make Your Voice Heard.

The Office of Government Affairs of The Episcopal Church represents us on critical public policy issues, advocating for positions taken by our bishops. It is easy to learn what those positions are on the website of our church: [www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org). Click on Ministries, then on Office of Government Affairs.

There you will find a list of Action Alerts that spell out the church’s position on such matters as the Cuban embargo, the Arctic Refuge Protection Act, gun reform, immigration reform, voting reform and police reform. It is easy to add your voice on these issues on the website. You can find a letter on each issue, add your own thoughts, and immediately email it to your representatives in Washington. You can also sign up to receive email alerts from the Office of Government Affairs.

**Dave S., Vestry member (Social Justice)**







*Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.*

Psalms 98:4



### Caroling at CASH and Little Brook Making a Merry Holiday Season

A dozen members braved the chilly weather and provided caroling through the windows of Little Brook nursing facility in Califon. We returned to the Chester Area Senior Housing complex in Chester Borough for a second round of cheer.



Thank you to The Community of St John Baptist for their assistance in creating 80 holiday bags filled with a card, bookmark, reflections, jingle bell necklaces, and goodies. We were able to distribute scarves to the seniors at CASH.

### Market Street Mission Outreach

The next volunteer training opportunity at MSM in Morristown is January 20<sup>th</sup>. You can learn more about volunteering at their link <https://www.marketstreet.org/ways-to-help/volunteer/>

Sister Linda Clare and Sister Victoria Michelle will be attending this training session, so if you want to coordinate a carpool you can reach out to them at The Community of St John Baptist.

### Flower Ministry

Would you like to honor a living person or memorialize your beloved deceased? Altar flower donations are an excellent way to do so! Even though most of you are not worshipping in person, the flowers are always on display and are given to you or taken to someone who is sick or has a specific need.



If you attend church in person, you can sign up on the flower chart, then send your check to the office. You can also send your request in via USPS mail, or by emailing it to the office. You can make a request for the type or color of flowers you would like to have displayed. The suggested donation is \$25.

### Jin Shin Jyutsu — “the Art of the Compassionate Man” Help Boost your Immune System



Treat yourself to relaxation and awakening of your innate wisdom. Take time to learn some tools that you have at your fingertips. Help boost your immune system, help with overall fatigue, tired eyes and a myriad of other things.

I will do zoom conversation and instruction on an individual basis. My charge is modest: an item for food bank or North Porch.

I will send you a Zoom link if you contact me by email.

Please allow me to share the gift of Jin Shin Jyutsu that God has given me.

Debbie B, vestry member  
[debbieburnet@att.net](mailto:debbieburnet@att.net)

*“The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul.”*

- G. K. Chesterton.

### Sunday School



We offer Sunday school, usually two Sundays a month. We are in regular contact with our families to check on the dates they are able to attend.



## Wednesday Lunch Group

This lunch group continues to meet on Wednesdays at noon in the lower level. Participants can bring a bag lunch if they wish.

We are reading articles from "The Christian Century" which Margaret provides. Please ask her for copies.



## Inquirer's & Confirmation Classes

There could be a Confirmation class for students 8<sup>th</sup> grade and older. Students who attend can be confirmed next year if they so choose. Parents of students in this age group are encouraged to speak with Margaret for details about the class. There could be teenagers from District churches joining our group. An adult Inquirer's class is offered either on a Sunday after worship or during the week. Please talk to Margaret if you are interested in attending. A class usually lasts for 5 sessions.

The class is for those unfamiliar with the teachings of the Church in general and/or the Episcopal Church in particular. During the class, we allow time for discussion of any questions you may have. A booklet is provided with reading assignments.

After completing the class, you may choose to be confirmed by the Bishop at a local church or at the diocesan cathedral. If you were **Confirmed** in another tradition, you can be **Received** by the Bishop at this service.

If you feel you would like to renew your confirmation vows, you can choose to do that at the service. The Bishop will lay hands upon you and pray for you, similar to the way she welcomes and prays for confirmands.

## Senior Resource Center (SRC)

The SRC continues to offer great programs for seniors, all in-person as well as some of them having a Zoom option. Almost all the classes take place in the sanctuary because our air system has special filters. You can find out more by visiting the SRC web site: [www.srcnj.org](http://www.srcnj.org). If you have questions about the SRC please talk to Margaret.

## Education for Ministry, EFM

(for all of us, nothing to do with ordination)

We have two groups meeting on Wednesdays, one from 2:30-4:30 p.m. with participants mostly attending by Zoom. The other from 7-9 p.m. meets by Zoom call. The Zoom number is available from Margaret.

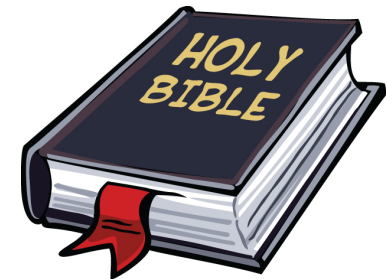


## Bible Study

We have two adult Bible study groups; one meets in-person on Monday afternoons 2- 3:30. Currently we are studying John's Gospel.

The other meets by FCC on Thursday mornings from 11 – 12. Currently we are studying 1 Samuel.

You are welcome to join either group and to use whatever version of the Bible you prefer.



## Your Story

If you are new to Messiah, we would love to read your story in the next or subsequent editions of *The Messenger*. If you have been a member for a long time, we would love to read what has kept you here.

Please contact Susan O. or Carol K.



# Poetry Corner

## It is Well With My Soul

by Horatio Spafford, 1873

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to know  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

*Refrain: It is well, (it is well),  
With my soul, (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul

*Refrain: It is well, (it is well),  
With my soul, (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

*Refrain: It is well, (it is well),  
With my soul, (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:  
If Jordan above me shall roll,  
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life,  
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

*Refrain: It is well, (it is well),  
With my soul, (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

But Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,  
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;  
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!  
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul.

*Refrain: It is well, (it is well),  
With my soul, (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,  
A song in the night, oh my soul.

*Refrain: It is well, (it is well),  
With my soul, (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

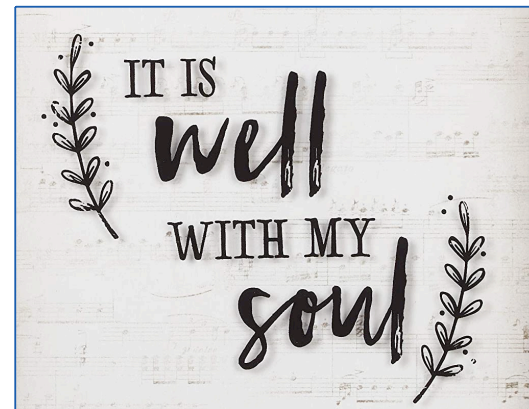
### This Poem Means a Lot to Me

We are all feeling weary, pandemic “burned out,” and the text of this hymn can offer comfort.

The story of the writing of this hymn text is both sad and inspiring. Having once read about the poet’s experience, the line, “When sorrows like sea billows roll“ takes on greater significance.

*Carol K., Editor*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horatio\\_Spafford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horatio_Spafford)



## St Elsie's Thrift Shop Needs Your Help!

These jobs can be done any time at your convenience:

- Load a few boxes into your car for Salvation Army and drop them off in Hackettstown, or Restore in the Randolph area. There are two tables along the far back wall of the basement by the exit to the back-parking lot. There is a sign on the wall indicating "Salvation Army". Anything on that table goes to Salvation Army. We fill that table weekly.
- Bring up the garbage that is next to the exit door by the same table. There is a sign that says "garbage". Bring upstairs to the dumpster in the back parking lot.
- When you enter the drop off room of the thrift shop, there are two shelves on the right-hand side. These are the dropped off donations. Sometimes they are also on the floor. Separate the household items from the clothes. The clothes can be taken to the back table by all the hangers and sorted by tops and bottoms. Keep off-season clothing separate.

If you require further instructions, or would like me to show you around personally, please email me at [dianecardillo9@gmail.com](mailto:dianecardillo9@gmail.com).

Also, we need people to work the front desk or the back room on Thursdays or Saturdays. Please let me know if you can spare 2 hours to help out. Training will be provided.

*Diane C.*



## Annual Meeting Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

Our annual meeting will be held here, in the sanctuary, at 11:30 on Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to go to the parish hall following the 10 am service for coffee and a snack, and then return to the sanctuary. The annual meeting will start as soon as all have returned.

At this meeting we will elect a new warden, and three vestry members each for a three-year term. We will also elect three Diocesan Convention delegates. The position of treasurer is not covered by the election but we will be appointing a treasurer (we hope our treasurer, John P., will continue to serve). He is also a vestry member. Please talk to the wardens, Merica and Dani, or to Margaret if you wish to be on the vestry or are interested in learning more about this ministry. Please note the vestry meets by Zoom; not in-person, second Tuesdays each month.



### Congregational Meeting

We will celebrate the ministries of those who are retiring from the vestry: Merica G. has served 4 years (2 consecutive terms) as a warden. She has served conscientiously and lovingly. We greatly appreciate all her hard work. Jackie M. is retiring after serving 3 years as a vestry member. She has been the liaison for worship and music and has led the worship committee conscientiously and lovingly, especially during nearly 2 years of Covid restrictions.

We will also celebrate the ministry of Mike O. who has been a Diocesan Convention delegate for many years. He will be retiring this year. The next Diocesan Convention is in May. Please let Margaret know if you wish to be one of our three delegates.



*To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake  
it is necessary to stand out in the cold.*

Aristotle



## FUNraising with Kathy! Putting the FUN in Fundraising

- Fall Flower Bulb Sale was a success!
- BINGO night was a success!
- Candle Sale is in full swing – and we are approaching a record high....SUCCESS

### Ongoing Activities:

Thrift Store continues to be a SUCCESS  
Shop Rite Card Sales continue to be a SUCCESS  
Used Book Drop continues to be a SUCCESS  
Printer Ink Cartridge continues to be a SUCCESS  
The Wheelbarrow continues to grow

**Most important to note: we are having  
FUN FUN FUN!**

Stay tuned for other great opportunities to join in on the FUN. We will be having a meeting this month to determine our next FUN event!!

*Kathy K., Vestry member (Fundraising)*

## Outreach

The December vestry ratified the Outreach Committee's plans to make donations to:

- ◆ Bishop's fund for special needs in parishes
- ◆ Episcopal Convent, Mendham
- ◆ Alleluia fund (Diocesan outreach)
- ◆ RAMP (Refugee Assistance Morris Partners)
- ◆ Episcopal Relief & Development
- ◆ Operation Chill Out (help local veterans)
- ◆ Prison ministry
- ◆ Haven of Hope (local outreach)



*"Only by giving are you able to receive  
more than you already have"*

Jim Rohn