

# **CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH**

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Annual Report, February 3, 2019



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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.

I wish to especially acknowledge the ministry of our senior warden, Leanora Kovacs, as her term as warden ends with the annual meeting. Leanora has been visionary and prophetic in her leadership as well as being tireless in her commitment and work on behalf of this parish.

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 extraordinary 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 September of 2018 we welcomed an addition to our ordained staff here at Messiah, The Reverend Steve Schunk who was ordained a priest this past year and is with us as a non-stipendiary priest associate. Fr. Steve has been a tremendous help on the Sundays he is here and has become an important part of the Thursday morning breakfast, communion service and prayer and meditation group that follows. Fr. Steve has also assisted in visiting the sick and we are deeply grateful for his presence at Messiah.

In 2018 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. The increases we have seen in pledges and contributions to Messiah reflect the growth that we continue to experience as a congregation and is a vital sign of our health and stability.

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 and is a major factor in attracting and keeping new members.

We continue to be extremely fortunate to have 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 is managing the new website and has proven to be an invaluable support.

Our family ministry coordinator, Gilda Lyons, has been a joy to work with and brings her wide 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. Under her leadership our church school is growing and we are very proud of all that she has accomplished. Her report follows under a separate heading.

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.

One other sign of the stability and health of our parish is the multiplicity of programs that exist. In 2018 there were many opportunities for study, with a weekday group looking at the letters of St. Paul, a Sunday forum series on T.S. Eliot's the Four Quartets, and a confirmation class that culminated in Bishop Andy Dietsche being with us for confirmation and reception of 12 adults and one young person in September. In 2019 we have expanded our opportunities for study and reflection by beginning a monthly group to examine the spiritual implications of retirement and a quarterly group to study liturgical language in relation to sexism and gender equality.

In 2018 we began an exciting program of a weekly contemplative prayer and meditation, led by Julie Zito. This has been a wonderful addition to the spiritual life of the parish and we are very grateful to Julie for her leadership in bringing this group together.

Finally in 2018 we continued our witness to social justice in our community, with a hugely attended prayer service and vigil for justice for separated immigrant families last June. Every inch of space in the church was taken up by people wanting the church to be a voice of prophetic advocacy. I was reminded how important it is for Messiah to be a moral compass pointing to the call to justice that is central to the ministry of Jesus and holy scripture. It was a moment to be proud and grateful for our ministry together.

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 has prepared the extensive construction documents that will be necessary as we approach the actual restoration work in 2019. We have begun the bidding process for the work and hope to begin actual construction late in the spring. Once bids have been submitted, the Vestry in consultation with the Building Committee and our architect, we will then determine the scope of the work that we will undertake, and we remain committed to ensuring the integrity of the building envelope as well as making the church safe and accessible. We will be worshipping in the parish hall during construction and will probably be out of the church up to 18 months.

As of the end of 2018 we have 115 pledges totaling \$1,838,964. We hope that a few more pledges will be forthcoming and that new members who join may be in the position to support the capital campaign as well. Also in 2018 we made applications for several grants which resulted in generous commitments from the Frost Foundation, The New York Landmarks Conservancy and the J.M. McDonald Foundation totaling \$132,000. We are currently applying for a grant from the Diocese of New York to support the restoration work and will probably resubmit an application to New York State for a large grant, this summer.

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 2018**

Baptisms 7

Weddings 3

Funerals 11

Private Communion or anointing of the sick 208

New Members 32

Membership Lost 6

4 ~ **2018 FINANCIAL REPORT**

<b>CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH 2019 BUDGET</b>	
<b>INCOME</b>	
Plate & Pledges	\$294,900
Property Rentals	\$51,000
Other Income	\$2,000
Income from Endowment	\$26,700
Income from Investments	\$43,800
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$418,400</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Assessment	\$40,400
Outreach from Operating Budget	\$500
Staff	\$278,500
Property Expense	\$38,900
Less Rentals	-\$16,100
<b>Total Property Expense</b>	<b>\$22,800</b>
Insurance	\$34,000
Office	\$14,800
Christian Education & Music	\$21,000
Other	\$12,600
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$424,600</b>
<b>NET - INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>-\$6,200</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES DECEMBER 2018</b>	
Investments	\$1,158,300
Endowment	\$839,000
Property Reserve	\$62,600
Capital Campaign	\$750,800

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 \$285,790. 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

In 2018, Messiah's Family Programs continued to balance the mindful celebration of tradition with the exploration of creativity and expression. Our Church School, which runs from September to June, has continued to thrive, with new students joining throughout the year; our Church School group has expanded substantially and currently includes students from Rhinebeck, Red Hook, Tivoli, and Millbrook. Our Christmas Pageant, which was an original adaptation of the Christmas Story shaped by our kids throughout the fall, was performed by a joyful mix of long-time members and students very new to the parish, reflecting the same happy mix that currently comprises our Sunday classes.

Throughout 2018, our Family Programs:

—Led service projects in support of Messiah's English as a Second Language group, Jane Brooks Food Pantry, Sister Cities Program, and Messiah Connections.

—Observed through written and craft/art projects the major markers on the church calendar, including Saint Francis' Feast Day, All Saints Day, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost; as well as several major secular holidays, including Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Valentine's Day, Earth Day, and Mother's Day.

—Welcomed Bishop Andy and his wife Margaret, with whom our students met in person presenting to them a poster-card made by our class.

—Offered a monthly Family Service, where children attended church with their families, engaging with Father Richard directly during the homily to share their thoughts and work with the congregation. For each Family Service, a Kids' Bulletin was prepared and distributed with markers and drawing boards; these Kids' Bulletins (which we continue to offer) follow the service while adapting contents for young readers, using inclusive language and inviting response through words and art.

Also in 2018, we began inviting a different student each month to design the cover of the parish bulletin; we have had a beautiful stream of covers created specifically for Messiah's Family Services.

In summer of 2018, our program successfully completed its second Summer Kids' Week, studying *Sacred Creatures & Mystical Beasts* from around the world and throughout history through the lens of spirituality. Each day's exploration centered on a different classical element—earth, water, air, or fire—engaging students through visual arts, crafts, stories and discussion, and sound journeys improvised by the children and recorded for a sound collage. Students completed projects each day and also assembled a week-long book of their own Sacred Creatures & Mystical Beasts; each page depicted a different creature of their own choosing (or, often, of their own creation) and included a drawing, description, special characteristics, fun facts, and 'specimens' fashioned from specialty papers, cloth, string, and shiny objects that were transformed through their creativity into mermaid skin\*, dragon scales\*, unicorn hair,\* and a host of other creature-related items. Our Friday Kids' Week picnic at Wilcox Park featured real-life creatures who visited our group from the Happy Tales Animal Sanctuary.

The closing of 2018 sees the completion of my first full year as Director of Family Programs at Church of the Messiah. I have been lifted-up by the generosity of the Messiah community and leadership, and by the extraordinary group of children and parents with whom I have had the privilege of working. I look forward to continuing our journey together.

Submitted respectfully,

Gilda Lyons

\*note:

All Summer Kids' Week project specimens (mermaid skin, dragon scales, unicorn hair, etc.) were molted, of course; no mermaids, dragons, unicorns, or creatures of any kind were harmed in the making of our creature books.

7 ~ **MESSIAH MUSIC REPORT**

My thanks to the members of the Church of the Messiah for your tremendous support of our music program. I am deeply moved by your enthusiasm, and inspired by the commitment which you, as a congregation, bring to the musical life of the parish.

This past year was one of celebration for our parish choirs. It was a delight to welcome additional singers to our ensembles, and watch their repertoire continue to expand.

Highlights included a joint Evensong with the Choir of Christ's Church Rye on February 25, and a well-received Lessons and Carols on December 18. The Evensong and Lessons and Carols were offered as Sunday afternoon liturgies which proved to be a popular and effective way of inviting both our congregation and the wider community to share in our music program.

Christmas Eve was truly special with a new Gospel tableau, created 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 2019, in addition to regular offerings on Sunday morning, we look forward to two Evensongs, several recitals, and a concert by choir members and friends planned for later in the year.

Two of our choir section leaders, Eric Carey and Luke MacMillan graduated from the Vocal Arts Program at Bard at the end of the last academic year. It was difficult to see them go, but I know that they will be returning to Messiah from time to time. In September, Jonathon Comfort, Wayne Paul, and Brad Testerman joined Katherine Rossiter and Chloë Schaaf as our most able choral scholars.

Bids for the restoration of the organ at Messiah have been solicited from three firms, all of which have extensive experience with Skinner organs. Each organ builder has visited Messiah, and made a thorough review of the condition of the instrument. Any work on the organ will be coordinated with restoration of the church building.

I'm more than grateful for the joy and commitment which our choir members and their families bring to the well-being of music at Messiah, and 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.

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.

Our website continues to be an attractive and vital tool for communication not only for our members, but for those wishing to know more about our parish.

## **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 2019 there are 11 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 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Krembs

**Lectors / Chalice Bearers Report**

We currently have 14 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 and Fr. Steve make 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.

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.

**ECW 2018 Report**

Savings Acc. As of 1/1/18	\$7046.66
Deposits	
Flea Markets	\$1088.95
Con Edison Dividend	\$454.00
Interest	\$11.42
Dish Sale	\$150.00
Total Deposits	\$1704.37
Debits	
Transferred to Checking for Tablecloths	\$775.00
Transferred to Checking – Misc.	\$450.00
Transferred to Checking for Fence	\$752.00
Total Debits	\$1977.00
Savings Balance as of 12/31/18	\$6774.63
Deposits to Checking	
Checking Balance as of 1/1/18	\$120.14
Transferred from savings account	\$1977.00
Total	\$2097.14
Debits to Checking	
Tablecloths	\$774.00
Fence	\$752.00
Cleaning Fee	\$120.00
Kitchen, Food Pantry, Flea Market Supplies	\$297.94
Total Debts	\$1942.93
Checking Balance as of 1/1/19	\$153.22

### **13 ~ 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.

### **14 ~ 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 2019.

**15 ~ OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT**

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Amount awarded</b>
Storybook/Waiting Room Project	\$1,600.00
Nicaragua	\$1,000.00
Cuddleblanket	\$2,000.00
Inmate Education	\$700.00
Third Thursday	\$3,500.00
Violet Avenue	\$300.00
Immigration Workshop	\$400.00
ESL	\$600.00
Brothers at Bard	\$1,000.00
Church of St. Matthew & St. Timothy (Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief)	\$1,414.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,514.00</b>

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

Sister City	\$1,815.00
Rural Migrant Ministries School Supplies	\$525.00
Violet Avenue Service Dog / Milano Fund	\$733.00
Quilt Raffle	\$1,170.00

**Other Activities**

Rural Migrant Ministry back-to-school supplies  
 Food pantry coat drive, provided over 250 coats and jackets  
 Rural Migrant Ministries Christmas gifts  
 Mitten Tree: hats, scarves, mittens for partner ministries through our outreach program

In 2019, the Outreach Committee will be chaired by Erika Murphy. Our thanks to Pamela Wright who so ably served as chair for the last several years.

**A. Third Thursday Report**

Third Thursday luncheons continue to be one of the most active and rewarding missions at the Church of the Messiah. Luncheons are scheduled from October through the next May. On average there are 100 in House guests, predominately in the senior age group. The luncheon is a social event at a very reasonable price. We have also increased the take out business averaging 20 lunches. As part of the Third Thursday mission, we also prepare dinner for the 60 to 70 residents of the Webster House, a homeless shelter in Poughkeepsie.

Each month, we invite an organization to be the beneficiary of the all gate receipts. Since last year we had donated to the Grace Smith House, the Jayne Brooks Food Pantry, the Dutchess County SPCA, the Riven Haven Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter, the Lunchbox, Mel's Place, the Rhinebeck Residential home for Abilities First and Animal Kind. The average contribution was \$748. The first four lunches of this cycle is averaging \$864. Many of our guests contribute to a donation box. Direct donations are down slightly, however, the increase in total contribution are due to the growing takeout activity.

Funding for Third Thursday is provided by the Outreach committee. The 2017-2018 request was for \$3500. In January, 2019, we are requesting \$2250. Average cost per luncheon is \$425.

There are 27 regular volunteers from the congregation and outside of the church. We ask the congregation to contribute desserts. This is the most pressing need at this time. We welcome all volunteers!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kris Perry

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

We had a total of over 1830 household visits for the year. By the end of 2018 we had 235 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 6,640 meals for seniors and 7,500 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 Duchess Outreach and another 100 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 2018

#### INCOME

General Community Donations	\$8,612.47
Grants	\$8,960.00
Parishioner Donations	\$5,150.00
Total	\$22,722.47

#### EXPENSES

Food and monthly truck rental	\$17,454.23
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We also received a \$6,775 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.

**C. MH Larreynaga Sister City Project 2018:**

On March 25<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 in 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Vicki Rivera

**D. CROP Walk**

The Crop Hunger Walk took place on October 28th in Red Hook. The walk raised 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 \$4,761 was raised and Messiah generously gave \$1,125.

Participating is very easy and there are many ways you can be a part of this outreach.

Walkers get sponsors to support them with a monetary gift. If you are unable or unavailable to walk, consider sponsoring a walker or registering as a “spirit walker” where you collect money in the spirit of the walk. Online collecting is available and a wonderful way to reach people with the pertinent information they need to know. It’s a very easy process.

Recruiters distribute the collection envelopes to walkers. We need a treasurer and a driver to monitor the walk route via their car should a walker need assistance.

Next year the walk will be in Rhinebeck. It will also be the 40<sup>th</sup> year for the Northern Dutchess CROP Hunger Walk. It’s very important that we keep

the Crop Hunger Walk going. The planning committee would welcome your help. We welcome your ideas and input. If you'd like to be part of this committee, please let the church office know.

Thank you to all who supported this outreach with your generosity.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laurie Craft

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

Initially the ESL program began in February 2006 was shared with St. Margaret's Parish. Today it is supported by the Church of the Messiah. It is a year round ministry. 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. Most students are Spanish speaking from Mexico and Central America. One student is from Vietnam, one from Thailand and one is from South Korea. 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, Vietnam, Thailand, and Sri Lanka. 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 September 2018 and some students have stayed with the program since it began in February 2006.

Tutors include Erica Gratzel and Liz Schembri from Messiah, Cynthia Nelson, Pat Reilly, Carl Parris and Sarah Hill from the Rhinebeck community. Lisa Prentiss, children's librarian from Staatsburg, presents a story time twice a month for the children. 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. We are grateful for everyone's support.

Continuing from January 2017 under the guidance and leadership of Betty Mensch and Nancy Richard 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 includes a bilingual guide to the resources available for undocumented immigrants.

The annual expenses for ESL materials including classroom and special event supplies are approximately \$500 and generously supported by the Church of the Messiah. We continue to be thankful for Messiah's generosity of space, financial support, and kindness in every way. In this difficult time when immigrants do not always feel welcome, I'm proud to say that with Fr. Richard's guidance, Messiah has greeted people with love and open arms. 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 the summer of 2018, 92 quilts were given to children at Camp Ramapo during three give-a-ways. This camp services children at risk.

The Cuddleblanket quilters group is comprised of women not only from the Church of the Messiah but also women throughout our community.

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 \$10,000 was collected this year and was given for such needs as fuel in winter, initial therapy costs, and unreimbursed medical costs as well as one time disbursements to those in need. Unlike the Outreach Committee funds, the discretionary account may be used to support individuals as well as not-for-profit organizations.