



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

Email: messiahchester@earthlink.net

Website: www.messiahchester.org

March, 2022



Regular Sunday Worship Schedule

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (spoken)
indoors & via Zoom
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (w/music)
indoors & 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)

(2023)	(2024)
Dani P	Debbie B

Elected Members: serving until (year)

(2023)	(2024)	(2025)
Susan O	Julie C	Keith H
Craig R	Kathy K	Pat K
Dave S	Bernadette R	Holly P

As a child, I remember learning the calendar poem which includes the words “March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers.” It always made me a little afraid of March, as windy days can be challenging. We also associate wind with change, as in “the wind of change” whereby we acknowledge that one of the constants in the world (as well as death and taxes) is change. March will bring change in the form of a change of season. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. Are you ready for Lent? It’s a time of penitence and reflection. You are encouraged to be aware of the things that can impede and divert your relationship with God. What I love about Lent is that it’s a time when I have good resources which help me with this inward and spiritual work. For example, Episcopal Relief and Development sends daily reflections. I have several books of reflections, so ask me for one if you’d like one. Our Lent study this year will be a time to read and reflect on daily meditations from the staff at the Episcopal cathedral in Washington, DC. (please ask if you need a copy). You can join the group on Tuesday afternoons or Thursday evenings either in-person or by Zoom, and join the group for Stations of the Cross before the discussion time. I encourage you to see Lent as a time to reflect on your life and on your relationship with God. While it can be seen as a time to give up something, I feel it is even better spent as a time given to meditation, reading and reflection.

On February 13 we had our Annual Meeting and fortunately the few inches of light snow that

arrived that morning did not hamper too many of you. I think all who attended felt heartened to see a good crowd in attendance. The sanctuary had a change – all the chairs are now back there with rows still further apart, of course, than they used to be pre-Covid days. At the meeting you voted for the new leadership team, adding 4 people. They are listed in this Messenger, with the ministries for which they are the liaisons. A new team is another change. Messiah is blessed with wonderful leadership. I urge you to pray for our leaders and the ministries they lead.

John P., our treasurer, presented the financial report for 2021; we found his positive report very encouraging. He also presented the 2022 budget and highlighted the unknown features for the later part of this year. Following John’s presentation, Kathy K. also spoke words of encouragement. Then, as always, I invited everyone to share what they thought had been the positive features of 2021. You will find them on page 4 “**Highlights of the Year Gone By**”.

Yes, this year will bring changes, but you are all part of a wonderful congregation. Together, you are doing much to share the love of Jesus Christ in this challenged world.

I wish you a reflective, hopeful and inspiring Lent, and maybe more “Messiah miracles”.

God bless you,
Margaret+

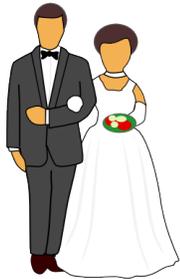
God of change and glory. God of time and space; when we fear the future, give to us your grace.

See page 3 for author citation & complete text



March Birthdays

Mar	1	Mary Ellen T
Mar	2	Lee W
Mar	8	Ruth M
Mar	10	Lorelei B
Mar	14	Carol H
Mar	15	Sean F
Mar	18	Ainsley Y
Mar	26	Carol K
Mar	30	John P



March Anniversary
Mar 14 Jackie & Jim M

Neighbors in Need

“Neighbors in Need” in March is Chester Food Pantry.

All shelf-stable donations are appreciated.

Always-needed items include:

- oil, vinegar, salad dressing, mayo,
- powdered & shelf-stable milk
- canned chicken, soups, veggies
- body wash, shampoo & conditioner
- paper towels/tissues/napkins
- feminine hygiene products
- cereal, rice, pasta,
- flour, sugar, cake mix

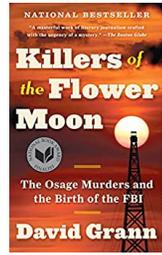
Thrift Shop Schedule

Thursdays 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Saturdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
50% off sales: Mar. 10th 12th
\$1 dollar sales: Mar. 17th & 19th

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.

Book 'n Movie Night Tuesday, March 1st



On March 1st we gather at 6:30 pm to discuss the book of the month, which is *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, by David Green.

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

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

Lenten Retreat “Names of God” Saturday, March 12th

God wants us to know all the aspects of his character, because the way we recognize God will affect the way we live our lives.

Join us on Zoom from 10 AM—noon on Saturday, March 12th as we explore some of the names of God. You’ll be amazed at how your faith will grow and how much closer to God you will feel. The retreat leader is “our own” Sr. Victoria Michelle.

All participants are asked to bring a Bible and pen and paper to the retreat.

Retreat fee: \$ 25.00

Send to:

CSJB
P.O. Box 240
Mendham, NJ 07945

To register contact : philip.muniz@gmail.com

Please place “Names of God” in the email subject line!

Ash Wednesday Worship

March 2nd is Ash Wednesday. We will be offering the Imposition of ashes at services of Holy Eucharist, 7 am, 12 noon, 5 pm for children, and 7:30 pm. The service at noon will be offered on Zoom and the evening service will be live-streamed on Facebook.

Margaret will offer ashes or blessings on Ash Wednesday outside Dunkin’ Donuts, from 6:15 – 6:45 am and from 8 am – 9:30 am.



True intimacy with God always brings humility. — Beth Moore

Many Gifts, One Spirit

God of change and glory, God of time and space,
When we fear the future, give to us your grace.
In the midst of changing ways, give us still the grace to praise.

Refrain:

Many gifts, one Spirit, one Love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise:
One Giver, one Lord, One Spirit, one Word
Known in many ways, hallowing our days.
For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

God of many colors, God of many signs,
You have made us different, blessing many kinds.
As the old ways disappear, let your love cast out our fear.

Refrain:

Many gifts, one Spirit, one Love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise:
One Giver, one Lord, One Spirit, one Word
Known in many ways, hallowing our days.
For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

Freshness of the morning, newness of each night,
You are still creating endless love and light.
This we see, as shadows part, many gifts from one great heart.

Refrain:

Many gifts, one Spirit, one Love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise:
One Giver, one Lord, One Spirit, one Word
Known in many ways, hallowing our days.
For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

Alvin Allison (AI) Carmines, Jr., © 1974
printed under OneLicense.net A-72340

Annual Meeting: Election Results

At our Annual Meeting we held an election of new and continuing leaders. Election results were as follows:

Vestry members (with areas of responsibility)

Dani P	Warden and vestry administrator
Debbie B	Warden and our buildings
John P	Treasurer
Dave S	Social Justice
Susan O	Inreach
Craig R	Our grounds
Julie C	Outreach
Kathy K	Fundraising
Bernadette R	Liturgy, worship, music
Keith H	Communications
Pat K	Social events & coffee hour
Holly P	Youth and children

Lay Delegates to Convention

Julie C
Linda O
Hans S

The Vestry will meet on Saturday, March 5th, to plan for the year ahead. Please thank them for their time and commitment to God, to Messiah and to you.

Many Gifts Indeed

I learned the hymn "Many Gifts, One Spirit" when my former parish faced the retirement of a beloved rector. Phillip Wilson had been with Redeemer for 22 years, much longer than our beloved Margaret Otterburn has been with us! Although it's easy to focus on fear when we face a big change, this faith community is chock full of gifted people. We can use our many gifts, with one spirit of knowing that God has great plans for our future.

I hope Laura will lead us in learning to sing this hymn to remind us that God has always been a God of change and glory.

Carol K, Editor

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

Psalm 46:1-3

Highlights of the Year Gone By

On February 13th, as always at our Annual Meeting, Margaret invited us to share what we thought had been the positive features of the year gone by. The year 2021 was, world-wide, not our favorite year!



Small but mighty Church of the Messiah found many “silver linings” and found many blessings to name.

Worship

- ▶ Laura
- ▶ the Bell Choir
- ▶ Outside worship
- ▶ Live-streamed services
- ▶ the Pageant
- ▶ Carol H.'s Altar Advent presentations
- ▶ Worship Ministers
- ▶ Sister Victoria preaching
- ▶ new air filter system
- ▶ John & Dani P. gifting tech expertise

Social events and FUNdraisers

- ▶ coffee hour
- ▶ parish picnic
- ▶ Facebook connections
- ▶ Bingo

Programs

- ▶ Sunday School
- ▶ Sacred Ground
- ▶ EfM
- ▶ Book & lunch group
- ▶ Vacation Bible Camp
- ▶ Bible study groups
- ▶ groups using Zoom
- ▶ Lent program

Outreach

- ▶ Weekly outreach giving
- ▶ thrift shop volunteers
- ▶ RAMP support
- ▶ North Porch support
- ▶ Homeless Solutions
- ▶ Community Garden produce
- ▶ Cross Roads Prison Day
- ▶ Community Gardens produce for food banks
- ▶ helping the SRC with FOT
- ▶ caroling for seniors

Other

- ▶ our In-reach ministries
- ▶ our grounds work-day team
- ▶ the monthly *Messenger*
- ▶ the Rev. Margaret Otterburn

There is so much to celebrate at Messiah, so many “Messiah Miracles”.



Wednesday Lunch Group

This lunch group continues to meet on Wednesdays from noon - 1 pm 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.



Flower Ministry

Even though we do not display flowers on the altar during Lent, you can still sign up for future dates when you wish to honor a living person or memorialize your beloved deceased. You will also be offered the opportunity to contribute to a glorious display of blooms for Easter Sunday, April 17th.

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.

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.

“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.

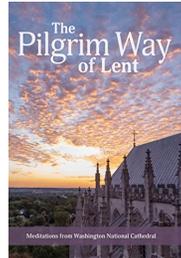
Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.

Desmond Tutu

Lenten Program Stations of the Cross & Meditations

At 3 pm on Tuesday afternoons and 7 pm on Thursday evenings we will offer “Stations of the Cross” in the sanctuary and by Zoom.

We will also have groups meeting weekly, at 3:30 pm on Tuesdays and 7:30 pm on Thursdays, reading and discussing the book ***The Pilgrim Way of Lent: Meditations from Washington National Cathedral***. Starting on Thursday, March 3, we will discuss the meditations for Ash Wednesday, and for all the days up to and including Sunday, March 6. We will discuss this same group of meditations on Tuesday, March 8. After this first week, we will read and discuss a whole week’s meditations at each session.



These programs will be hybrid (in person & by Zoom) and you are welcome to participate in either “Stations of the Cross” or the discussion program, or both.

Margaret can still obtain a book for you for a cost of \$5. A Kindle version is also available from Amazon.

Good News Gardens: Pray, Plant, Proclaim

Messiah members continue to serve beyond the wonderful on-site Community Garden which is maintained by Frank H. Through this ministry, we have a plot and donation bin at the Chester Community Garden and have assisted with The Garden of Hope at the convent in Mendham (Community of St. John Baptist). Messiah members may also serve at Cross Roads Camp in Califon.

Consider supporting the gardens by volunteering for a service day (or days) or by making either an ongoing or one-time donation.

(. We thank Dani P., Linda O., Margaret O., Frank H., Virginia M., Thierry M., and Julie C. for their support last year. More on the Good News Garden can be viewed here: [Good News Garden](#)

Lent Madness

Don't forget to follow this link for a fun “tournament” pitting saint against saint in competition for the coveted “Golden Halo” trophy. It may sound silly, but there is much of value to be learned from the lives of saints, both ancient and modern.

<https://www.lentmadness.org>

Buildings and Grounds

Good News for All Who Are Fond of Breathing!



Thanks to an anonymous donor, we have purchased a large portable air filter machine which can help purify the air in a very large room. It will be good to have it whenever we are together in the parish hall.

If you would like to learn more about this Coway Airmega 400 Smart Air

Purifier, follow this link:

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B08CDM2RXC/ref=as_li_tf_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=B08CDM2RXC&SubscriptionId=&linkCode=as2&tag=bestprodtag100406-20&th=1

Easter Baskets for Children

Once again this year, we will give Easter “baskets” (gift bags, actually) for children. As in the past, we’re just asking you to spend about \$10, or even less, on these bags.

Chester-Mendham Food Pantry provided a list of clients. We are serving 23 families with a total of 48 kids. If we receive additional requests, we will add to the list.

You received the SignUp Genius by email on Monday, February 28th. In case you missed that email, here is the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4BAEA928A0FAC70-church1>

If you have trouble using SignUp Genius, you can email your choice to Julie at juliekayecrawford@gmail.com

Save the Date
Cross Roads Camp Cleanup
Saturday, May 21st

Coffee Hour

A Sign-Up Genius has been created for coffee hour. Each Sunday we are in need of volunteers to handle two functions - set up of coffee and hot water and providing individually wrapped food items. Please note that bananas and oranges are considered individually wrapped if you want to consider bringing fresh fruit.

If you set up around 9:30 you can then attend the 10 o'clock service. Alternatively, if you attend the 8:00 service you are welcome to set up for others attending later.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4baea928a0fac70-church>

With a gently nudge, please remember to adhere to all Covid social distancing and masking requirements in place when setting up, attending, and cleaning up for coffee hour.

Passover/Easter Bags for Seniors

Join the fun as we partner with the sisters from the convent to create Passover/Easter bags for seniors! Help fill the bags with:

- ❖ seasonal bookmarks
- ❖ a prayer pouch with a Star of David and a Cross
- ❖ a card from Messiah
- ❖ Fig Newtons



These bags will go to residents at C.A.S.H. (Chester Area Senior Housing), and to another local nursing home.

Virginia M. has already volunteered to assist. Anyone else interested? Just contact Julie.

Your Story, Your Thoughts, Your Interests

We would love to start running some feature articles in our newsletters. You do not have to be a Vestry member or in any other leadership position to contribute an article. It does not have to be about our parish activities. Any "musings" you think would interest our faith community, or a book review, a journey you found enlightening—what else can YOU think of contributing?



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.

Inquirer's & Confirmation Classes

There could be a Confirmation class for students 8th grade and older. Students who attend can be confirmed this 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.

Bible Study

There are two **daytime** Bible study groups. One meets in-person in the lower parish hall on **Mondays, 2 – 3:30 pm**; and is currently studying the Gospel of John. The other meets on **Thursdays, 11:00 – 12:00 noon** by free conference call; and is currently studying the book 1 Samuel from the Old Testament. Contact Margaret for the conference call code.

If you would like to have specific readings for a particular week, please talk to Margaret. You are welcome to come to one or both of these groups. Bibles are provided, or you can bring your own. A study guide is available for each class, ask Margaret for one.

I am still learning.

— Michelangelo

This Is My Song

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
Oh, hear my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms,
thy kingdom come, on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up 'til all shall serve Him,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations,
Myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

Author: Lloyd Stone
melody: *Finlandia* by Jean Sibelius

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. If you have questions about the please talk to Margaret.



Also, don't forget that the SRC is sponsoring a concert at 2 PM on Saturday, March 12th. You received information about it in a parish email sent out on February 24th.

Can Spring be Far Behind? St. Elsie's Thrift Shop Needs to Prepare!

As I write this, I take a moment to glance out the window. I try to appreciate the beauty of dead-looking trees, knowing they are not dead but waiting for Mother Nature's signal to sprout buds and then green leaves. Inside a cozy place, I can appreciate the beauty of sunshine glistening on each branch, each twig. I offer a prayer of gratitude, for I no longer face driving to & from work on ice-covered roads. I thank those who brave this bitter cold to clear roads and pathways for the safety of all. I ask God to watch over those who huddle in doorways, cardboard and newspaper their only blankets.

As your heart leaps with joy at the thought of Spring, can you make the extra effort to pitch in some time at our thrift shop? The change of seasons isn't just the magic of forsythia and crocuses. In any clothing shop, it's also the hard work of changing the inventory from bulky, dark-colored coats & fur-lined boots to nice, light, pretty pastels, comfy boat shoes, tee shirts and shorts.



Please, if possible, offer a little of your time to keep St. Elsie's alive and well.

For more information, "job-training" or a "personal tour":
dianecardillo9@gmail.com.

Thank you, Diane, and all who already serve!!
Carol K, Editor

Sunday School

We now offer Sunday School every Sunday! It is held in the lower parish hall. Each family is seated at a separate table. Parents may choose to remain with their children, or to attend worship in the sanctuary; however, there needs to be at least one parent staying to assist the teacher.

Thank you, Debbie B and Linda O, for leading this ministry.



Food Deserts A Very Personal Perspective

I have not set foot in a grocery store in more than two years. How can that be? At the worst of Covid (pre-vaccines) the Heath Village staff provided shopping service from ShopRite. Later, I used the Weis order-on-line, placed-in-trunk option. A Messiah angel also helped me for time to time. I now subscribe to Shipt delivery service and to Thrive Market.

I think often how many people cannot afford high rent, an automobile with insurance & a full gas tank, a computer. I count my blessings.

I have ventured inside at Walgreens and added a few edibles to my medical purchases. That drug store has a few aisles of canned goods, a small freezer case, an even smaller refrigerator. If I needed to shop there for all my food, I could buy canned soup, tuna, Spam, sugary “baked” beans; but no fresh vegetable. I could find peanut butter, jelly, but no bread; Triscuits & Wheat Thins but not the “hint of salt” variety I prefer. I could get V-8 juice, but not the low sodium variety. I’d find boxed cereal or instant oatmeal, but milk often at or past its “sell by” date. There might be canned peaches in heavy syrup, sugar-added applesauce; no fresh fruit. For lunch, how about bologna, ham, American “cheese” slices, Lunchables. I’d find frozen pizza, “TV dinners,” ice cream; but the only yogurt would be full-fat and sugar-laden. There’d be an abundance of the 3 P’s: potato chips, popcorn, pretzels. I’d find quite a selection of cookies and a whole aisle of candy and gum.

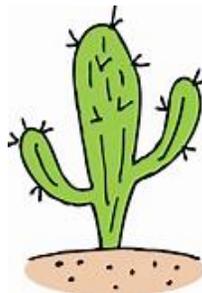
Vast numbers of people in our country live in “food deserts.” They can reach a SevenEleven but not a ShopRite, so their food purchases are much like the unhealthy ones I just described. Even worse are the “food swamps,” with only a Popeyes Chicken and a Burger King, no grocery store at all. These situations abound in poor rural areas. In almost every major city, there are both food deserts and food swamps.

Have you ever had to fast prior to a medical procedure such as a colonoscopy? Did you find yourself out-of-sorts, unfocused, unable to concentrate? It wasn’t just fear of the medical procedure! Very likely, you kept noticing your hunger and thirst and using a lot of energy to divert your attention away from the empty stomach and parched mouth. Thousands upon thousands of American children face every school day truly hungry or worried about when they will next get a meal. They cannot concentrate on getting the education that could offer them a route up from poverty.

Louisa, my nutritionist, gave me a link to a well-designed web site about hunger and food insecurity. Take a look at this:

<https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/new-jersey>

Carol K



Who Is Helping to Relieve Hunger?

Why of course, we are! Many of us chose to be a part of small but mighty Messiah because we believe that Jesus really wants his followers to feed the hungry. In nearby Hackettstown, a much larger congregation of Methodists holds that same mission as foremost in our shared Christian faith.

The problem is so deep and wide and far-reaching that churches and civic organizations alone cannot fix it.

In addition to supporting Good News Gardens and food pantries, perhaps we should also be supporting organizations that work to influence government policy. One such group is the Food Research & Action Center, aka FRAC.

<https://frac.org/>

Carol K

Yes, There is Progress!

Aldi’s is a major low-price grocery chain with on-line “bells & whistles”— store locator, curbside pickup or delivery, etc.

Recently Aldi’s has opened stores in many “food desert” areas. Larissa, my dear daughter-in-law, recently told me about her journey into the Bronx to shop at Aldi’s. She reported, “It’s a bit like Sam’s Club, but no membership fee. It’s not a huge warehouse and you don’t have to buy huge quantities. Only store-brand generics (but they are every bit as good as the heavily-advertised brands.) Bring your own bags; pack it yourself at checkout. I couldn’t believe how much \$100 could purchase! I’m so glad Aldi’s is opening stores in so many urban poverty areas.”

<https://www.aldi.us>

Carol K

Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless.

Isaiah 58:7

To a hungry man, a piece of bread is the face of God.

Mahatma Gandhi

Habitat for Humanity

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. Once you have completed your registration and safety protocols, contact Julie via email juliekayecrawford@gmail.com to coordinate dates.

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

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.

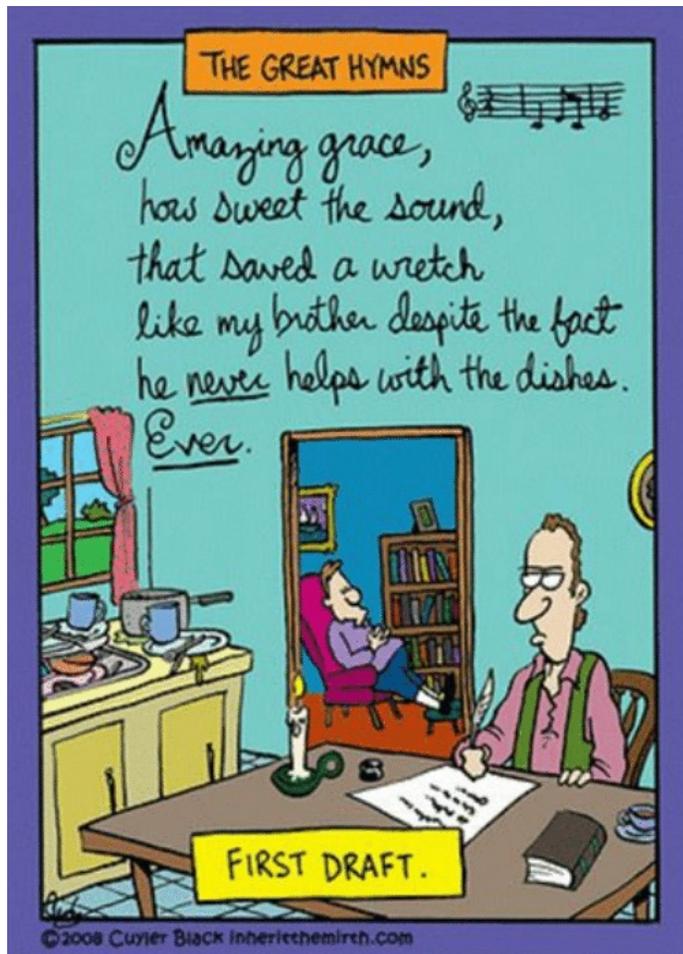
Click on Ministries, then on Office of Government Affairs.



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)



Homeless Solutions Meal Preparation & Sponsorship

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). The next service date is **Saturday March 19th**.

Special thanks to the W. Family for serving along with Margaret in February. We look forward to Linda O. and Sue U. joining in March. In addition, Julie is on call as a back-up server for Homeless Solutions and recently served a lunch session. If anyone is interested in the on-call opportunity please contact Julie.

More information about Homeless Solutions and their programs and needs can be viewed at [Homeless Solutions Volunteering or Support](#)

You can also support our program with financial support. The costs now vary due to COVID but ranges from \$50-75 each time. If you can sponsor a meal or part of a meal, please mark "Homeless Solutions" on your check.