

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

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Based on updated financial data (Dec 1), we need \$53,000 + \$15,000 (\$68,000) to balance the books by year end. In our 2016 budget we planned to draw down \$15,000 from savings. If we receive \$68,000 there will be no need to do that. Please pray for discernment.

ARGHHH! NOT CHANGE!

Dear Friends,

A month or so ago I wrote that we are considering some changes to how we "do church" on a Sunday morning. I shared how most of what we do is the same as what we did the first week we held services here. We originally intended to work out better practices - but the rush of getting set-up in a rented space that we cannot access throughout the week means that we tend to do the same set-up every week.

A couple of weeks ago we had some church planters come and look at our set-up with fresh eyes. Like us, they use rented space on Sunday and have to do a complete set-up and take-down every week.

Here are a couple of take-aways we want to implement sooner rather than later.

The first thing they said was that we need to cordon off seats. They were quite definite about cordoning off one-third of our seating. On one hand, people should not be packed in like sardines; but, on the other hand, we can be far too spread out.

Secondly, they thought we needed to figure out a way to get everything on the stage. This would mean the band, the choir, the service leader - everything led from the front should be on stage. They pointed out that the OLT is designed to have people look at the stage. The acoustics are designed around people being on the stage. So is the lighting. Fixing this is more complicated than cordoning off seats, but we want to make this happen as soon as possible. By the way, one nice consequence of this change will be that we can line up along the rail at the bottom of the stage when it is time for holy communion. This is a more "Anglican" way of "doing" communion.

Thirdly, they really liked the OLT's great lobby. They also really liked the main entrance. They pointed out the power of first impressions and that the Besserer St entrance is cramped and unattractive. They recommended we find a way for people entering the worship space to first go through the lobby. They also said we should try to find a way to have more people enter through the front doors - obviously those with mobility issues will always have to use the Besserer St door. We are giving this proposal some thought and will experiment with different options in the new year.

One more - they recommended we have a clear "welcome" spot in the lobby. A welcome spot with a host is best. But an "un-hosted" welcome spot is better than none at all. We have begun to implement this idea at the 10am service today.

Friends, please share your best wisdom with us! Please pray for us as we make these and other changes. Please pray these changes will aid us in welcoming guests, welcoming each other and help us to worship the Lord!
George+

GROWING IN GRACE

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) Lord, please make me brave and help me to deal with my fears.
- 2) Lord, please help me to choose You and Your Word even when my peer group mocks me.
- 3) Lord, please help me to go where You lead and do what You command.

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: Dear Lord, thank You for Your true, gracious and trustworthy Word. Thank You for keeping Your promise to send the Messiah to save me from my sins. Lord, sometimes I am afraid of things within me and around me. I am afraid of what You will ask of me. Please grip me with what You have done for me in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Messiah. Please grip me with the truth that He is with me. Please give me the courage to go where You lead; to do what You say; and to walk with Jesus towards everything I am afraid of and deal with it. Thank You that you desire me to be free and brave as I live for Your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21

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 each other

How often do you remember your dreams when you wake up?

Getting into the Word

Remember to pray for God's help and wisdom as you read His Word!

- 1. Read Matthew 1: 18-25
- 2. Read Matthew 1: 18. Then read Luke 1: 26-38.
- 3. Read Matthew 1: 20. Then read John 1: 1-14.
- 4. Read Matthew 1: 25. Then read Luke 2: 1-21

Getting real

How the Lord convicted you of something as you have read His Word?
Can you share this with others so they can pray about it? What else will you do?

EVENTS + ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

- 10am: Arise Ballet presents "Heaven Everywhere"

Tuesday, December 20

- 1:30pm: Bible House Study Group @315 Lisgar (side door)
- 7pm: Lowertown Home Group @ 110 Nelson

Wednesday, December 21

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

Thursday, December 22

- 7:15pm: Old Ottawa South Home Group @ 267 Sunnyside

Saturday, December 24

- 2pm: Traditional Christmas Eve worship @OLT
- 7pm: Family-friendly Christmas Eve worship @OLT

Sunday, December 25

- 10am: Family-friendly Christmas worship @OLT

Sunday, January 1

- 10am: New Year communion and prayer @OLT

The office will be closed from December 26 - January 9 inclusive. Voicemail will be checked on weekdays.

Learner's Exchange meets Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the side lobby. Join us for a 20 minute talk followed by a Q&A session.
TODAY: Beauty, Arts and Liturgy - Jonathan Camiré

St Joe's Christmas Bin: We invite you to bring new or gently used clothing and non-perishable food items to donate to St Joe's Supper Table. A collection bin will be available at the Besserer door entrance from December 11 - January 1.

Christmas Remembrance: If you would like the name of loved ones who have passed away added to our Christmas Remembrance List, please contact the office by December 20.

2017 offering envelopes are available on the Besserer side of the stage. If you'd like a set of envelopes, please contact the office: info@messiahchurch.ca

Financial gifts must be postmarked by December 31 in order to be included in 2016 givings. Check out how to give under *Financial Information* in the bulletin.