

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

On Baptism: Part 6

Dear Friends,

How is it that some "Bible-believing" Christians believe that the Bible allows the baptism of infants? This is my sixth blog on this question. Today I will introduce some problems for the Baptist position.

First, "household" texts. Paul baptized whole "households" and families. (See Acts 16:15, 33 and 1 Corinthians 1:16) In my first blog in this series I shared how it was reading Acts 16 that began to make me doubt the Baptist position. In the world of the book of Acts it is very unlikely that everyone in the household was over 12 years of age. It is possible, but unlikely. If the "adult-baptism only" position is the only New Testament teaching, you would expect a qualification in the Bible that "all the adults in the household were baptized." The natural way to read these texts is that all members of the household, including young children and infants, are baptized.

Second, "new covenant" texts. I will probably say more about this in another blog but, for now, there are many New Testament texts that refer to Jesus instituting or inaugurating a new covenant. (See Luke 22:20) **All** of the first Christians were Jewish. The primary sign of the covenant with Israel was circumcision administered to babies. This marked them as being in the covenant. Many New and Old Testament texts make clear that a "circumcision of the heart" was also required. But the point is that for the children of Jews, the sign of the covenant was done first in the hope (but without a guarantee) that the belief or faith would develop later. As Jewish Christians, it was natural for them to hear these commands about baptism with "Jewish "ears" as a covenant language and seek to baptize their children.

Third, "you and your children" texts. In light of the above, when the Gospel is proclaimed and adults are urged to respond on Pentecost Peter says, "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off..." This echoes Old Testament covenant language; the proper response being to include your children in the covenant and seek to make the covenant known to the ends of the earth. For a Jewish person this would mean circumcise (now baptize) your child and work for the glory of the New Covenant to be known to the ends of the earth.

It needs to be noted that beyond the record of the New Testament, church history shows that the first hearers of the Gospel followed the practice of having the children of believers baptized. It is a hundred years after the book of Acts that the first questioning of the "usual" practice is raised. The "usual" practice is the baptism of the family of believers. This shows that the Apostles practiced infant baptism and the early readers of the New Testament understood the commands in such a way.

More "problems" for the "adult-baptism only" position arise when we look at texts which touch on what "happens" in baptism and baptism signifies - next week! Please pray for me. George +

EVENTS + ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, May 30

- 7pm: Lowertown Home Group @ 110 Nelson

Wednesday, May 31

- 7:30pm: Hintonburg Home Group @ 84 Fairmont
- 6:30pm: Church in the Park @ Strathcona Park

Thursday, June 1

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

Friday, June 2

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

Saturday, June 3

- 10am: The Big Give

Messiah's Electoral Vestry will be held on Monday, June 19 at 7pm at the Bible House (315 Lisgar St). Everyone is welcome to attend.

We need your help! Messiah will participate in **The Big Give** on Saturday, June 3. Over 80 Ottawa-area churches will be participating in this event where people of faith bless those in the community by giving things for free.

- We will be distributing packed lunches and women's personal hygiene kits to our Lowertown / Byward Market neighbours.
- Volunteers will go out in groups of two or more. They will be provided with cards identifying them as Big Give volunteers. They will have Bibles to give out, too, if appropriate.

We need your help!

- before Saturday, June 3 for shopping **(2-3 people needed)**.
- Friday, June 2 (at The Bible House) to pack lunches and kits. **(4-6 people needed)**.
- Saturday, June 3 between 10am-2pm for distribution **(8-10 people needed)**
- Sign-up at the coffee station TODAY or by contacting the office info@messiahchurch.ca

Can't help in person? We would welcome your financial support. You can give via the offering plate. Please clearly indicate that your donation is to support The Big Give. You can send a donation electronically to the office via PayPal or e-transfer info@messiahchurch.ca

Most importantly, we would welcome your prayer support!

At the invitation of Norm and Audrey Henderson, missionaries Messiah supports, George will teach and minister at the SIM Spiritual Life Conference near Lubango, Angola from July 6-12. Messiah's Council has established the Mission Angola Fund to help George raise the \$5,000+ needed for his trip. You can give via the offering plate clearly indicating that your donation is to support **Mission Angola Fund**. You can send a donation electronically to the office via PayPal or e-transfer info@messiahchurch.ca

Upcoming Events & Announcements

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