

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH!

We are a prayerful, Bible-teaching, evangelical church in the heart of the city with a heart for the city and the world. We are a member of the Anglican Network in Canada and part of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans. We seek to be a biblically faithful and orthodox church within the Anglican Way of following Jesus.

Are you new? Get connected!

Is this your first visit to Church of the Messiah? Thank you for being with us. We are glad you're here. Interested in learning more about Messiah and getting connected? Contact us: info@messiahchurch.ca or 613.235.0596. Check out the Welcome Centre in the lobby or messiahchurch.ca

Nursery & Sunday School

Nursery (0 - 24 months) and Sunday School (2 yrs - Grade 6) are available at the 10am service. For Nursery, please bring children to the Green Room (basement) before or during the service. For Sunday School, kids are invited to follow the cross after the last worship song.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rev. Canon George Sinclair
Rector

Jonathan Camiré
Ministry Intern - Evangelism and Discipleship

Yasmine Alli-Smith
Ministry Intern

Deborah Reid **Shirley Allan**
Worship Leader Administrator

Daniel Gilman
Pastor of Evangelism and Discipleship
(Children, Youth and Young Adults)

Rev. Neil Stephens
Pastor of Discipleship and Pastoral Care

Wardens:
Dick Butler Jeremiah Hadwen
Earl Maynard Shannon Ripley
Karl Ruban Dana Scherf

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

If you are visiting, please feel free to let the basket go by. If you would like to donate, there are many ways to give:

- 1) Place cash or cheques payable to "Church of the Messiah" in the offering basket on Sunday, or mail to the church office. Please contact the office if you are interested in using offering envelopes.
- 2) Email your contribution to givings@messiahchurch.ca Please use the security question: "What is the pastor's first name?" and the answer: "George"
- 3) You can use PayPal to donate to the church. Click on the "Contact" tab (far right side) on our website (messiahchurch.ca)
- 4) Pre-authorized debit – You can authorize the church to debit your bank account for a fixed amount on a recurring basis of your choice. To get started, please contact the office: info@messiahchurch.ca

THE CHRISTIAN CONTROVERSIALIST

Dear Friends,

As Christendom dies and as many people reject all aspects of Christendom, then the Christian faith becomes controversial. So, on one level, to be a Christian today is to be a controversialist. But can a Christian be a controversialist? But can a Christian be a controversialist in areas of social, economic, cultural and political life which are not directly connected to the Christian faith?

Last week in my blog I talked about "bearing witness to Jesus" when Trump is president. That blog came out of my recent experience that when I bear witness to Jesus, people often try to draw out of me my view on President Trump and/or his actions. My blog last week argued that if we are to bear witness to Jesus, then we should not get drawn into talking about President Trump. But some may wonder, does my advice mean that Christians must forsake all socially, politically, culturally and economically controversial roles and views for the sake of witnessing and evangelism? The quick answer is, "no", but some qualifications are needed.

It is commonplace for people to talk of a pastor or missionary having a vocation. In other words, they believe God has called them to take on this office and/or role. This is a good way to look at the matter - but only if we realize that all followers of Christ have a vocation. We, as Christians, are to seek God's will for our life and then walk in it. The lawyer, artist, civil servant, stay-at-home mom or dad, banker, business owner, tow-truck driver or cashier or ALL Christians are to see that God has called them to this role for a reason and that they are to do their work well for the good of our city and the glory of God.

This truth means that some Christians will be called to jobs or roles that are controversial in our country because they involve taking a side on contested issues that Christians can disagree about in good conscience. The politician or staffer who takes a position on minimum wages or capital gains tax. The union steward or business owner. The scientist or pundit on "climate change". I can multiply examples but I think you get the idea. Some Christians will have a vocation from God in these types of "controversial" areas even though it means it will limit who they can bear witness to. So my blog last week still stands. In general, we should not get bogged down in controversies - they will blunt our witness. But some people are truly called to jobs and roles that "take sides" on contested issues.

One final note. People come to Christ from all sorts of places in life. But some jobs or careers will need to be rejected after conversion. The timing and needs of the change will require compassion, patience and encouragement from Christians. Some jobs may not be controversial in Canada, but they are not in keeping with calling Jesus Saviour and Lord. More on this next week.

George+

I need to develop godly attitudes.

- A) Pray for godly attitudes in general & certain attitudes in particular.
- B) Ask others to pray the same thing for you.
- C) Repeat the attitude to help it sink in. Do this in conjunction with A & B!

Attitudes.

- 1) Truth, not power, is to be the North Star that guides me.
- 2) God is true. All truth is God's. God's Word written is true.
- 3) My mind cannot know truth exhaustively, but it can know truth truly.

I need to grow in prayer.

A great way to do this is to learn to pray the Bible. Pray this prayer until you can pray without reading:

Almighty God, three persons, one God, I praise You and thank You. Lord, Jesus Christ, thank You for Your powerful grace. God the Father, thank You for Your love. Holy Spirit, thank You for holy communion with You and all God's children by adoption and grace. Please grant me a living, growing knowledge of the great blessing that is mine when I received the person and work of Jesus as my Saviour. In Jesus' name. Amen!!

I need to get God's word in my mind and heart.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13: 14

I need to do something or start to do something.

Complete the following sentence: "In light of God's word, the Holy Spirit is leading me to _____."

GOING DEEPER

Read

- 2 Corinthians 13:5-14

Learn

- How does this relate to what Paul has already said?
- What do you think Paul is saying to the Corinthians? Why is he saying it?
- Having come to the end of this letter, what do you believe to be the key theme(s)? What do you think is Paul's main pastoral reason for writing this letter?
- What specific characteristics or activities are associated with each person of the Trinity? How is this vision of God connected to the "test" (v 5-7) and "restoration" (v9, 100)?

Inwardly Digest

- How have you come to a deeper understanding of God's character from reading and meditating upon 2 Corinthians?
- How has this led to restoration, or made you long for restoration, in some aspect of your life?

Pray

- Thank God for how He has met you and lovingly disciplined and encouraged you while you have read this book.
- Praise God for the precious truths you learned about His grace to you in Christ.
- Confess the things you have been careless or hard-hearted about.
- Ask God to continue with you in mercy and grace as your heavenly Father, helping you with the areas His Spirit has been addressing.
- *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.*

Monday, February 20

- The office is closed in observance of Family Day

Tuesday, February 21

- 7pm: Lowertown Home Group @ 110 Nelson

Wednesday, February 22

- 7pm: Church on Wednesday @ uOttawa
- 7:30pm: Hintonburg Home Group @ 84 Fairmont

Thursday, February 23

- 7pm: Old Ottawa South Home Group @ 267 Sunnyside

Friday, February 24

- 7pm: Adventure613 (Youth) @ École Ste Anne (235 Beausoleil)

Saturday, February 25

- 4pm: Vestry followed by Potluck Supper

Wednesday, March 1 - Ash Wednesday services

- 10am @ 315 Lisgar St (The Bible House; ground floor)
- 7pm @ UCU uOttawa (The Agora)

Learner's Exchange-don't miss Lynne Leclerc speaking about *The Art of the Narrative* **TODAY @ 9:15am.**

UPDATE: Messiah's Response to the Refugee Crisis:

Thanks to the generosity of many at Messiah, just over \$13,000 has been sent to Grace Church! We have partnered with Grace to raise \$20,000 to help bring a Burundian widow and her 6 children to safety in Canada. **Here's how you can help:**

- Make a cheque, **payable to Grace Presbyterian Church** - clearly noting that it is for the Refugee Fund. You can mail it to Grace Church (1220 Old Tenth Line Rd Ottawa ON K1E 3W7) OR place it in the offering plate at Messiah and it will be forwarded to Grace for you (Please clearly mark the envelope that it is for the Refugee Fund.)
- Give to Grace Presbyterian Church via CanadaHelps (www.canadahelps.org/dn/7750) clearly indicating that it is for the Refugee Fund.

Questions? shirley@messiahchurch.ca

There's still space on The Marriage Preparation Course!

Do you know a couple planning to marry in 2017 or who are thinking about marriage? The 5-week course begins next Sunday, February 26. For info / to register: shirley@messiahchurch.ca