

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 1

Dear Friends,

This is the first in a series of blogs that will look at baptism. So, please, give me feedback. Please send me your questions. You can email me at george@messiahchurch.ca

Why am I writing a series of blogs on baptism? That is a good question. It is not because I believe "baptism" is a burning, contentious issue. I am writing because of the many friendly conversations I have had on this topic over the last few years. I decided that the time had come to put this "conversation" down in writing.

By writing about baptism, does that mean I will no longer have friendly conversations about baptism? No. In fact, two things will probably happen. I am liable to have more conversations because I am writing! Hopefully, the conversations will stay friendly. As well, hopefully my thinking for any future conversations will be clearer by writing my thoughts down now and the conversations can be clearer because my conversation partner can check out my thoughts before and/or after our conversation.

I do not know if I will do a good job in writing about baptism. But, I do know there is a lack of short, simple writing that explains why many "Bible-believing" Christians believe the Bible allows the baptism of infants. Please pray that I will write in a friendly and charitable manner. I do not believe that the age of a person, when they are being baptized, is a first-order issue. I believe that baptism is a second-order issue - one in which Christians, in good conscience, can disagree with one another.

For the record, I was baptized by "full immersion" when I was 17 years old. I was baptized after I had given my life to Jesus, asking Him to be my Saviour and Lord.

I grew up in Baptist churches. After my conversion, I only attended churches or fellowship groups that believed in "Believer's baptism"- the belief that baptism is reserved for "adults" who have made a profession of faith in Jesus as their Saviour and Lord. I assumed, without studying the matter, that this view was the biblical and Christian view. People who believed that the Bible allows the baptism of the infants of Christian parents - simply put, thought they believed this because of human tradition and a lack of biblical knowledge.

My thinking began to change in a memorable way. I was teaching the Bible in a home fellowship group when I was in third or fourth year of university. The text was Acts 16, the story of the conversion of the jailer in Philippi. As I am talking and leading people through the text I read, "...and he was baptized at once, he and all his family." (verse 33b) Inwardly I was shaken. The Apostle Paul probably baptized infants! I spent the rest of the teaching time, and the fellowship time afterwards, worried that someone would ask me about this because I did not have a believable, biblical "answer" to the observation that by baptizing a household, Paul had probably baptized infants.

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 Only God can provide the Way to the Tree of Life.
- 2) It is foolish to think that bowing to created things will make me more like God.
- 3) Because I want to elude God, I imagine He is elusive.

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:

Lord Jesus Christ, I praise You that You are the Way, the Truth and the Life, and that no one can come to the Father except through You. I praise You that Your word written teaches me this truth. I praise You for the human beings you used to make me aware of this truth. I praise You for the work of the Holy Spirit which brought this truth to my "command centre" with saving power. Father, please make me a disciple of Jesus, gripped by the Gospel and used by You to bear witness to Your glory and grace - all for Your glory and praise. In Jesus' name. Amen!!

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

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

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

Getting to know me

Are you afraid of snakes? Would you have one as a pet?

Getting into the Bible

Pray that the Lord will bring His word "home" to you as you read and talk and pray together.

- Read Genesis 3: 1-24
- Read Genesis 3: 14-15. Then read Romans 16:20; Revelation 20: 7-10
- Read Genesis 3: 16. Then read Ephesians 5: 21-32
- Read Genesis 3: 17-19. Then read Romans 8: 18-25
- Read Genesis 3: 24. Then read Hebrews 10: 19-25; Revelation 22

Getting real

- Has the Lord convicted you in some way? Do you sense Him prodding you in some way? Can you share this with someone so you can pray about it?

Tuesday, April 25

- 7pm: Lowertown Home Group @ 110 Nelson

Wednesday, April 26

- 7:30pm: Hintonburg Home Group @ 84 Fairmont

Thursday, April 27

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

PLEASE NOTE

Sunday, May 14

- Traditional worship: 7:45am
- Contemporary worship: 9am

There is a performance at the OLT today so we must be out of the theatre and lobby by 12:30.

Messiah Women Games Night. Please join us for an evening of fellowship and games. We'll meet at The Bible House (315 Lisgar St) on Saturday, May 6 at 7:30pm. Please sign up at the coffee station.

Ryle Seminary's June term. Ryle Seminary holds short, intensive courses in January and June. This year Dr Pierre Constant will teach a New Testament course on the Pauline Epistles. This study of the letters of Paul to the various churches at Corinth, Ephesus, Galatia and Rome along with the Pauline pastoral epistles will be held on June 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15 from 10am to 3pm at The Bible House (315 Lisgar St). Interested? info@ryleseminary.ca