



The Church of the Messiah
50 State Route 24 West,
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The Messenger

The Rev. Margaret Otterburn, Rector

Carol King, Editor

Email: messiahchester@earthlink.net

Website: www.messiahchester.org

June, 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

How does anyone write their last – anything? I remember as a chaplain intern one day, the members of my class were all told to write our own obituaries. That was a challenging assignment, but luckily none of them were needed – at least not then!

But now nearly 15 years have passed since you called me to be your rector in August, 2007. I felt I was a good match for the ministries you wanted me to lead or help you develop. You wanted someone to offer hands-on outreach, and that certainly matched my calling and what was in my heart. You wanted programs for kids; certainly, that has always been challenging and it seems almost all small churches have very few families with kids attending church regularly. But Pray & Play did bring us a few, and the annual Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) gave us some too. Wonderful Messiah leaders have all helped provide our annual VBC. You wanted adult programs and I had been a teacher, so I enjoyed setting up Bible study groups, Sunday forums, EfM groups, Lenten programs, armchair theologian groups, inquirer’s classes and Confirmation classes.

Most of our dusty basement (really an extension of the lower floor) was unused; and when in 2010 a thrift shop was suggested, a group of us got to work and a few weeks later we opened our shop. It was small at first, but Diane C. has been managing from the beginning and has expanded many times. As of now, I do not think there is a square inch of space in our “basement” that is not utilized. What’s more, serving in the shop is a wonderful way of being in ministry. I serve there often and love doing it. Our grounds needed some attention; the circle was a mass of grass

but not the manicured kind, and no one minded if I put a flower bed there. I made it in the shape of a cross, corresponding to the beautiful three crosses which are our logo. I like gardening, and Messiah has given me many opportunities. My contract included my role as Board President of the SRC, a role I have taken very seriously. It is such a joy to welcome so many seniors to the very large number of classes we now offer.

However, the most important part of my life in ministry here has been with you all, as your pastor and priest. I am one who loves you and has been with you in times of crisis as well as in times of joy. I have been privileged to be close to you when death took a loved one or when you or a loved one have been sick, or you have been in a family crisis or suffered in some way. You are my family in a very special way, and I shall certainly miss you all when I move away.

You are a wonderful community. You have amazing leaders dedicated to helping you move on in new ways. There will be another priest who loves you, in a while, but right now you are called to love one another, to support each other in the challenges of this life. Do remember, our Lord Jesus Christ loves each one of you. He has promised to be with you—with you in this transition time, with you each day of your life.

As we say farewell to each other, you know you can trust the one who loves you, Our Lord Jesus Christ, to guide you and to love you every day of your life.

God bless you all,
Margaret+

June Birthdays

4 Izzy F
5 Sue C
9 Dale R
9 Matthew O
11 June B
15 Samantha F
21 Otto Y
26 Roxanne R



June Anniversaries

13 Merica G & John D
16 - Laura & Peter McA



Margaret's Last Service at Messiah: Sunday, June 19th, 2 pm

We hope you will all come to celebrate with Margaret as she celebrates our worship on June 19th. She will preach and celebrate. Both the vocal and bell choirs will offer anthems. Following the worship there will be a "coffee hour" in the parish hall. She chose the 2 pm time to allow visitors to join us as well as to give time for everyone to be here. There will be just this one service on that day.



Youth & Children's Sunday June 12th, 10 am



We will celebrate our youth and children on Sunday, June 12th. We will invite the youth to read the lessons. Margaret will then offer a short youth homily and afterwards the kids will leave for Sunday school. She will then offer an adult homily. Please note she will preach an adult sermon at the 8 am service.

Chester Mayor to Honor Margaret

At the 7 pm June 21st town council meeting, the Mayor of Chester will honor the Rev. Margaret Otterburn for her outreach programs.

"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.



Book 'n Movie Night Tuesday, June 7th

On June 7th we will gather at 6:30 pm in the lower parish hall to discuss the book of the month, which is *The Plot: a novel* by Jean Hanff Korelitz.

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

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

Thrift Shop Schedule

Thursdays 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Saturdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
50% off sales: June 9th & 11th
\$1 dollar sales: June. 16th & 18th



*An original idea.
That can't be too hard.
The library must be full of them.*
— Stephen Fry

Words from the Wardens

Meet your Wardens

Hi I'm Debbie Burnet and I became warden in 2022. I have been on this vestry since 2016(?) and have previously served many terms on the vestry here and at St Marks in Mendham. I've been a church member at Messiah since 1994 and was baptized at St Marks in Mendham in 1955. My wife Chris and I had our Commitment Ceremony here in September 1996 and have since had our Civil Union and finally our legal marriage ceremonies here with our Messiah church family. There was a domestic partnership in there too but that was paper work at town hall not a church service. I like to joke that we were committed, domesticated and then finally civilized enough to be legally married! Chris and I have two children Rich (wife Julie) and Lindsay (significant other Paul) and a grandson Harry. We live in Budd Lake. I retired from my 40 year career as a Medical Technologist in 2018. I have been studying, practicing, teaching and organizing classes for the Art of Jin Shin Jyutsu since 1995. I currently am sharing and teaching this integrative modality with the patients and staff at Morristown Medical Center one day a week, teaching self help classes for Summit Health cancer patients, the SRC and other private and public groups as

well as individuals that are interested or any other person willing to let me share!!! Jin Shin Jyutsu is all about the ability that God has given us to help ourselves. Obviously I'm passionate about it. I enjoy hiking, kayaking, my week in Blue Mountain Lake with Chris, spending time with friends in Ocean Grove, road-trips, time with my family and friends, helping others and quiet times at home (this will surprise Chris!). I do not believe in coincidences and strongly believe that God leads the way - we just have to relax and go with the flow. I am happy to be warden with Dani during this exciting time of transition for Messiah. Releasing Margaret into her next journey will be difficult for us all but God does have a plan. As Bishop Hughes said, "God has our next priest planned - neither they nor us know it yet". All we have to do is trust in God, relax and take the steps as they are presented to us. Please reach out to Dani or me directly or any vestry member if you have questions, recommendations or concerns. We are family and it's important to keep communication open. Thank you for your trust in me and the other vestry members - we have an awesome team!

Debbie B., Warden

Margaret's Retirement Party Saturday, June 11th, 5-8 pm

The Congregation of the Church of the Messiah invites you to join us as we celebrate the prospective retirement after 15 years of devoted service of the Reverend Margaret Otterburn.

Margaret has requested that no personal gifts be given. Margaret and Mike will be living in South Jersey, after they leave the rectory. Margaret asks that if anyone does wish to honor her that they "please make a donation to the Forever Messiah Fund because I want Messiah to go on forever."

If you would like to do this, please write a check to the Church of the Messiah with "Forever Messiah Fund" in the memo area on the check.

If you would like to help with the celebration, you can contribute in the following way, or speak to Dani or Debbie:

-Sign up to help set up, clean up, provide beverages or desserts here: <https://bit.ly/3yLfHTU>



Dani P., Warden

Simple Exercise to Restore Calm

You can practice this whenever you feel emotionally upset or stressed and need to calm down:

Cross your arms and hold your upper arms.

Sitting comfortably (if you can), close your eyes.

Hold your upper arms. Wait until you feel the tension melting away and you get a feeling of relief. Practice this until you feel that a sense of calm. Usually, five to ten minutes should do the trick.



This simple Jin Shin Jyutsu self help hold does so much else.

When our respiratory function needs support, this will help as it clears chest congestion.

This self help hold brings abundance (breath) into the lungs.

It also helps balance blood pressure and releases tension in the upper back, neck, shoulder, knee and hip.

How long to hold if there is a particular problem or "project"? I usually suggest 20 - 30 minutes minimum. Just sit quietly and comfortably, close your eyes and relax. A matter of minutes should do the trick.

Debbie B., Warden

Backpack Collection

Messiah will be collecting materials in June and July to support a Backpack program for the Mendham-Chester Food Pantry. More information will be provided in the near future but we anticipate numbers similar to the 26 families served during our Easter bag program. We will be contacting the local school district to identify materials needed. A final list will be posted through Sign-Up Genius but suggested items to be looking for deals include items listed at right.



- ▶ backpacks (any size)
- ▶ notebooks (wide and college ruled)
- ▶ pencils/pens (black, blue, and red)
- ▶ erasers
- ▶ highlighters
- ▶ pencil pouches and boxes
- ▶ markers (thick)
- ▶ colored pencils
- ▶ crayons
- ▶ dividers
- ▶ 3 ring binders
- ▶ folders
- ▶ filler paper (wide and college ruled)
- ▶ construction paper
- ▶ glue sticks
- ▶ index cards (3x5 ruled, white)
- ▶ scissors (blunt-tip)
- ▶ calculators (elementary & scientific)

Help Wanted: SRC Liaison

We could say “Our SRC” because it seems like “ours” even though it is now a separate 501c3. Margaret is still temporarily the SRC president, but remotely (the SRC is separate from Messiah, so they want her to stay with them until a new president is elected, hopefully Messiah’s next priest). Margaret has taken the presidency role very seriously and worked hard.

We hope to find a parish member to serve as volunteer SRC board member. In this role, you would attend the monthly meetings (approximately 90 minutes per month), and also answer any Messiah space questions from the program director.

Once a year, you would organize the removal of all the Festival of Trees supplies from Messiah storage to the barn, and organize putting them all back afterward. That’s a big job, which can be handled by someone other than the the SRC board member. If you think you might like to join the SRC board as the Messiah liaison, please speak with Margaret. There is a program director who organizes the classes, but it will help her to have a Messiah member to contact with any building questions.

Many people come to Messiah for SRC programs, some coming 5-6 hours a week—far more than most of our members come for anything! We want to maintain the good relationship. Please consider taking a leadership role in the SRC. Surely you will love it!



Neighbors in Need

“Neighbors in Need” in June is **Chester Food Pantry**. Donations of *shelf stable foods* or *personal care items* are most welcome, for example:

- 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

Senior Resource Center (SRC)

If you are a senior, past your 55th birthday, why not partake of SRC activities? SRC offers 13 regular programs every week and at least 4 extra every month. The SRC only charges \$2 for each regular class.. All the exercise classes are led by professionals, whom SRC pays. 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.



In-Reach Cards

On the shelf in the church hall is a box marked “In-Reach Cards”. Anyone is welcome to use them to spread some cheer to our church family. There are bags marked ‘Get Well’, ‘Birthday’, ‘Thinking of You’ and ‘Blank’.



A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.

John Maxwell

My Father Raised his Trembling Hand

My father raised his trembling hand,
And placed it on my head:
"God's blessing be on thee, my son!"
Most tenderly he said.

He died, and left no gems nor gold,
But still was I his heir—
For that rich blessing which he gave
Became a fortune rare.

And in my day of weary toil
To earn my daily bread,
It gladdens me in thought to feel
His hand upon my head.

Though infant tongues to me have said
"Dear father!" oft since then,
Yet when I bring that scene to mind,
I'm but a child again.

Source: [The Cyber Hymnal #12137](#)

Father's Day is Sunday, June 19th

According to the United States Census 60% of all men are dads in the United States.

Many countries, including the U.K., France, Ireland, Japan, India, Philippines, South Africa & China celebrate Father's Day on the 3rd Sunday of June. Germany celebrates it on Ascension Day. Italy, Spain & Portugal celebrate it on March 19th.

St. Elsie's Thrift Shop Urgently Needs Your Help! Please Can You Staff the Desk on Thursday?

Our thrift shop is an important source of income for the parish, an excellent place for boutique-like shopping for many in the community who could not shop at pricey stores, and a source of give-away clothing to those in need.

Please answer this call for help staffing the front desk on Thursday.

For more information, job-training" or a "personal tour:

dianecardillo9@gmail.com.

Thank you, Diane, and all who already serve!!

Carol K, Editor



Where do our Donations Go?

Julie C. takes the yield from our plot at the Chester Community Garden and collection box to various locations:

- ❖ Chester Food Pantry
- ❖ Mendham Food Pantry
- ❖ Homeless Solution meals
- ❖ Roxbury Social Services
- ❖ Trinity Food Pantry in W. Orange

Jim & Mary Ellen T. bring donated food to:

- ❖ Chester food pantry
- ❖ Long Valley food pantry

Margaret brings to North Porch (Craig R. will do this after Margaret leaves):

- ❖ baby food
- ❖ formula
- ❖ baby wipes
- ❖ diapers
- ❖ pull-ups

North Porch Liaison Craig R.

For the past 14 years Margaret served on the North Porch Board and obviously encouraged Messiah to support North Porch. Messiah has responded wonderfully. One result is that you and others know that you can bring your North Porch items here. Chester food pantry knows this too and we get items from that food pantry to take to North Porch. Margaret has been the one taking all the donations to our North Porch Center in Dover. Going forward Craig Roushinko has volunteered to take the North Porch donations there and will so each month. Please thank him and continue to bring items for needy families with children under 4 years of age.



Flower Ministry



Would you like to honor a living person or memorialize your beloved deceased? Donating flowers for the altar is an excellent way to do so. If you attend church in person, you can sign up on the flower chart in the narthex, 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.

Thrift Shop Donation Guidelines

Just a reminder of the guideline for donations:

ACCEPTED:

Gently used clean spring/summer clothing and accessories (NO WINTER CLOTHES)

Gently used spring/summer shoes and purses

Clean household items, decorative, kitchen, etc.

Books, best seller last two years please, CD's

When dropping off the accepted items, please be aware of the weight. Do not shove everything into the largest black garbage bag you can find. They become extremely heavy and difficult for us to move.

UNACCEPTED:

- Toys, Games, puzzles
- Baby items: car seats, booster seats, strollers, etc.
- Medical supplies including handicap items, (check with local nursing homes to donate)
- Large furniture
- VCR or cassette tapes
- Electronics, except NEW
- Old Televisions
- Miss matched or single drinking glasses – sets of 6 or more only
- Books older than one year old. (If older, drop in book bin out front)
- Anything broken rusty, or unsellable
- Old towels or bedding (drop off at dog shelter)
- Linens of any kind including curtains
- Luggage
- Office supplies including pens, pencils, crayons, scissors
- Used underwear or socks (yes, people donate these items!)
- Clothes with holes, stains, or dog hair
- Hangers

Let the Church “Take Your Pulse”

The Episcopal Pulse is a weekly survey where you can weigh in on a variety of topics aimed at charting the future path of our churches. This is the link to the latest survey <https://mailchi.mp/episcopalpulse/microsurvey-8995984?e=8b0363d320> which allows you to view past weekly surveys. The data will be presented at the General Convention 2022. Why not weigh in and subscribe directly to this initiative which Bishop Michael Curry launched in July 2021 <https://virtueonline.org/episcopal-church-says-it-lookng-pulse-it-faces-future>

Julie C, Vestry member (Outreach)

Good News Gardens: Pray, Plant, Proclaim

In addition to the on-site Community Garden maintained by Frank H., we have a plot and donation bin at the Chester Community Garden and have assisted with The Garden of Hope at the Community of St. John Baptist in Mendham. We 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. More on the Good News Gardens can be viewed here: [Good News Garden](#)

Julie C, Vestry member (Outreach)



*Awake, north wind, and come, south wind! Blow on my garden, that its fragrance may spread everywhere.
Let my beloved come into his garden and taste its choice fruits.*

— Song of Songs 4:16

Answers: "Rhyme Time" puzzle from the May issue of *The Messenger*

Each clue leads to a 2-word rhyming answer. The numbers indicate the number of letters in each word. For example, "large swine [3,3]" would be BIG PIG.

1. cookware taken from the oven [3,3] HOT POT
2. number one police officer [3,3] TOP COP
3. jelly made from shelled seafood [4,3] CLAM JAM
4. dinner for an ocean-loving mammal [4,4] SEAL MEAL
5. clothing made from a banana peel [5,4] FRUIT SUIT
6. smarter money-grubber [5,5] WISER MISER
7. strange facial hair [5,5] WEIRD BEARD
8. steady surface for eating meals [7,6] STABLE TABLE
9. smaller period in basketball or football [7,7] SHORTER QUARTER

FUNdraising with Kathy

The Artisan Fair was a Huge Success!

Super thanks to our Chairperson Karen B and our team of resident experts: Chris M, Debbie B, Linda O, and a super extra special thanks to our #1 Raffle Seller Mary Ellen T.

Despite the weather, we had a terrific turn out of Vendors and Guests. The girl scouts had a wonderful time and sold a lot of cookies.

Upcoming Events: **50/50 Raffle** to be set up with a cash prize to be pulled in November (Sat Nov 19th) at our **Line and Dine Event** (a combination of Line Dancing and a Spaghetti Dinner). Mark your calendars to save the date.

Also—Not a fundraiser but Messiah Wear will be coming soon.

Kathy K., Vestry Member (Fundraising)



It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.

Mother Teresa

Dine & Dazzle Raffle

Thank you all for supporting our Dine 'n Dazzle raffle basket. It was quite a success! One of the SRC seniors won it, but everyone is a winner since your support helps Messiah's outreach programs. We'd like to thank the following businesses for their contributions:

- ▶ Pam Carotenudo Jewelry
- ▶ Chesapeake
- ▶ Redwoods
- ▶ Mama's Cafe Baci
- ▶ Cornerstone, Old Mill
- ▶ Coffee Potter



A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children.

Anonymous

EfM: Going Forward

The new facilitator will be the Rev. Lorna Erixson, the Rector of St. Mark's Church Mendham. If you are interested in taking EfM in the fall please let Margaret know and she will connect you with Lorna.

Currently the classes meet by zoom on Wednesdays.

Homeless Solutions Meal Preparation & Sponsorship

Friday, June 10th and Saturday, July 16th



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 on the board in the parish hall. We now have an on-line SignUp Genius link for this ministry; you should have received the link via your email.

We will be serving next on Friday, June 10th and Saturday, July 16th.

If you would like to know more about what is involved, talk to Julie C. 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 50 people costs roughly \$70 each time. Your financial support is also welcome. If you can sponsor a meal or part of a meal, please mark "Homeless Solutions" on your check.

Julie C, Vestry member (Outreach)

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.

John Lubbock

EfM Graduation

Sunday June 5, 10 am

We celebrate that two of the Messiah EfM class will have completed the 4 years of study in this college level program. Education for Ministry is a 4 year program comprising studying the Old Testament and the New Testament of the Bible (a year for each)



followed by a year studying church history and ending with a year studying theology. It is not intended for people pursuing ordination as they need to go to seminary, but it is for anyone wishing to study the Bibles and Christianity.

Sr Victoria Michelle and Sister

Linda Claire from the Convent St John Baptist are graduating this June and will receive their certificates here on June 5 in our 10 am service.

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.

Please remember to adhere to all Covid social distancing and masking requirements in place when setting up, attending, and cleaning up for coffee hour.

Juneteenth Celebration at the Gazebo

Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. While President Abraham Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, many enslavers continued to hold enslaved people captive after that date. On June 19, 1865, Union Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the end of the Civil War and slavery. Thus, Juneteenth became a symbolic date representing African American freedom. Juneteenth officially became the 11th federal holiday on June 17, 2021. Messiah is joining with other local churches to commemorate this date with a service of music, readings, prayer, resources, and children's activities. Please join us.

Jackie M. for the Social Justice Team

Two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, freedom came to Texas on a day known as

Juneteenth



June 17th

6:00pm

Chester Gazebo

Listen. Learn. Grow.

Featuring Music

Speakers

Readings

Resources

Children's Activities

Bible Study

There are currently two **daytime** Bible study groups One meets on **Mondays** from **2 – 3:30** and is studying the Gospel of St. John, the other, which is currently studying 2 Samuel (the life of King David) meets on **Thursdays, 11 am - 12 noon**. The Thursday group meets by free conference call. The Monday group has been meeting in the lower parish hall. All participants provide their own Bibles; the version of their choice.

Starting June 23, Sr Victoria Michelle will be leading the Thursday morning group.



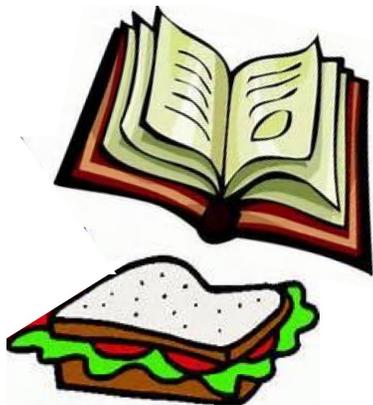
Wednesday Lunch Group

This lunch group continues to meet on Wednesdays at noon in the low

Please check with the wardens for meetings after June 15.

Participants can bring a bag lunch if they wish.

We are reading selections from “The Christian Century” Please ask Margaret for a copy if you would like to read in



Just for Fun

Give a try to this “shifting sand” puzzle. The goal is to fill in the blanks, with the correct word at the end of each phrase shifting to become the first word of the next phrase. (See the example at right)

Answers will appear in the July/August issue of *The Messenger*.

shifting	sand
sand	bank
bank	robber
robber	baron
Baron	von Bismarck

- 1 broad _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 8 _____ slate

daily publication
 musician’s reference
 visual presentation of a popular song
 activity often enjoyed at a computer
 conclusion of a tennis contest
 at close range
tabula rasa

RAMP Will Participate in Diversity Day

Once again RAMP will have a table at Diversity Day on Sunday, July 10th on the Green in Morristown. It's a fun and informational event for all who care about diversity in our community.



**DIVERSITY COALITION
OF MORRIS COUNTY**
Connecting People to Celebrate Diversity

**JOIN
US!**

DIVERSITY DAY
Sunday, July 10, 2022

One Community, Together Again!
CULTURE. FOOD. ENTERTAINMENT.

Learn more at www.diversitymc.org

ON THE MORRISTOWN GREEN

Sponsored by the Diversity Coalition of Morris County

**11:00 AM INTERFAITH SERVICE
NOON TO 4:00 PM FESTIVAL**



ABOUT THE EVENT

The Diversity Coalition of Morris County Diversity Day brings the community together to experience many cultures and faith!

- Featuring an Interfaith Service followed by music, food, and entertainment!
- Visit with various religious, ethnic, and cultural groups that make up our community!

WHAT IS THE DIVERSITY COALITION OF MORRIS COUNTY?

We are a non-political coalition of faith-based community organizations and individuals who live, work, and serve in the greater Morris County area. We share the common belief that all people should be treated with dignity, respect, and understanding.

Refugee Assistance

RAMP
Morris Partners

*A Bridge to Assist People to
Cross From One Life to Another*

Get to Know Our Leaders

Kathy K.

I started at Messiah in the Spring of 2004. I was received into the Episcopal Church in May 2005.

I am a regular "8 o'clocker" and enjoy starting my Sunday that way. I am serving a few roles here at Messiah:

I am the bookkeeper for expenses—I ensure that the bills are paid on time and expenses are reimbursed.

I head the Finance Committee and oversee the financials of the church and help with making financial suggestions to the Vestry.

Lastly, I am heading up FUNdraising. We have embarked on a variety of FUN Fundraising initiatives and look forward to having more FUN and make some \$\$ for the church and our programs.

**Kathy K., Vestry Member
(Finance Committee Chair)**

*Spring being a tough act to
follow. God created June.*

Al Bernstein

Press Release Change-Making Priest Retiring

The Church of the Messiah, Episcopal, in Chester will be celebrating the many contributions of the Reverend Margaret Otterburn this June. “Mother” Margaret, as she is affectionately known to the children whose lives she has touched, has been at Messiah since 2007. In that time she has worked to support countless community projects, including the successful Senior Resource Center. The SRC uses the church property for inexpensive classes, lectures and programs for senior citizens.

There is also the thrift shop, known as “St. Elsie’s” (because the building was a former dairy barn). Long time parishioner Linda O. said, “Through the thrift shop, Margaret has met and helped dozens of people in need over the years.”

The congregation will have a dinner in the Rev. Otterburn’s honor on June 11th and her final Holy Eucharist will be Sunday, June 19th at 2:00 pm. For more information about the celebrations, or to make donations to honor Rev. Otterburn, please go to www.messiahchester.org

Being a priest was not Margaret’s first occupation. She came to the United States from England, via Belfast, Ireland, with her husband Mike and three children in 1987. She was a math teacher in Irvington. She also ran a Girl Scout Camp in the summer. Then she was called to the priesthood and was ordained in 2002. She served in Newark and then in Minneapolis, Minnesota before coming to the Church of the Messiah in 2007.

Current warden Debbie B. said, “Margaret has always made service to others a priority”. She has created many outreach opportunities, which is something the members wanted. Messiah works with;

- ▶ North Porch—which serves mothers and infants in need
- ▶ Homeless Solutions—providing food to the hungry
- ▶ Haven of Hope—a retreat for families with ill children
- ▶ Crossroads Retreat Center & camp
- ▶ the Washington Township and Chester Mendham Food Pantries
- ▶ the Soup Kitchen in Morristown.

Over the years Margaret led many mission trips to help less fortunate people in NYC and Philadelphia, as well as in Ringwood, Newark, and Orange in New Jersey. She has offered pastoral care at area senior homes including Heath Village, Byron Manor, Little Brook and at Chester Area Senior Housing. She was on the board of The House of the Good Shepherd for 5 years. For the Episcopal diocese of Newark, she was part of the Diocese Council, ACT/VIM and the Commission on Ministry. She has also been part of several local projects with religious leaders of other denominations.

Long-time church member Hardee K. said, “We’ve had several good pastors over the years, but none up to Margaret’s accomplishments. Not only for the church itself, but for our communities. Messiah has always been small in membership, but she’s encouraged every member to become active in our outreach programs. When you meet her, you quickly sense her warmth and love for everyone.” Other members confirmed that she seems to have boundless energy, and her enthusiasm is infectious. “We keep meeting people in our communities, that we’ve never met before, who know and love Margaret.” Hardee said.

From working on the SRC’s Annual Festival of Trees fundraiser at the Barn in Chester, to Vacation Bible Camp for area kids, and mission trips that brought her to inner city churches to help with their youth programs; it may take three people to do all the work she has been doing over the years. The congregation and local leaders are expressing their gratitude for all she has done with several gatherings and proclamations from the mayors of Chester Borough and Chester Township.

Rev. Otterburn may continue to volunteer for charities, but will now have the time to enjoy her husband, children, and seven grandchildren at a much slower pace. Details of the planned celebrations are on The Church of the Messiah’s Facebook page and website.

Submitted by Danielle P.

The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off.

Abe Lemons



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.

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)

