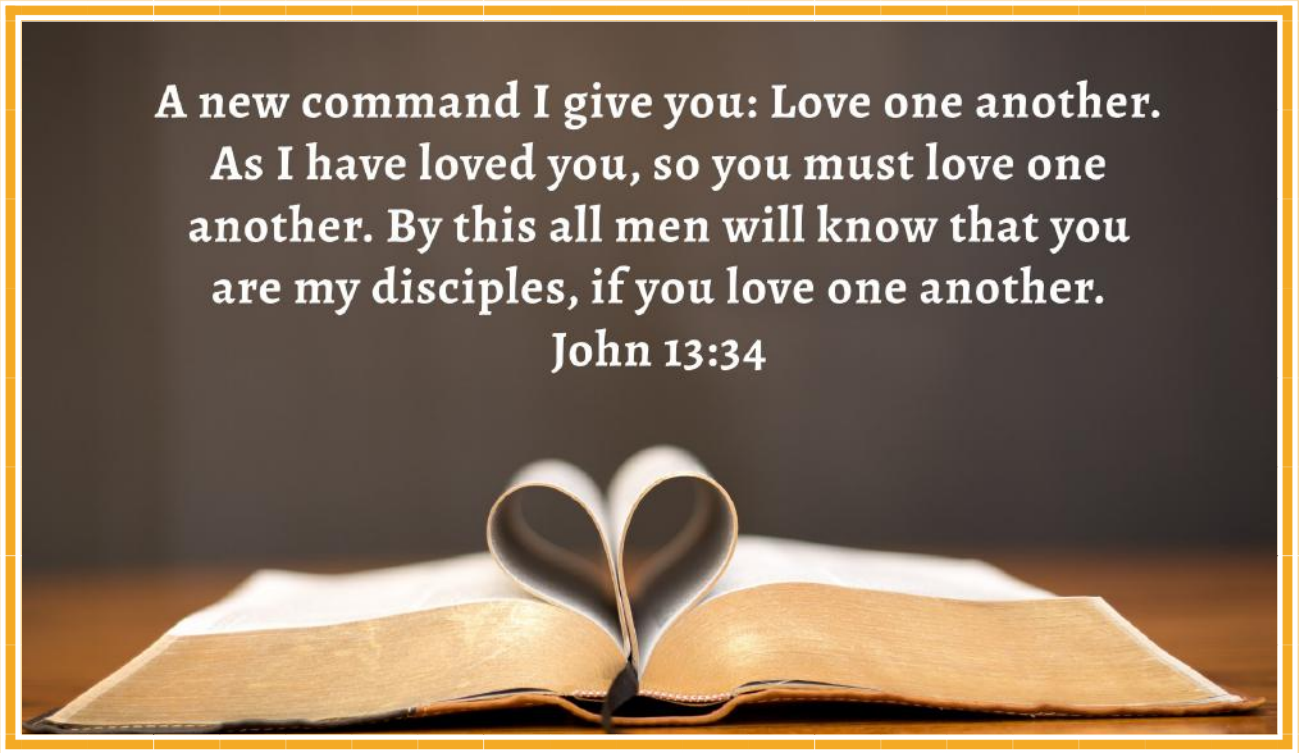


May 2025

# THE MESSENGER

A Publication of The Episcopal Church of the Messiah

**A new command I give you: Love one another.  
As I have loved you, so you must love one  
another. By this all men will know that you  
are my disciples, if you love one another.**  
**John 13:34**



## Connect With Us Online:

*(If you're viewing the digital version of this newsletter, click on the links to be taken directly to the sites below.)*



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<https://www.bcponline.org/>

## Join Us for Worship:

### Sunday Services:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite I) in the Sanctuary  
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II) in the Sanctuary  
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Contemporary) in the Parish Hall  
4:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (French & Creole) in the Sanctuary  
5:00 p.m. Diving Deeper (Adult Study) with Fr. Andrew  
7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite III-Casual) in the Sanctuary

### Wednesday Service:

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II) in the Sanctuary  
11:00 a.m. Bible Study in the Library

241 North Main Street, Winter Garden, Florida 34787  
Phone: 407-656-3218 Email: [Office@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com](mailto:Office@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com)  
Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

*From the  
Rector*



# Way to Go, Messiah Family!



I am so very proud of you!

Every year, on Maundy Thursday, after the evening Communion, there is an all-night Prayer Vigil, when we volunteer to do what Jesus' disciples DIDN'T do in the Garden of Gethsemane after the Last Supper, which is watch and pray with Jesus for 30 or 60 minutes.

As you know, his disciples all kept falling asleep... which is not altogether surprising, given they'd just stuffed themselves at a Passover Seder feast with piles of lamb and 4 cups of wine!

So, we take the disciples' place and pray with Jesus, as he begs the Father three times, "If there is any other way, please take this cup from me..."

...AND as he concludes his prayers three times, "Nevertheless, not MY will, but YOUR will be done," and he submits himself to his arrest, trial, condemnation, crucifixion, and death.

For the Vigil for most of my 28 years here as Rector, we easily got folks to pray from 8:30pm Thursday night (when the Maundy Thursday liturgy ended) through about 1 or 2 a.m. Good Friday morning, and then picked up volunteers again for about 5 a.m. through noon, when the Good Friday liturgy began.

But there was usually a 3- or 4-hour gap between the prayers of the night owls and those of the early birds.

This year, however, EVERY 30-minute slot was taken!

And many of the shifts had 3 or 4 people praying.

THANK YOU!

And Jesus thanks you... for loving him enough to give him that time in prayer and for sharing with him in his agony in Gethsemane, when his anguish had him sweating blood.

If you didn't take a shift in the Vigil, you still can pray with Jesus – anytime you like and for as long or short as you wish.

And you'll have another opportunity to pray next year on Maundy Thursday evening.

Jesus and I hope you will.

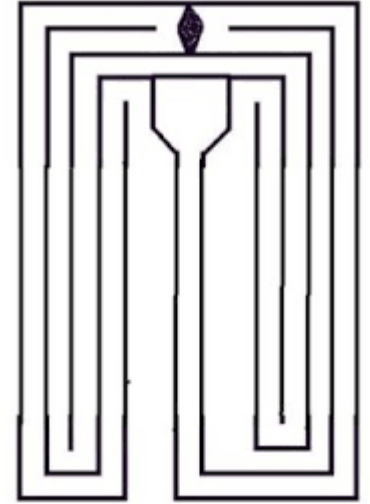
We both love you... dearly.

A handwritten signature that reads "Rev. Tom Rutherford".

## The Burning Chalice Labyrinth

A message from our Vestry Member—Laura Buckner

Have you noticed the dug up ground on the east side of the Sanctuary? Wonder what's going on there? We are building a Labyrinth! It won't be the circle version most folks think of first. Our version will be rectangular and follows an "approved" layout called the Burning Chalice. The remaining Azalea bush will be the "Burning" bit, if you are curious, with the 1/2 way or center area being the chalice shape in pavers to the south of the bush. This project has been approved by the vestry but not budgeted for.



We are asking for donations to cover the cost which is estimated to be about \$1,000. The suggested donation for a paver is \$5 or for anyone under 18 just one dollar. Hopefully some of our kids will donate! We are sorry, but the pavers can't be engraved because that is very expensive. You can also just donate any amount. We will put it to good use! Donations can be made online, by check, or even cash with a note "For the Labyrinth".

The whole 15x40' area will first be covered with a commercial, 50 year "guaranteed" (I'm hoping, but this is Florida so maybe 25 year?) weed barrier. After the pavers are laid and the gravel spread, we will put up a sign explaining the purpose of a Labyrinth to Christians and give examples of what people can do while walking it. Our target completion is end of May! More details as we get closer to completion! If you have any questions, please ask Laura Buckner, Vestry member from the 9:30 service. Please support our efforts with your donations! God bless and we love you all!



## Messiah's Missionaries

*We are representing our Church of the Messiah family  
and sharing the love of Jesus wherever we go!*

Paul Buzzonetti attended Saint Elizabeth of Hungary in Melville, New York on Sunday, April 6

Elaina Paige attended the Parish of St. Paul with St. Barnabas in St. John's, Antigua on Sunday, April 6.

*If you visit another church, please pick up a copy of the bulletin and drop it in Wendy's mailbox. Don't forget to add a note letting us know who you are and the location of the church. If you can, please send pictures to: [Office@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com](mailto:Office@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com)*

# 2025 April Vestry Minutes

Sunday \* April 27, 2025 \* 2pm

**Present:** Rector Tom Rutherford, Senior Warden Joyce Taylor, Junior Warden Lamar Powers, Clerk Don Grimes, Chris Brown, Laura Buckner, Tom Headley, Jean Pinder, Sandy Sparks, Wally Stewart, Marie Tassy, and Lionel Williams; and Treasurer Bob Tate and Apprentice Rector Andrew Lazo.

**Absent:** Don Greer (surgery earlier this week)

## **I. FORMATION:**

- A. Wally Stewart led Noonday Prayer. Based on Matthew 5:29-30, Tom Rutherford asked folks to share: “What was your Lenten discipline? And how did it help you grow deeper in faith, hope, and love?”
- B. Tom Rutherford gave out a book for us to read together this year: *Not Your Parents’ Offering Plate* by J. Clif Christopher. We’ll start next month.

## **II. INFORMATION:**

### **A. Vestry Ministry Team Reports:**

#### **1. Junior Warden Lamar Powers reported:**

- a) Parishioner Bill Adams fixed the flush valve in the parish hall lady’s room. He fixed the loose toilet tanks in the youth hall bathrooms. He ordered a water cooler for the pre-school.
- b) The Youth Hall toilets were clogged, and Father Tom, Wally Stewart, and Derek Cho-Sam found the clean out plug and unclogged the drain. They installed a box over the clean out to make it easy to find next time.
- c) Davis Design repaired the ceiling in the youth hall bay window.
- d) Florida Powerserve Electric will replace the light ballast in the fire alarm closet.
- e) Automated Mechanical Service will replace the circuit board in the chiller and they will replace the chilled water valve actuator on air handler 1.1.
- f) One of the HVAC package units at the youth hall leaks freon and must be replaced (\$12,000). Both units are old and should be replaced.
- g) The exterior of the buildings must be caulked and painted to prevent more rotted wood and leaks (\$37,850).

#### **2. Laura Buckner reported about the Prayer Labyrinth:**

- a) Parishioner Steve Brueggeman scraped off the top 4 inches of grass to level off the area and get it ready for the ground cover fabric to be ordered next week.
- b) She will also get the awareness campaign and donation system going.
- c) Laura, Wally Stewart (who keeps our irrigation system going), and Tom Rutherford visited the site after the meeting and made a plan to irrigate the area.
- d) There are some squares of the sidewalk broken. Steve Brueggeman will saw and remove the broken bits, so we can repour that section of the sidewalk.

## B. Staff Ministry Reports

### 1. Children's Minister Angela Lopez reports:

- a) I attended the Exponential conference with blend of staff, clergy and parishioners. I found some pretty good resources for Children's Ministry, mostly research on where families are and how to connect with them outside of church. I found some resources for equipping parents to disciple their children at home. I also found some great outreach and evangelism resources as well as some Bible study materials using the Jesus Bible.
- b) Dillard Street Elementary School held their bookfair, and I volunteered for a couple of mornings there. The Media Center Specialist is also the children's director at her church, so we had some nice chats about programming and culture shifts.
- c) We had 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday fun day at SHINE. We had a pizza and ice cream party and played games.
- d) SHINE will be making prayer pretzels again this year. This time out of cinnamon rolls. We talk about prayer and give some examples of how they can pray. We also go over The Lord's Prayer.
- e) We did Stations of the Cross in the rain! I had printed pictures for each child, and we walked under the covered walkway in front of the preschool classrooms. We were able to use the bougainvillea plant to explore thorns and also use it as a temporary tomb. We had ice cream sundaes on Palm Sunday as we finished watching The Passion Live. A musical retelling of the Passion, safe for the little eyes.
- f) The Children's Church lessons were pet themed. We talked about being responsible for someone else, and making sacrifices. We used the lessons of the Good Samaritan, the Parable of the Rich fool, and talked about how Jesus welcomes and loves everyone. Then we switched over to a True or False gameshow theme that has covered Passover, Peter's Denial, and Jesus on trial.
- g) Vacation Bible School
  1. I sent postcards on Good Friday to every child that attended VBS last year. There is a QR code that links to my registration page.
  2. Vita Mazzaluna, Tech Minister added a new floating add for the church website that has a button to push to register for VBS. It is stunningly eye catching in the pattern of the Northern Lights.
  3. I set up a table display for VBS registration kick off. I will leave it there for 2 Sundays and then remove the large parts.
  4. I am praying for a few more adult volunteers. I have plenty of youths at this point. Unless a volunteer serves strictly in the kitchen, they need to take the Dio required training and have a background check completed to volunteer.
  5. I ordered the first big haul of VBS items. Thank you to everyone who purchased items off of the wish list and/gave money towards them!
  6. Ms. Megan, who attends 8 am service, is our VBS preschool leader. We met and went over the curriculum crafts and flow of the program.
- h) Safe Church-Some of you who are still working through your Safe Church training. Safe Communities training asked me about who serves in children's church with me on Sunday mornings. 3 of our young adults rotate being the assistant in Children's Church, so we are compliant with the 2 person rule. Yolwenn and Sophie Alexandre and Alexa Jean-Giles, thank you for helping to herd the cats!

## 2. **Media Minister Vita Mazzaluna** reports:

- a) In March, I managed the SpectrumVoip phone switchover. We should be saving about \$190 per month with the new service.
  1. So far, we all feel like it is much easier to use and was overall pretty seamless!
  2. Office Minister Wendy King and I are still learning the system and have a few plans for utilizing the options that we have so stay tuned for those!
- b) In March I also was able to get our internet plan reduced by \$10/mth and increased the download and upload speeds that we receive.
- c) I am working with WorshipTimes on the website revamp. They sent a few mockups, which Office Minister Wendy King, and I have reviewed and I have provided them with further feedback. We should be live with the revamped site by mid-May.
- d) Otherwise, business as usual as I continue to work with the Clergy, Staff, and Ministry leaders to advertise all our amazing events and ministries!

## 3. **Office Minister Wendy King** reports:

- a) Have you seen the Youth Hall Bathroom Rehab? It is complete. The Preschool teachers have expressed much gratitude for the upgrade. There were a couple of minor concerns that came up, that I worked with Lamar and Jennifer to resolve. The cleaning company has shared that the bathrooms are full of blind mosquitos when they've come to clean. They suggest that we keep the doors closed.
- b) Media Minister Vita Mazzaluna met with Spectrum for the installation of the new phones and service with Spectrum VoIP. The change in phone services was seamless on my end. I'm so grateful to Vita and her knowledge. We all still have more to learn about how to use all the features, but we are grateful for the change to lower our phone bill, and the phones are nicer.
- c) I met with two Church Management software companies at EXPONENTIAL.
  1. **Church Management Software** offers a 30-day free trial to test drive their system. I signed up for the free trial which I've been test driving I and shared the info with Barbara and Jane. The costs for this software are transparent on their website and they fit within the current cost that we are paying Servant Keeper.
  2. **Ministry Brands** contacted us days after the Expo conference and set up a virtual meeting with Preschool Director Barbara Ellerbe, Finance Minister Jane Cartelli, and me to discuss our needs, wants, concerns, and pricing. We got a virtual tour of their software. We had a second virtual meeting to discuss pricing and other concerns. The software seems easy to navigate and meets our needs plus more. This new software would replace Servant Keeper and possibly some other programs that we are using. They were willing to negotiate the cost if we sign the contract in April.
  3. Jane and I will decide before the end of April to stick with Servant Keeper or make the move to one of the above.
- d) Lent and Holy Week were busy as usual. What a blessing we have a church that has so much happening on campus, and what a blessing to have volunteers to help with those events. I am so grateful for our Office Angels and all they do to keep the church office running smoothly. I don't know what I would do without them.

## 4. **Preschool Director Barbara Ellerbe** reports the financial report emailed separately.

## 5. **Father Andrew Lazo** is actively seeking his next call and has several promising leads.

- III. DISCUSSION (to help make a decision next month): Paying off the Mortgage:** Wally Stewart urged the Vestry to take funds from our Brokerage Account and pay off the \$412,192.29 we owe on the Parish Hall. That would leave us with \$197,279.90 in the Brokerage Account as an emergency fund.
- A. Wally quoted Proverbs 22:7 “The borrower is slave to the lender,” and said, “We are slaves to our mortgage. We could do a lot of other things with that \$12,000 per month, and [if people continue giving as they are now] getting rid of the mortgage gets rid of our deficit.”
  - B. Several other members felt we should not take our current funds to pay off the mortgage now, because we’re paying 4.5% interest on the mortgage, and the funds in our Brokerage Account earned 11% last year, so we’re coming out ahead, financially, by not paying it off.
  - C. Chris Brown quoted our parish family mission – Changing the World One Child, One Person, One Family, One Community at the time – and said that continuing the mortgage to benefit from the difference in interest rates between the mortgage and our investments does not support our mission. We’re not changing the world with Jesus by carrying a mortgage.
  - D. Several others advocated continuing what we’re doing: paying the monthly payments plus an extra \$10,000 a month toward the principal, so when our current term of the mortgage ends in March 2026, and it’s time to renegotiate the terms, we will owe only \$160,000. That way, we’re both working toward paying it off sooner and letting our investments earn money in the meantime. If giving continues as it is now, we’ll be able to pay that off, and still have plenty of money in our emergency fund.
  - E. Tom Headley asked, “If we can pay it off next March, why not pay it off now?”
  - F. Tom Rutherford answered, “Because we are not yet in agreement about what to do. Let’s keep praying and thinking and talking and let the Holy Spirit bring us to agreement.”

**IV. DECISIONS (usually based on the Discussion last month): Painting the campus:** We had to replace a wall in the Music Minister’s office due to water damage, and there are vulnerable places around the stained-glass windows. There is also damage beginning in other critical areas. Junior Warden Lamar Powers urges us to paint and caulk to prevent further damage. A vestry member designated his donation to Messiah to cover the cost, and Vestry accepted his offer.

**V. MEETING MINUTES & FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**A. Minutes from last month’s meeting:** APPROVED.

**B. Financial Report from Treasurer Bob Tate:** APPROVED.

- 1. Operating Income** last month was MUCH LESS than expenses, increasing our DEFICIT to \$48,243.04. PLEASE KEEP PRAYING.
- 2. Building Fund Income** was MORE than needed to pay the \$11,996.00 mortgage, other expenses, and the extra \$10,000 a month on the mortgage, increasing our SURPLUS for the year to \$21,924.32. PLEASE KEEP PRAYING.
- 3. The remaining mortgage balance** is \$412,192.29, and our Cash and Brokerage accounts total \$609,472.19. HALLELUJAH! PLEASE KEEP PRAYING.

The meeting adjourned in prayer at 4:12.

Respectfully submitted:

Joyce Taylor, Senior Warden and acting Clerk in Don Grimes’ absence

## Clergy

### Rector:

**The Rev. Tom Rutherford** 321-945-3958  
TomRutherford@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

### Apprentice Rector:

**The Rev. Andrew Lazo** 713-302-6262  
AndrewLazo@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

### Priest Associate:

**The Rev. Soner Alexandre** 407-452-2952  
SonerAlexandre@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

### Priest Associates:

**The Rev. Tracy Dugger** 407-201-0951  
Tracy.M.Dugger@gmail.com

**The Rev. Kathryn Jeffrey** 652-815-5702  
KJeffrey@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

### Deacons:

**The Ven. Julie Altenbach** 407-462-8001  
JulieAltenbach@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

**The Rev. Angela Lopez** 321-287-9089  
AngelaLopez@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

**The Rev. Adelene Smith** 845-304-4975  
AddieInChrist44@gmail.com

**The Rev. Tim Wetherington** 407-342-4484  
DeaconTim@outlook.com

### Treasurer:

**Bob Tate**  
Treasurer@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

## Staff

**Jane Cartelli**, *Finance Minister, Event Scheduler*  
Email: JaneCartelli@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

**Barbara Ellerbe**, *Preschool Director*  
Email: BarbaraEllerbe@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

**Ricky Jackson**, *Music Minister*  
Email: RickyJackson@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

**Wendy King**, *Office Minister*  
Email: WendyKing@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

**Yesika King**, *Social Media Minister*  
Email: YesikaKing@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

**Angela Lopez**, *Children's Minister*  
Email: AngelaLopez@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

**Vita Mazzaluna**, *Media Minister*  
Email: VitaMazzaluna@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

## 2025 Financial Report

(as of March 31, 2025)

Operating Income.....	\$193,481.46
Operating Expenses.....	\$241,724.50
NET.....	(\$48,243.04)
All Building Fund Income.....	\$90,376.03
All Building Fund Expense.....	\$68,451.71
NET.....	\$21,924.32

## 2025 Vestry

**Chris Brown**, *DART, Missions & Evangelism, Pastoral Care,*  
Email: CG\_Brown@live.com

**Laura Buckner**, *Connections Team, Worship Team*  
Email: lgb94@yahoo.com

**Don Greer**, *Business & Development*  
Email: DonaldGreer3@gmail.com

**Don Grimes**, *Clerk, Missions & Evangelism, Pastoral Care,*  
Email: grimesltc@gmail.com

**Tom Headley**, *Business & Development*  
Email: twheadley@bellsouth.net

**Jean Pinder**, *Children & Youth*  
Email: jlpinder@yahoo.com

**Lamar Powers**, *Junior Warden, Properties*  
Email: lamarpowers@cfl.rr.com

**Sandy Sparks**, *History Team*  
Email: ssproofing@gmail.com

**Wally Stewart**, *Business & Development, Intercessory Prayer, Properties,*  
Email: stewart3rd@aol.com

**Marie Tassy**, *Fun & Fellowship*  
Email: marietassy173@gmail.com

**Joyce Taylor**, *Senior Warden, Transportation*  
Email: shadesfan@aol.com

**Lionel Williams**, *Communications & Publicity*  
Email: lionelfhw@gmail.com

## Vestry Door Duty for May

Opener at 7:30 a.m. ~ Tom Headley  
Closer after 1:00 p.m. ~ Lionel Williams  
Vestry Meeting Host ~ Wally Stewart

# Who Ya Gonna Call?

<b>LOVING GOD</b>	<b>LEADER</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>
Acolytes	Deacon Angela Lopez	321.287.9089	AngelaLopez@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com
Altar Guild	Karen Stewart	407.625.7615	Kstewart1208@yahoo.com
Altar Guild	Jennifer Roper	407.760.2393	Jennifer.Roper@yahoo.com
Building Maintenance	Lamar Powers	407.913.7112	LamarPowers@cfl.rr.com
Children's Ministry	Deacon Angela Lopez	321.287.9089	AngelaLopez@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com
Event Scheduler	Jane Cartelli	407.656.3218	JaneCartelli@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com
Lay Weeder's/Landscapers	John Peacock	407.758.2728	Jpeacox@cfl.rr.com
Music/Choirs/Band	Ricky Jackson	407.656.3218	RickyJackson@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com
Prayer Chain	Amy Eiden	919.931.9423	PrayerChain@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com
Prayer Chain	Wilna Brown	407.222.8847	PrayerChain@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com
Prayer Intercessors	Wally Stewart	407.468.2545	Stewart3rd@aol.com
Sunday Servant Scheduling Greeters, Lectors, LEMS, LEVS, Ushers	Mary Kay Predmore	352.551.4293	PredmoreMarykay@gmail.com
<b>LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS</b>	<b>LEADER</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>
Communications/Publicity	Lionel Williams	407.467.1741	Lionelfhw@gmail.com
Habitat for Humanity	Bob Tate	407.247.0219	Tater7134@gmail.com
Outreach	Deacon Angela Lopez	321.287.9089	AngelaLopez@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com
Preschool	Barbara Ellerbe	407.654.8415	BarbaraEllerbe@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com
D.A.R.T.	Chris Brown	407.864.1708	CG_Brown@Live.com
<b>LOVING EACH OTHER</b>	<b>LEADER</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>
Casserole Patrol	Deacon Julie Altenbach	407.462.8001	JulieAltenbach@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com
Coffee Hour	Dawn Sylvia	845.206.3636	DawnSylvia406@gmail.com
Cursillo	Cindi Shaffer	407.923.3010	CindiShaffer25@gmail.com
Daughters of the King	Deacon Angela Lopez	321.287.9089	AngelaLopez@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com
Fun & Fellowship	Marie Tassy	407.779.0251	marietassy173@gmail.com
Grief Groups	Jill Brown	407.656.5776	Jlbrown656@embarqmail.com
History Ministry	Sandy Sparks	715.295.4482	Ssproofing@gmail.com
Kitchen Crew	Connie Kraft	407.928.5805	Kraft.cm2008@yahoo.com
Lay Eucharistic Visitors	Deacon Angela Lopez	321.287.9089	AngelaLopez@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com
Library	Gene Correll	850.974.6076	Library@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com
Media Ministry	Vita Mazzaluna	407.748.7895	VitaMazzaluna@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com
Men's Supper	Wally Stewart	407.468.2545	Stewart3rd@aol.com
Messiah's Way	Mary Kay Predmore	407.865.1472	PredmoreMarykay@gmail.com
Name Tags	Wendy King	407.656.3218	WendyKing@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com
Newsletters/Bulletins	Wendy King	407.656.3218	WendyKing@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com
Nursery/Childcare	Deacon Angela Lopez	321.287.9089	AngelaLopez@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com
Office Angels	Wendy King	407.462.8001	WendyKing@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com
Pastoral Care	Chris Brown	407.864.1708	CG_Brown@Live.com
Transportation Aid	Joyce Taylor	407.222.1290	Shadesfan@aol.com
Women's Dining Club	Janice Hull	352.217.0967	Jhull1049@gmail.com
Youth	Fr. Tom Rutherford	407.656.3218	TomRutherford@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com



The preschool will hold our annual graduation ceremony at 9 a.m. on Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Our long-standing tradition at preschool is to ask our preschool graduates what they want to be when they grow up. I hope you enjoy the answers from this year's graduates. We pray all their dreams come true. We will miss them!

Barbara Ellerbe  
Preschool Director

**Upcoming events**

- Mother's Day Tea – May 8 and 9
- Pre K Graduation – May 23
- Summer Camp – June 10–26  
& July 8–24



**James Monaski** – McDonald's worker  
**Lily Adams** – Baby doctor

**Care Kelley** – Teacher  
**Hyder Gunter** – Superhero  
**Adeline Warder** – Book reader

**Miles Lewandowski** – Farmer  
**Grayden Fraga** – Trash collector  
**Emily Griffin** – Hospital Doctor



# Preschool Field Trip to Sonata of Windermere.



It was very nice. They had an Easter Bunny and an, Easter Egg Hunt. The kids got to pet live bunnies followed by cupcakes and juice.

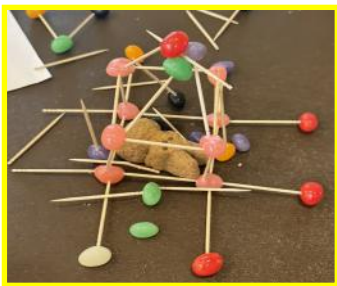




## Children's Easter Party

Melanie Field helped the littles make Peep houses as our STEM activity.

We played parachute, had egg races on scooters, had a hands free donut eating race, played outside games with Father Tom, had an egg hunt, and enjoyed a yummy lunch.



Thank you to Kelley, Anne and Tom for lending a hand with the festivities!



# Easter Egg Roulette



**faith, friends & fun**





# May

- |                     |                          |                     |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1- Stacey Beck      | 12- Peter Gold           | 27- Jim Faughnan    |
| 2- Joe Eiden        | Don Hubert               | Rose Mayfield       |
| Paulette Isaacs     | 15- Logan Farwell        | Willis McClanahan   |
| 4- Daniel Borst     | Jennifer Groenendaal     | Stuart White        |
| 6- John Groenendaal | 17- Nancy Barber         | 28- Julie Griffin   |
| 7- Liam Faughnan    | Bill Barrett             | 29- Bill Smith      |
| Carleen Flood       | 20- Laura Buckner        | Patti Smith         |
| Olga Huebner        | 22- Noah Abney           | 29- Vincent Truglia |
| 8- Jill Brown       | Richard Greene           | 30- Marie Tassy     |
| 9- Regina Knappman  | 26- Sherlock Teeka Singh |                     |
| 11- Raul Lopez      |                          |                     |



- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3- Romeo & Vita Mazzaluna       | 19- Alex & Nichole Babcock     |
| 8- Richard & Kelley McRae       | 22- Sean & Melody Wise         |
| 11- Chris & Wilna Brown         | 24- Joseph & Sharmila Sookchan |
| 12- John & Jennifer Groenendaal | 25- Sam & Beth Ann Carr        |
| 14- John & Merrily Peacock      | 29- Tim & Terri Wetherington   |
| 15- Will & Lisa Clark           | 30- Lloyd & Bibi Cho-Sam       |



Please pray for our expectant mom, Claudia Bernal.

“I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born.” Jeremiah 1:5

*We want to celebrate you! Please share birthdays, anniversaries, and new arrivals with us.  
Call the Office at 407.656.3218 or drop a note in Wendy's Office mailbox.*

# MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">                     Tuesday– Fr. Tom’s Day Off                      Friday– Fr. Andrew’s Day Off                      Office Hours:                      Mon - Fri 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.                 </div>				1	2	3
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">                     Mere Christians                      A C. S. Lewis                      Conference                      Surprised by Love.                      </div>		
4  Cultural Fair & Haitian 6 year Anniversary	5	6  6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Dinner Parish Hall Men’s Supper Youth Hall	7	8	9	10
11 Happy Mother’s Day 	12  5:00 pm Parish Hall	13	14	15	16	17
18 2:00 pm Vestry Meeting 	19	20	21 7:00 p.m. B.A.M.M Fire Pit 	22 7:00 p.m.  Book Club	23  9 a.m. Preschool Graduation	24
25 	26  Have a safe Memorial Day 	27	28	29	30	31

## Sunday’s Schedule

**8:00 a.m. Rite I**  
**9:30 a.m. Rite II**  
*Nursery and Children’s Church*  
**11:00 a.m. Rite III**  
*Nursery and Children’s Church*  
**4:00 p.m. French Service**  
**4:30 p.m. Shine Kid’s Club**  
*in the Shine Room*

**5:00 p.m. Youth Band**  
*in the Youth Hall*  
**5:00 p.m. Diving Deeper**  
*with Fr. Andrew in the Parish Hall*  
**6:00 p.m. Simple Supper**  
*in the Parish Hall*  
**7:00 p.m. Rite III**

**Monday:** 5:15 p.m. Men’s Bible Study

**Tuesday:** 10 a.m. Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary

**Wednesday:** 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion  
 11:00 a.m. Bible Study in the Library  
 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal  
 7:15 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal

For questions or to volunteer to serve, please contact Mary Kay Predmore at [predmoremarykay@gmail.com](mailto:predmoremarykay@gmail.com).

If you see an opening that you can fill, please email Mary Kay or call the office at 407-656-3218.

### Sunday Servants 8:00 a.m.

8:00 am	May 4	May 11	May 18	May25
Lector	Wayne Sparks	Alex Hujik	Joyce Taylor	Sandy Sparks
LEM 1	MK Predmore	Deborah Alleyne	Diane Donaldson	Tom Headley
LEM 2	Don Greer	Gretchen Tope	MK Predmore	Frank Chase
Altar Server	Diane Donaldson	MK Predmore	Wayne Sparks	Diane Donaldson
Ushers & Greeters	Wayne Sparks Jay Predmore	Alex Hujik Dan Kem	Joyce Taylor Jay Predmore	Alex Hujik Dan Kem
P. Intercessor	Joyce Taylor	Sandy Sparks	Gretchen Tope	Sandy Sparks

### Sunday Servants 9:30 a.m.

9:30 am	May 4	May 11	May 18	May25
Lector	Mary Beth Moss	Vince Truglia	Dawn Wirbel	Jay Williams
LEM 1	Rodger Watson	Mary Lynn Levine	Vince Truglia	Chris Brown
LEM 2	Stacey Beck	Tom Buckner	Rodger Watson	Lynn Redmond
Altar Server	Melanie Field	Taylor Smith	Addison Lynn	Reese Smith
Crucifer	Beckett Taylor	Lily Levine	Melanie Field	Taylor Smith
Torch Bearer 1	Rafi Grau	Sloan Taylor	Ainsley Gilmore	Calvin Lambeth
Torch Bearer 2	Donnie Grau	Calvin Lambeth	Kendall Gilmore	Sloan Taylor
Ushers & Greeters	Chuck and Deb Grunder	Jean Pinder / Ken Miller	Alex and Nicole Babcock	Jay and Patti Williams
P. Intercessor	Elise Bradford	Susan Kiehm	Linda Gold	Karen Stewart
Tech Slides	Laura Buckner	Wilna Brown	Sam Lynn	Jim Farrar
Tech Sound	Aaron Abney	Chris Brown	Vita Mazzaluna	Maureen Farrar

### Sunday Servants 11:00 a.m.

11:00 am	May 4	May 11	May 18	May25
Lector	Patty Tate	Steve Borst	Jennifer Groenendaal	Bob Tate
LEM 1	Lionel Williams	Vita Mazzaluna	Lionel Williams	Vita Mazzaluna
LEM 2	Karen Williams	Giada Mazzaluna	Karen Williams	Steve Borst
Altar Server	Logan McRae	Anna Switzer	Jackson Groenendaal	Giada Mazzaluna
Ushers & Greeters	McRae Family	Borst Family	Mary Katulic	Lionel and Karen Williams
Tech Slides	Mark Boese	Evie Duggar	Lily Groenendaal	Josie Weiss
Tech Sound				

### Sunday Servants 7:00 p.m.

7:00 pm	May 4	May 11	May 18	May25
Lector	Nancy Gordon	Larry Cartelli	Ode' Mendoza	Amy Raetz
LEM	Amy Raetz	Wendy King	Susie Marshall	Steve Raetz
Altar Server				
Usher/Greeter	Cindi Shaffer	Stephanie Abel	Terry Kraft	Cindi Shaffer
P. Intercessor				
Tech Slides	Mike King	Jane Cartelli	Mike King	Jane Cartelli

### Lay Eucharistic Visitors

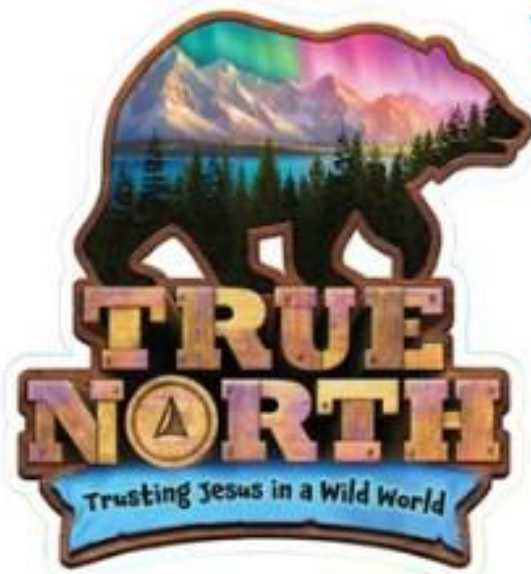
LEV	May 4	May 11	May 18	May25
Visitor	Marc Boese	Janice Hull	Chris Brown	Don Stanton

### Readings

Readings	May 4	May 11	May 18	May25
1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Acts 9:1-20	Acts 9:36-43	Acts 11:1-18	Acts 16:9-15
Psalm	Psalm 30	Psalm 23	Psalm 148	Psalm 67
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Revelation 5:11-14	Revelation 7:9-17	Revelation 21:1-6	Revelation 21:10,22-22:5
Gospel	John 21:1-19	John 10:22-30	John 13:31-35	John 14:23-29

# VBS 2025

We hope you'll join us on an ultimate Alaskan adventure where we will point children to Jesus, our Faithful Friend and True North!



“We can trust Jesus”  
“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise”. Matthew 7:24



**June 23-27 5:30-8:30 PM**  
**Free, dinner included. For ages 4-11**  
**Scan the QR code for registration.**

**Volunteers are still needed for Kitchen Crew, registration, decorating, games, tech, and rotation assistants. Please see Ms. Angela to sign up!**





*Do you have a passion for creating and documenting memories with photos?*

We are seeking a volunteer to prepare the photo slideshow for the

## 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Church of the Messiah!

Our Church History Committee is nearing completion of the 75th Birthday history update and planning is already underway for the 75th Birthday Party next September!

We are seeking someone (or a team of someones!) to take on creating the photo slideshow that will be displayed during the party as well as posted to our various social media channels.

The slideshow can be created using any software the volunteer or team is comfortable using. We are also able to provide Canva Pro access to the volunteer/team and can provide some tips and tricks for new users!

Please contact Office Minister Wendy King ([WendyKing@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com](mailto:WendyKing@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com)) with questions or to discuss further. Ideally, we would love for this project to kick off by May 2025.



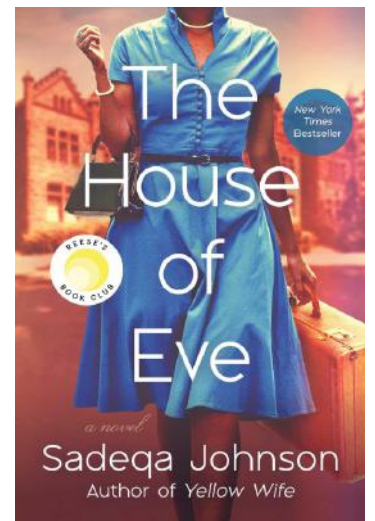
Happy 70th Birthday Fr. Tom!

We extended the birthday celebrations and had cake and ice cream at Simple Supper on April 13th. Thank you Don Grimes and Sue Cardaci-Grimes for supplying dinner and dessert on Palm Sunday.

# Messiah Book Club

By Patty Tate

“The House of Eve” was our March selection. It follows the stories of two women. Fifteen year old Black Ruby hopes to be the first in her family to attend college. She is enrolled in a high school program that could award her a college scholarship. Eleanor is a young Black college student who works at the school library. Ruby’s life takes a turn when she falls in love with a local Jewish boy and becomes pregnant. Eleanor falls madly in love and marries William, a handsome Medical student that she meets in the library. She has high hopes of having a baby and starting a family. What struggles do each of these women face? What do they have in common? Do their lives intersect? Read on!



The Book Club group enjoyed this book, and it encouraged a lively conversation about Black culture, relationships and unwed mothers. You can check it out in Messiah’s library.



Preschool Teacher and Messiah Parishioner Missy Cottle brought her baby chicks for Easter.

Look at those Beautiful SMILES! Sandy Sparks, our Office Angel, enjoyed a special visit from one of our Children of the Messiah Preschool students. Brooks and his grandmother Giga (not pictured) stop by the office for a quick visit when Brooks gets out of school and it brings a smile to our hearts.



Have you seen the newly rehabbed Youth Hall restrooms?  
What an improvement!  
Thank you Jimmy and Jennifer Roper,  
father and daughter duo, for the gift.



Isaac Nyden was the contractor for the Youth Hall restroom project.





# Alcoholics Anonymous

## 12 Step Recovery

The Church of the Messiah is passionate about changing the world. We believe in recovery and want that for all people who need it! Because we love our neighbors as ourselves, we've partnered with AA to share our facility with people in recovery. Whether you're taking your first step, twelfth step, or anywhere in between, we want you to have hope and help.

## Alcoholics Anonymous-Daily

Alcoholics Anonymous meets every day of the year in the A.A. building behind the Church, located by the Preschool Playground on Woodland Street. Parking is available in the lot behind the A.A. building and on Woodland St. Church of the Messiah hosts, but it not affiliated with the Three Legacies Group.

The meeting schedule as of April 24, 2025 is below. If you have any questions about the meeting formats or AA, please call the 24 hour Hotline at 407-260-5408

Monday 7:00 PM [THREE LEGACIES GROUP](#)

Tuesday 6:00 PM [THREE LEGACIES GROUP](#) Women  
7:30 PM [THREE LEGACIES GROUP](#)

Wednesday 7:00 PM [THREE LEGACIES GROUP](#)

Thursday 6:00 PM [THREE LEGACIES GROUP](#) Men

Friday 7:00 PM [THREE LEGACIES GROUP](#)

Sunday 7:00 PM [THREE LEGACIES GROUP](#)

For more information on Alcoholics Anonymous please visit the official AA website: [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

**Central Florida Intergroup** - <https://cflintergroup.org/about-aa/>



The Diocese of Central Florida Cursillo Community  
Invites YOU to attend the

## Coed Cursillo weekend #136

*“Hope Anchors my Soul”* (Hebrews 6:19)

**June 20 – 22, 2025**

San Pedro Spiritual Retreat Center, Winter Park FL

*The Cursillo weekend is intended to enrich and deepen your faith by bringing together Episcopalians to share the richness of many modes of worship, gain new insights on your faith, and a direction for fostering ministry to live out your Baptismal Covenant to serve Christ. The weekend starts on Friday evening and runs through Sunday filled with talks, meditations, Holy Eucharist, fellowship, music, great food & much more.*

**The Coed Weekend is open to couples and single men or women. Cost is \$250 per person.**

*More information on Cursillo and forms for candidates, sponsors and team may be found on the website: [www.cfliepiscopalcurso.com](http://www.cfliepiscopalcurso.com)*

Parish Cursillo Coordinators: Cherie Greene Phone: 407-704-9770 email: [cheriegreene@msn.com](mailto:cheriegreene@msn.com) or Cindi Shaffer Phone 407/923-3010, email: [cindishaffer25@gmail.com](mailto:cindishaffer25@gmail.com)



### Al-Anon Meetings

Help and hope for friends and families of alcoholics

#### Friday Morning Lights AFG - Friday 9:30 AM

St. Lukes Methodist - The Barnes Learning Center (BLC) room 210  
4851 S Apopka Vineland Rd,  
Orlando, FL 32819

In person: The Barnes Learning Center (BLC) room 210, handicap-accessible (elevator is available) Zoom meeting:  
MTG ID = 859 0670 1314 PW = ODAT

Al-Anon does not meet here, but their informational literature and meeting schedules are kept in the Narthex in the seating area.

#### Sunday Serenity AFG - Sunday 4:00 PM

St Luke's Methodist Church -  
Barnes Learning Center

4851 S Apopka Vineland Rd  
Orlando, FL 32819

HYBRID Meeting in Barnes Learning Center  
ZOOM ID 896 6500 0439 PW -serenity-  
\*\*be sure to include hyphens

#### Paths to Recovery AFG - Thursday 6:00 PM

St. Paul Lutheran Church -  
Bldg. behind Church

261 S. McGee Ave  
Apopka, FL 32703

For more information: <https://al-anon.org/al-anon-meetings/find-an-al-anon-meeting/>

# A Note from Seminarians Jeremy & Gariné Adams

Hello Messiah Family!

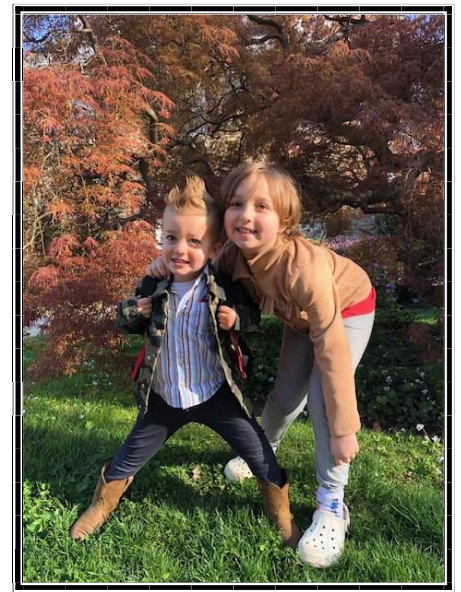
It's been a very busy few months for the Adams family! I'm closing up the last few weeks of my second year at VTS and Garine is finishing up her first year. School is going well for both of us. Between the two of us, it looks like we'll have taken most of the courses offered at VTS by the time we leave. Cur-

rently, I'm enrolled in Liturgical History and Theology, Liturgical Music, Medieval and Reformation History, Engaging Latino/a Theologies, and Environmental Ethics. Garine is taking Contemporary Witness, Science, Suffering, and the Problem of God, History of Christian Spirituality, Being Fully Human, and Engaging Latino/a Theologies. This summer, we'll be taking a course together through Byzantine Catholic Seminary called The Problem of Evil and Demonology. Aside from studying, we've been active in campus life. I have continued working for the Mutual Ministry Fellowship which is researching how different parts of the Episcopal Church engage in ministry that encourages lay people participation (Church of the Messiah is such a great model of this). Garine is active with Cultivate, which runs the community garden and other creation care projects on campus, as well as teaching Godly Play to the children at the preschool on campus.

My internship at All Saints Church in Chevy Chase has been such an amazing blessing to me. This semester I was given many opportunities to preach, teach, and learn. My favorite activity that I led was a six-week Lenten Bible study on the number 40 in scripture. I was able to lead this class at a retirement home for veterans in the DC area. Garine was placed for an internship next year as a chaplain at a local retirement home, which means she'll be able to continue working at Wilderness Church on Sundays. It's been a bit of a journey figuring out how to balance our Sunday schedules, but I think we're starting to get the hang of it.

The kids are doing great. Yester is now 7 years old and is interested in reading comic books, science, and creating. JD turned 3 in April and now loves SpongeBob and playing outside.





# The Adams Family Adventures



*find* **JOY**  
*in the*  
**JOURNEY**



# 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Join us for the 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the French-Creole Service!

**Sunday, May 4th at 1pm**

Special Service Time at 1pm in the Church.

Anniversary Celebration to follow in the Parish Hall.

**ALL ARE INVITED! Please join us!**

**MEN'S SUPPER  
TUESDAY, MAY 6TH  
AT 6:30PM  
IN THE YOUTH HALL**



**Sign up in  
the  
Narthex.**

**Women's Supper  
Tuesday, May 6th  
6:30pm in the Parish Hall**

Join us for a  
**Tea Party themed  
supper!**

**Sign up in the Narthex**

**Being a Messiah's Man  
B.A.M.M  
Men's Fire Pit!**

**Wednesday, May 21  
at 7:00 p.m.**

Contact Chris Brown  
407-864-1708

## BOOK CLUB

**Book for April**

**The Year of Magical  
Thinking**  
by Joan Didion

**Thursday**

**May 22nd at 7pm**

**in the Parish Hall**



**Compassion  
SUNDAY**

**Sunday,  
May 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Open to the Public  
9am - 11:30am**

Sponsorship packages will be available in the Narthex between and after services. Please pray about how you can help release a child from poverty in Jesus' name!



**Ablavi**  
Togo | Age: 12