

# **CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH**

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Annual Report, January 28, 2018



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## 1 ~ **RECTOR'S REPORT**

Annual meetings do more than just satisfy canonical or state law requirements regarding the functioning of religious organizations. They are also more than an opportunity to elect new lay leadership within the congregation. And finally, they are not only reports concerning the key organizations and the financial operation of the parish. I believe annual meetings are a wonderful opportunity to reflect on where we have been and where we are going as a community of faith. It is a time to remind ourselves how important it is to be intentional in all we do here at Messiah. This has been a busy year at Messiah, as we have continued our fundraising and planning for the critical restoration work of the church. But we have done much in ministry and programming and it is important to mark and acknowledge all that we have accomplished at Messiah in the past year and what our plans and dreams are for the future.

Once again, I thank all of our members for their continued dedication to our various programs and activities. Most of all I wish to thank the work of the vestry. Your wardens and vestry members have been thoughtful and committed to serving God here in this place. I wish to thank our wardens, Leanora Kovacs and Ed Goff, for their dedication and hard work in our shared leadership of this congregation. They have both been very "hands on", in their approach while maintaining a commitment to visionary and thoughtful leadership. I could not do what I do without them. The vestry too has been extraordinary in their commitment to Messiah and its future. I also want to acknowledge the continued work of our treasurer, Francois Weigel, who has been extraordinary in his vocation as steward of the financial life of the parish. This has been especially since the launch of our capital campaign and Francois has been tireless in his work as treasurer of the campaign. I could go on to thank so many of you by name, but part of the strength of Messiah is the reality that we have a large number of people who are very active in the leadership of the parish. Our health and growth as a congregation is due to all of you.

In 2017 under the leadership of Ed Goff, the stewardship committee conducted its campaign to ask for your continued support. Each year our pledged income has increased and that is due to your generosity and commitment to Messiah. Our goal remains to grow the pledge base of the parish, thereby allowing our endowment to grow. I want to thank all of you for your continued support both financially as well as your gifts of time and talent.

In another area of our ministry it is important to acknowledge the work and dedication of our staff. Timothy Lewis, organist and choir director, has overseen the growth of our choir and the expansion of the ministry of music in our liturgy. Tim's detailed report follows, and his dedication and leadership has resulted in Messiah being known for its superb music.

There were two significant staff changes in 2017. Kerry Russell left the position as parish administrator to take a wonderful job working for the county. We were extremely fortunate to have hired Nicole Close as the parish administrator, who has been an amazing addition to our staff. Her calm willingness to manage the many facets of the parish office has been extraordinary. Working with Francois, Nicole tracks our financial reports, as well as all the other duties as parish administrator. She in managing the new website and has proven to be an invaluable support.

In May we hired a new family ministry coordinator, Gilda Lyons, who has brought her considerable experience and creativity to her ministry. Gilda oversaw our very successful Summer Youth Program and has done a great job working with our dedicated church school teachers, in continuing the excellence of this important program. We are very grateful to have her on our staff.

In addition our sextons, Peter and T Thai have carried out the duties of cleaning our buildings and we are grateful to them for their work. I am profoundly grateful to all of our staff for their dedication and hard work.

I want to also express how grateful Tim and I are for the incredible generosity of the parish in gifts that were made in honor of our wedding in June. \$10,000 was raised to support our music program here at Messiah, and the outpouring of support and love for both of us is deeply moving.

I will close this report by simply saying that it continues to be a joy and privilege to be your priest and together I pray we will do even more to make God's Kingdom known here in this place. Please continue to keep myself, the wardens and vestry in your prayers as we begin a new and exciting year here at Messiah.

Yours in faith,  
Fr. Richard McKeon

## **2 ~ CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

In 2016 Messiah began an historic and important process in our life together and a critical step in ensuring that those who follow in our footsteps will be unencumbered by the challenges we now face regarding our church building. After many months of investigation, detailed inspections and physical analyses, and thoughtful discernment we determined to embark upon the first comprehensive capital campaign in the history of the Church of the Messiah.

To guide us in this effort, we engaged the firm of James D. Klote & Associates, Inc. Ray Sim was the Klote consultant who joined with our church and was with us, day-to-day, throughout the first three months of the process. As architect for the restoration we hired the firm of Kraeher Associates under the leadership of Rolando Kraeher. His firm has been extraordinary in their ability to analyze and diagnose the problems we face in the church. Rolando's firm is currently preparing the extensive construction documents that will be necessary as we approach the actual restoration work in 2019.

In 2017 we continued the parish based fundraising and I thank all of you for your generosity and support of this vital work. We have raised \$1,809,000 to date from 115 members. In the fall of 2017 we opened the next phase of the campaign to a wider community as well as engaging a grant writing consultant, Choice Words, to guide us through the process of applying for numerous grants to support the campaign.

We are very optimistic in being able to raise a significant amount of funding through federal, state, local, private, and diocesan grants. This will be the focus of our efforts in 2018. Having accomplished so much in our parish fundraising, and having accomplished so much of the analysis and planning for the restoration work, we are in a very strong position to apply for a wide variety of grants. We will communicate our progress to you all as the year continues.

The capital campaign has been a deeply moving experience for me as your priest. I have witnessed the overwhelming generosity and commitment you all have for this place and its presence and ministry in our community. We are well on our way thanks to all of you, and we will continue our work to ensure that Messiah is here for many generations to come.

We ask for your prayers as we continue this important work together. May God's grace guide us in all we do.

*Gracious God, we thank and praise you for the many ways you have richly inspired, blessed and guided us since we began as a congregation. We believe we have been called as part of your church on earth to invite others into a deeper relationship with you. May we fulfill our calling with generous hearts, graciously giving back the gifts that you have bestowed upon us through your mercy. Be with us now as we conduct this capital campaign so that generations to come may continue to invite others, find peace, and follow you in compassionate service. In Your Holy name we pray. Amen*

Fr. Richard

**3 ~ PAROCHIAL STATISTICS 2017**

Baptisms 5

Weddings 4

Funerals 9

Private Communion or anointing of the sick 197

New Members 19

Membership Lost 8

4 ~ **2017 FINANCIAL REPORT**

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH  
2018 BUDGET

<b><i>INCOME</i></b>		<b>BUDGET</b>
Plate & Pledges		\$283,800
Property Rentals		\$54,400
Other Income		\$27,900
Total Income		\$366,100
<b><i>EXPENSES</i></b>		
Assessment		\$27,700
Staff		\$266,500
Property Expense		\$44,000
	Less Rentals	-\$12,800
Total Property Expense		\$31,200
Insurance		\$33,600
Office		\$15,800
Christian Education & Music		\$26,600
Other		\$12,000
<b><i>TOTAL EXPENSES</i></b>		<b>\$413,400</b>
<b><i>NET - INCOME LESS EXPENSES</i></b>		<b>-\$47,300</b>

**FUND BALANCES DECEMBER 2017**

Investments	\$1,159,700
Endowment	\$803,700
Property Reserve	\$70,500



**5 ~ STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

Thank you for your generous support of the Church of the Messiah over the last year. This past years total pledge and plate receipts were \$278,185. This represents an increase in giving over last year, and is especially remarkable given the ongoing support of the parish for the capital campaign. Your commitment and generosity to Messiah are greatly appreciated and have placed our Church on a more solid financial foundation. It is only with the help of everyone that Messiah can continue to thrive and grow. The reason Messiah is such a vibrant Church is due to the active involvement of all members.

We have been given a beautiful gift here at Messiah. We have a magnificent church with its inspiring stained glass windows and world class Skinner organ. We also have a strong community of faith, of people united in commitment to God, their community and to one another. Your pledge shows your commitment to Messiah, and to preserving and enhancing this gift for future generations to enjoy.

Our pledges show that we all want Messiah to be here for many more years. Thank you for your commitment to Messiah.

**6 ~ YOUTH MINISTRY AND CHURCH SCHOOL REPORT**

As the new Director of Family Programs, I've now been part of the Messiah team through the 2017 summer program and through one full half year of church school. It has been a joyful transitional year.

Messiah's Summer Kids' Week: I dwell in possibility... a celebration of creativity enjoyed a healthy enrollment of over twenty children, plus youth and adult volunteers, and focused each day on creative projects that explored spirituality while inviting spontaneous response.

Our church school has also balanced the mindful celebration of tradition with the exploration of creativity; a complete overview of events, projects, and topics of discussion is included, below. One specific addition to our family services: we've begun offering a special bulletin designed specifically for the children, which follows the same format as the regular bulletin but which adapts content to speak to the kids directly, inviting them to respond through written word and artwork.

I look forward to charging ahead into this new year with Messiah.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gilda Lyons

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH  
Family Program, summer & fall 2017

June 1	GL begins as new director of family programs
June 4	Church School families meet with GL
June 11	End of Church-School Year Party
July	Family Programs office open in preparation for Summer Kids' Week and ongoing church school programs
August 14-18	Messiah's Summer Kids Week: I dwell in possibility... a celebration of creativity (see the attached summer-camp schedule)
September 24	First Day of Church School — Welcome & Registration
October 1	Family Service — We celebrate Saint Francis; kids decorate the altar with colorful leaves, branches, and beautiful natural things
October 8	Church School — Church School Project, Saint Francis We decorate and fill treat bags for the animals to be blessed
October 15	Church School — We discuss saints & heroes of the Hudson Valley
October 22	Church School — We begin paintings of the saints—from history, our culture, and our own lives—whom we want to celebrate
October 29	Church School — Paintings are finished; kids are interviewed about the saints they've celebrated

- November 5      Family Service — All Saints / Kids invited to wear costumes  
A sound piece created entirely from interviews with our church  
school kids is shared with the congregation. All Saints  
paintings are displayed
- November 12     Church School — Church School Project, Veteran’s Day  
In service of Messiah’s Food Pantry / bringing cheer by  
decorating bags and then filling them with food
- November 19     Church School — A Thanksgiving tree; each leaf describes  
something for which we are thankful. Extra leaves to be filled-  
in and added by family and friends at our Thanksgiving meals
- November 26     Church School — Church School Project, Thanksgiving  
Writing our thanks to dear ones for the specific ways they’ve  
made us feel safe and happy
- December 3      Kids’ Costuming & Prep for Pageant during Church School  
time
- December 9      Saturday Christmas Pageant rehearsal
- December 10     Family Service — Christmas Pageant
- December 17     Church School — Christmas Party and family gift projects

Messiah's Summer Kids' Week 2017  
*I dwell in Possibility...*

Monday through Thursday / at [Messiah](#)

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
<b>9:00-9:15</b>	Welcome	Welcome	Welcome	Welcome
<b>9:15-9:30</b>	Music & Sound	Music & Sound	Music & Sound	Music & Sound
<b>9:30-10:00</b>	Creation Story: <b>Judeo-Christian Creation</b>	Creation Story: <b>Iroquois Creation</b>	Creation Story: <b>Hindu Creation</b>	Creation Story: <b>Maya Creation</b>
<b>10:00-10:40</b>	Creation Story Activity: <b>Origami butterflies</b>	Creation Story Activity: <b>Earth &amp; Sand Craft</b>	Creation Story Activity: <b>What does your garden sound like?</b>	Creation Story Activity: <b>Feathered Spirit Craft</b>
<b>10:40-11:00</b>	Creation Painting Project <b>Day/Night</b> <b>Water/Land</b>	Creation Painting Project <b>Sun/Moon</b> <b>Stars/Clouds</b>	Creation Painting Project <b>Plants/Trees</b> <b>Seaweed/Reefs</b>	Creation Painting Project <b>Animals/Friends</b> <b>Sea Creatures/Friends</b>
<b>11:00-11:15</b>	Snack time	Snack time	Snack time	Snack time
<b>11:15-12:00</b>	Outside Games / Indoor Crafts	Outside Games / Indoor Crafts	Outside Games / Indoor Crafts	Outside Games / Indoor Crafts
<b>12:00</b>	Pickup	Pickup	Pickup	Pickup

**Messiah's Summer Kids' Week 2017**  
*I dwell in Possibility...*

**Friday / at Linwood**

9:00-9:30	Linwood Welcome
9:30-9:45	Music & Sound
9:45-10:15	Creation Story: The Big Bang Creation
10:15-11:00	Big Bang Creation Craft
11:00-12:00	Picnic and Play
12:00	Pickup

## 7 ~ MESSIAH MUSIC REPORT

My thanks to the members of the Church of the Messiah for your tremendous support of our music program. I continue to be deeply moved by your enthusiasm, and inspired by the commitment which you, as a congregation, bring to the many and varied ministries at Messiah.

This past year was one of celebration for our parish choirs. It was a delight to welcome additional singers to our ensembles, and watch our numbers expand to the point where the choir was seated on both sides of the chancel. The scope of music offered at our Sunday liturgies increased substantially. Our Youth Choir was a consistent presence at our monthly family service, and made tremendous strides in terms of its musical ability.

Highlights of the year included our choir, and guests from the congregation, again overflowing the choir stalls to sing the Hallelujah Chorus on Easter Sunday; a second outing for the stunning Christmas pageant created by Mary Krembs; and a well-received Lessons and Carols on December 17. Christmas Eve was truly special with a newly composed carol by Gilda Lyons, and offerings by our choir section leaders at the 5:00 p.m. service. At 10:00 p.m., our choir turned out in force to contribute several beautiful anthems accompanied by harp and trumpet.

For 2018, we look forward to Evensong offered by the combined choirs of the Church of the Messiah and Christ's Church, Rye, on the afternoon of February 25. Several recitals, and a concert by choir members and friends, are planned for later in the year.

Our first group choir section leaders, Elizabeth Malanga, Katherine Maysek, Chris Sokolowski and Nathaniel Sullivan graduated and began pursuing other projects at the end of our choir season in June. It was difficult to see them go, but I know that they will all be returning to Messiah from time to time. In September, we welcomed Katherine Rossiter, Chloe Schaaf, Eric Carey and Luke MacMillan as our most able choral scholars.

I'm more than grateful for the joy and commitment which all of our singers and their families bring to the well-being of music at Messiah. I could not ask for a more inspiring group of colleagues.

I would encourage parishioners of all ages to participate in the ministry of music at Messiah. Know that you are welcome to sit with the choir for a Sunday morning service, or attend a rehearsal (also on Sunday) to get a better sense of the work that our choirs do.

I so appreciate the gifts of time and talent which our choir members share so freely each Sunday, and the supportive environment in which we offer music.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Timothy Lewis  
Director of Music

## 8 ~ **COMMUNICATION REPORT**

During the past year we continued to build a network of communications that has served the parish well. In cases of pastoral announcements we are able to ask the prayers of the congregation as well as keeping one another apprised of our needs and situations. We have focused the parish office as the central link in communications and will continue to do so. If parishioners are without internet access we strongly urge them to partner with someone who has internet access so they can be kept up to date on developments within the parish. The weekly bulletin will also continue to be a printed source of information. If you wish to be added to that list you can register yourself through our website or by contacting the parish office.

A major step forward has been the launch of our newly designed website in 2017. We owe a tremendous thank you to Joe Rauen who chaired the committee which oversaw the design and content of the website. The committee members were Pamela Wright, Meagan Devlin O'Sullivan, Stephen Frost, and Fr. Richard. We



hope to continue to expand our digital ministry here at Messiah, with an expansion of the photographs as well as audio recordings and video of our life together. We plan on publishing a parish directory in 2018 which we hope will be linked to our website. A note of thanks is due to the late Rocco Bueti for his beautiful photographs and video of our services. We are also grateful to Chloe Annetts who designed the website.

## **9 ~ ACOLYTE, LECTORS, CHALICE BEARERS AND PASTORAL CARE**

### **Acolyte Report**

Linda Robinson has continued the mentoring of our acolytes, guiding them through the service and supporting them in fulfilling their service responsibilities. Mary Krembs continues to manage scheduling to ensure the acolyte commitment fits into the busy lives of the parent/youth participants.

As of January 2018 there are 13 actively participating youth in the program, which allows us to schedule each (on average) once a month. Parents send in their list of dates when their child(ren) are *unable* to serve and a schedule (over 3 to 6 months) is made accordingly.

We are actively recruiting and want all parents and youth to know they are welcome to participate at whatever level of commitment they can manage. The program is open from age 6 on up. Any interested parent/youth should contact Linda or Mary for more information.

Looking forward, we are working to develop more mentoring between the older and younger acolytes. Linda will be working closely with the older acolytes to include them in developing such.

We have a few adult servers also, but could use a few more. We would like to ensure that all Messiah's youth are occasionally able to gather for a special Church School event, but cannot do so without adults to cover the service. If you are an adult willing to serve at the altar once or twice a year, please speak with Fr. Richard.

We thank you all for your support of the program and look forward to 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Krembs

**Lectors / Chalice Bearers Report**

We currently have 12 lay readers and 6 chalice bearers who serve at our 10 am service, and 5 lay readers and 5 chalice bearers who serve at our 8 am service.

If anyone wants to join in this ministry it takes so little time and is so very rewarding. If anyone is interested please contact Fr. Richard or the parish office and we would be more than willing to talk with you about it. Both adults and older children are more than welcome.

**Pastoral Care Report**

Father Richard makes pastoral care visits to those parishioners who are hospitalized, homebound, in nursing homes or in need of extra support during the week. The sacrament is also taken out to those of the parish that desire it or those who could not attend services during the week because of illness. If you would like a pastoral care visit, are in the hospital or desire the sacrament brought to you please call the office at 876-3533 or Father Richard directly. His cell phone is on the office answering machine.

Respectfully Submitted,  
The Parish Office

## **10 ~ ALTAR GUILD REPORT**

The Altar Guild is dedicated to the maintenance of the altar and sanctuary area. Our work is to keep the fabric of this part of the building and the sacred vessels/ornaments used in worships clean and well cared for. We serve under the guidance and leadership of Father Richard.

Our member prepare the altar for the weekly service and any special event according to the liturgical calendar and or guide. Father Richard, not only taking care of the altar flower arrangements, has taken the task of decorating the church throughout the year. We extend our sincere thanks to all the volunteers who contributed their talents and times along the side of Father Richard.

As in the past we welcome anyone interested in becoming a member of this ministry. Please contact Nicole Close, Parish Administrator or Father Richard.

## **11 ~ USHERS**

Two people are scheduled to usher at each Sunday service. The ushers' primary responsibilities are to welcome people and to help the church service run smoothly. This includes handing out programs, collecting the offertory and straightening up the pew areas after the service. In addition, at the 10AM service, the ushers ask people from the congregation to bring up the gifts for the Eucharist and the ushers also help maintain an orderly flow of people going to the altar rail. The ushers' task is not difficult but it is an important function at each service. We always need people to usher. Please consider helping in this way. If you have any questions, please call the parish office at 845-876-3533

Respectfully Submitted,  
The Parish Office

**12 ~ EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW) REPORT**

The purpose of this Association is to unite women of the Diocese of New York in a program of worship, study, service, gifts and fellowship which will deepen and strengthen their own spiritual lives and lead them into service as the Church in the parish, the community, the diocese, the nation and the world.

<b>ECW 2017 Report</b>	
Savings Acc. As of 1/1/17	\$7016.61
Deposits	
Flea Markets	\$3335.30
Con Edison Dividend	\$328.00
Interest	\$3.91
Total Deposits	\$3667.21
Debits	
Transferred to Checking for Disc. Fund	\$ 1000.00
Transferred to Checking	\$ 750.00
Transferred to Checking for Choir robes	\$2000.00
Total Debits	\$3750.00
Savings Balance as of 12/31/17	\$6933.82
Deposits to Checking	
Checking Balance as of 1/1/17	\$211.78
Transferred from savings account	\$3750.00
Total	\$3961.78
Debits to Checking	
Choir Robes	\$2000.00
Discretionary Fund	\$1000.00
Cleaning Fee	\$295.00
Overdraft	\$92.74
Kitchen, Food Pantry, Flea Market Supplies	\$453.90
Total Debts	\$3841.64
Checking Balance as of 1/1/18	\$120.14

### **13 ~ MAD DASH REPORT**

Once again the Mad Dash Race was held on Labor Day with over 200 participants and a host of volunteers from Messiah. A net total of \$5,992.51 was raised. As it has been challenging to find parishioners willing to take on the tremendous amount of work involved in overseeing the Mad Dash race, the vestry made the decision to hire a consultant to run the race for us.

Moving forward it is difficult to acknowledge how difficult it is for Messiah to sponsor this event. We hope to be able to hand the Mad Dash off to a community organization so that the tradition continues.

Ending projects is never easy, especially one that has enjoyed a 30 year relationship with our parish, but we also need to acknowledge the difficulty we face in running the event so that it is both successful and safe for all the participants.

We will update the parish if we are able to successfully hand the Mad Dash off to another organization.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Father Richard McKeon

### **14 ~ MESSIAH CONNECTIONS REPORT**

This ministry serves to maintain contact and support people who have been recently hospitalized, or are ill or homebound. It is a ministry of writing notes and keeping in touch with a significant number of parishioners over the course of the year, and it means a great deal to them. If interested in helping with this ministry please contact Meredith Hovey at 845-554-8590.

**15 ~ ARTS AT MESSIAH REPORT**

Messiah has supported the arts in a variety of exciting and innovative ways in the past year. We have continued our long standing relationship with the Rhinebeck Chamber Music program, which we are very proud to host.

In addition, we have made the parish hall available to artists in our parish for exhibition of their work and we are fortunate to have so many talented artists in our congregation.

Finally, we have continued the ministry of the liturgical arts committee, which hopes to oversee an installation of an art project in 2018.

**16 ~ OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Outreach Funds 2017**

Balance in account as of 1/1/17 \$24,807.59

**INFLOW**

Mad Dash 2017 Income \$12,843.00

**OUTFLOW**

Mad Dash 2017 Expenses \$6,850.49

**NET PROFIT FROM MAD  
DASH 2017**

\$5,992.51

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Amount awarded</b>	<b>Dispersements</b>	<b>Grant Balance</b>
Storybook/Waiting Room Project	\$1,600.00	\$1,314.64	\$285.36
Nicaragua	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Cuddleblanket	\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00
Inmate Education	\$700.00	\$100.63	\$599.37
Third Thursday	\$3,500.00		\$3,500.00
Violet Avenue	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
Immigration Workshop		\$936.04	
ESL		\$179.76	
Rural Migrant Ministries		\$2,000.00	

Total Disbursements \$4,831.07

Unspent Grant Funds \$7,384.73

Total Balance of Outreach Account \$21,055.03

**Funds Donated by Parishioners for Other Outreach Needs**

Hurricane Harvey and Maria Relief	\$6,614
Houston	\$1,700
Puerto Rico	\$3,500
Sister City	\$1,540
Rural Migrant Ministries and Violet Ave School Supplies	\$760

**Other Activities**

Rural Migrant Ministry back-to-school supplies  
 Food pantry coat drive    Provided over 190 coats and jackets  
 Rural Migrant Ministries Christmas gifts  
 Mitten Tree: hats, scarves, mittens for Violet Ave School and Rural Migrant Ministries

**A. Third Thursday Report**

Third Thursday Luncheon begins its season in October of the current year and continues through May of the following year. In 2017, the Third Thursday Luncheon requested \$3500 from the Outreach Committee. Because of their generous funding, all proceeds from the lunch are donated to that month's designated beneficiary. Luncheons started in October, 2017 through January, 2018. The expenses total \$1175.80. The four recipients and the donation made are Grace Smith House, \$704.00, Jayne Brooks Food Pantry, \$750.00, Dutchess County SPCA, \$816.00 and the River Haven Shelter for Homeless and Runaway Teens, \$920.00. The total contributions for Third Thursday to date is \$3,190. There is an available balance of \$2,624.03. Donations to the designated beneficiary include direct cash or checks contributed to the beneficiary.

We have 22 regular volunteers with additional volunteers every month. Approximately 25% of the volunteers are not members of the congregation. We welcome all comers!



2017 - 2018 DESIGNATED RECIPIENTS:

October	Grace Smith House	\$704.00
November	Jayne Brooks Food Pantry	\$750.00
December	Dutchess County SPCA	\$816.00
January	River Haven Runaway & Homeless Youth Shelter	\$920.00
February	Lunchbox	
TOTAL		\$3190.00

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kris Perry

**B. Jayne Brooks Memorial Food Pantry Report**

The final months of the year are always our busiest: 2017 was no exception. We had over 700 household visits in September through December alone, with total visits of over 1830 for the year. By the end of 2017 we had 280 registered households and had served an average of 35-40 households a week. Throughout the year we provided food for over 37,500 meals, including over 7,050 meals for seniors and 7,070 meals for children. As based on delivery numbers, we can estimate that we gave out over 90,000 pounds of food.

For the Thanksgiving and December holidays we offered grocery gift cards, hams and a variety of other holiday food items, along with holiday books for children. In addition, our church school decorated and filled special Thanksgiving food bags for our client families. The annual coat give-away began in November, with about 150 coats donated by Dutchess Outreach and another 40 from members of the community.

With book grants and special donations we are consistently able to offer books for children, along with food items we always select with child nutrition in mind. At summer's end we also provide our families with school supplies geared to appropriate grade levels. Moreover, in cooperation with other Parish programs, we are building a relationship with

the Violet Ave. Elementary School in Hyde Park. That relationship allows us to reach out to families at the southern edge of our catchment area, from which residents may find it hard to travel to our pantry site. By working with the school we can help to provide school supplies and warm clothes, along with nutritious “backpack food” for children who need food during the weekends and vacations, when school meals are unavailable. This winter many of the scarves and mittens from the Parish “Mitten Tree” went to Violet Ave., with some added warm socks, plenty of backpack food, and additional school supplies.

One of the most gratifying features of the pantry is the spirit of hospitality and cooperation that is shared by all participants, clients and volunteers alike. Some of our clients have become faithful volunteers, while others arrive early to help set up tables or just have a cup of coffee. Some have also formed friendships when visiting our pantry and now help each other out during times of difficulty, or just enjoy each other’s company. We have become a real community.

Looking ahead, we would hope that any additional funding or grants would enable us to expand our services to communities south of Rhinebeck, which include some of the poorest areas in Dutchess County. As the economy improves the number of our clients coming from Rhinebeck itself has dropped, but the number from areas to our south has been steadily rising despite the greater distances those clients must travel. Our catchment area encompasses the whole Hyde Park School District, which includes parts of northern Poughkeepsie: We now have only 65 client households living in Rhinebeck but 140 coming to us from communities to the south. (Others are residents of Red Hook or other some other surrounding neighborhood.) We have had conversations about starting a pantry site in Hyde Park, perhaps with the cooperation of the Violet Ave. School, but we are uncertain whether an additional site is a realistic possibility.

Respectfully Submitted,  
The Steering Committee of the Food Pantry

Budget Summary 2017

INCOME

General Community Donations	\$8,208.60
Grants	\$8,581.34
Parishioner Donations	\$2,660.00
Total	\$19,449.94

EXPENSES

Food and monthly truck rental	\$26,286.28
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We also received a \$6,800 grant (in the form of purchase credits) from the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley. That grant allowed us to order some of our food at no expense. We were able to cover the difference between Income and Expenses with a surplus from prior years.

**C. MH Larreynaga Sister City Project 2017:**

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, we held a brunch to thank all the past and present supporters and to provide information about this project. During the brunch the youth group and church school students made centerpieces for a live auction and all proceeds went to benefit Sister City.

Once again I would like to thank the Church of the Messiah and everyone for their past and present support and look forward to another successful year 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Vicki Rivera

**D. CROP Walk**

The Crop Hunger Walk took place on October 29, 2017. This year our walk turned out to be a “spirit walk”. In light of the predicted high winds and heavy rainfall the committee decided that for the safety of the walkers it would be our responsibility to simply let the fundraising efforts represent the commitment to the cause.

The walk raises awareness and money to help fight hunger globally and locally with 25% of the money helping families in the Red Hook, Tivoli and Rhinebeck communities. A total of \$6,552.00 was raised.

Rhinebeck Reformed	\$2,380
Church of the Messiah	\$1,565
St. John’s Reformed	\$1,403
St. Paul’s & Trinity Parish	\$874
St. Christopher’s	\$330
	<b>\$6,552</b>

If you’d like to be part of the committee, please let the church office know. We welcome your ideas and input.

Thank you to all who supported this outreach!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laurie Craft

**E. English As A Second Language (ESL) Report**

Since February 2006 this year-round ministry has been shared with St. Margaret’s Parish. Classes are taught on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 7 – 9 in the Parish Hall. Class structure varies depending on the students’ needs and the number of tutors available. Class size is usually around 8 adults and 8 children, from a pool of 25 to 30 students who might attend any given class. At this time all students are Spanish speaking, but

over the years we have taught students from many places including China, Colombia, El Salvador, South Korea, Latvia, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Burkino Faso, Sierra Leone and Vietnam. Students' needs range from learning basic English skills to more advanced skills to preparing for Citizenship Tests. The summer program includes classes once a week and an outing once a week. The "field trips" maintain the theme of exploring the Hudson Valley and enjoying its beauty. Often the attendance is in the 20's and higher! Our goal is to provide a supportive community while helping students learn and improve English skills. Some students are as new as June 2017 and some students have stayed with the program since it began in February 2006.

Tutors include Erica Gratzel and Liz Schembri from Messiah, Sue Moshier and Cathy McNary from St. Margaret's, Cynthia Nelson, Pat Reilly, Carl Parris and Sebastian Pellitteri from the Rhinebeck community. In addition this year we have benefited from support from local community groups including College Connect and the Rhinebeck High School Spanish Club as well as individuals from the community.

In January 2017 under the guidance and leadership of Betty Mensch and Nancy Richards from the Outreach Committee of Church of the Messiah, we put into place resources for advocacy for the students and the wider immigrant community in our area. This culminated in a workshop presented on October 15, 2017 which included a complete bilingual guide to the resources available for undocumented immigrants and a consultation with an immigration lawyer. Approximately 40 people attended the successful workshop. We would like to make the information available to other communities in our area. The cost of the workshop was \$1000 and the annual expenses are approximately \$500. Both expenses are covered by grant from the Outreach Committee at Church of the Messiah.

In the future, additional grant money would allow us to expand the circulation of our resource book as well as presenting workshops detailing resources available to the immigrant community. We are also interested in beginning an emergency program for legal advice as the need arises.

We continue to be thankful for Messiah's generosity of space, financial

support, and kindness in every way. If you are interested in hearing more about this program, speak to Liz Schembri (889-8437; 242-1199).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Liz Schembri

**F. Linda A. Karr Cuddle Blanket Group**

In 2017, 130 quilts were given to the Children at Ramapo during three give-a-ways.

A group of women from the Lutheran Church have been making quilts and kindly donating them to our group for the Ramapo Camp.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dorothy Craft

**G. Rector's Discretionary Account**

At Messiah the urgent needs of individuals in the parish, or in the wider community, or charitable organizations are funded by the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Contributions to the Discretionary Fund are made individually or by the undesignated cash in the collection of the first Sunday each month. Approximately \$8,000 was collected this year and was given for such needs as fuel in winter, initial therapy costs, and unreimbursed medical costs.