

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

Annual Report, October 25, 2020



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1 ~ RECTOR'S REPORT

This coming Sunday, October 25th we will hold our Annual Meeting. It is a meeting that has been postponed due first to my surgery in January and then the onset of the COVID-19 virus. So, we come to this meeting with our attention on the challenges and circumstances of this pandemic, but the report for the annual meeting is actually for the calendar year of 2019. Remembering that and reviewing our various committees, staff, and program reports, 2019 seems a time of relative calm and simplicity, given the overwhelming concerns we now face in 2020. But the reporting of 2020 will have to wait for our next Annual meeting in early 2021.

In 2019, we continued the preparation for the construction project that would save our church building. By the close of 2019, we had accomplished through contributions and grants an extraordinary amount towards the project. But given the condition of the building, we still needed to raise more funds and were forced to use our endowment to move towards the completion of the project. Even so, we are still raising additional funds so that the renovation of the church can be finished in 2021.

In 2019, we removed the 1921 Skinner Organ which was transported to Missouri to be restored by Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc. Preparations were also made for construction to begin, and we were able to celebrate Christmas of 2019 in church before moving to the parish hall for Sunday worship in January of 2020.

Although much of our energy and focus was directed to the restoration project, our staff and volunteers were dedicated to maintaining our programs for the congregation and community.

There are several people I wish to particularly acknowledge. First is Francois Weigel. In 2019, Francois retired as our Treasurer having served Messiah faithfully for 53 years. In that time, Francois demonstrated a dedication and love for the parish that is extraordinary. Under his financial leadership, we saw the endowment grow and his oversight of the parish finances is a tribute to his commitment to Messiah. I want to acknowledge Francois' kindness and compassion as well as his many years of faithful service. He has not only been an extraordinary treasurer, but a friend to us all.

I also want to thank Greg Castro who stepped up as assistant treasurer in 2019 to oversee the parish finances. Greg was also hardworking and dedicated in his time as assistant treasurer and we are grateful for his work in the past year.

I wish to acknowledge the ministry of our wardens, Ed Goff and Kris Perry and the vestry who have been extraordinary in their commitment to Messiah and its future. I want to thank Martha Parke who will be leaving the vestry for her leadership and support. I'd also like to thank John Madden, our new treasurer, for his many gifts for financial management as well as his long standing relationship with the Diocese. Joe Rauen as a member of the vestry and the chair of the finance committee for the first six months of 2020, has also been very involved in putting in place new financial protocols and reporting.

Finally, I want to thank Nancy Richard for her incredible work in 2019 and into 2020, who has acted as Project Manager for the restoration of the church. We could not be doing this project without her.

In 2019 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 our treasurer and book keeper, 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 2019 there were many opportunities for study, with a weekday group looking at the letters of St. Paul and a Sunday forum series on poetry. In addition, our Thursday Prayer and Meditation group has met each week.

While not technically part of the reporting of 2019, I do wish to thank and acknowledge The Reverend Gwyneth MacKenzie Murphy, as she joined our parish in early 2020 as a nonstipendary associate priest of Messiah. Reverend Gwyneth brings incredible gifts of spiritual direction, pastoral care, teaching and preaching, just to name a few. In this time of unprecedented challenges it has meant so much to me to be able to have a colleague and friend to help navigate these uncharted waters of COVID19. We are very blessed to have Reverend Gwyneth as part of our faith community.

Finally, in 2019 we continued our witness to social justice in our community, with prayer services and vigils for justice for immigrant and refugee families. In addition, we have continued our hands-on support for people from our community who have been incarcerated by the federal government or who are in the process of applying for refugee status. We also have joined forces with the Ulster Immigrant Defense Network in Kingston. I am mindful of 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 have served us well as we began the actual restoration work in 2019.

It is important to underscore how essential our parishioner, Nancy Richard has been as she served as volunteer project manager for the restoration project. We could not have done the work that has been done without her dedication and leadership.

In 2019 we received a large grant of \$235,000 from the Bedell Fund administered by St. Matthew's Church in Bedford, NY. We pursued other grants that have come to fruition in 2020.

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 2019

Baptisms 5

Weddings 4

Funerals 8

Private Communion or anointing of the sick 221

New Members 28

Membership Lost 4

4 ~ **2019 FINANCIAL REPORT**

2020 BUDGET

INCOME	BUDGET
Plate & Pledges	\$ 186,293
Property Rentals	\$ 74,600
Grant Income	\$ 56,700
Other Income	\$ 7,124
Transfer from Endowment	\$ 77,208
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 401,925
EXPENSES	
Assessment	\$ -
Outreach from Operating	\$ 900
Staff	\$ 269,843
Property Expenses	\$ 42,445
Insurance	\$ 35,020
Office	\$ 13,568
Christian Education & Music	\$ 25,775
Other	\$ 13,425
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 400,976
 NET INCOME LESS EXPENSES	 \$ 949

FUND BALANCES DECEMBER 31, 2019

Endowment Fund value: \$1,935,657.66
Capital Construction Account value: \$716,569.06

5 ~ **STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

Thank you for your generous support of the Church of the Messiah over the last year. In 2019 our total pledge and plate receipts were \$214,000. 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. In a few weeks we will begin our annual giving campaign for the 2021 budget and your continued generosity is essential for Messiah to do what it does both in the congregation as well as in the wider community.

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

Balancing the mindful celebration of tradition with the exploration of creativity and expression, Messiah's Family Programs continued to thrive in 2019, serving a joyful mix of students from Rhinebeck, Red Hook, Tivoli, and Millbrook.

Throughout 2019, our Church School, which meets weekly from September to June:

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

—Led service projects in support of:

Messiah's Jane Brooks Food Pantry, for whom our group decorated and filled bags for the Thanksgiving Food Drive;

Messiah's Sister Cities Program, for whom our students raised funds through the auctioning-off of handmade centerpieces inspired by the national bird of Nicaragua; and

Messiah Connections, with letters of good cheer created by our group for those supported by the ministry.

—Created the elaborate Paschal candle that served for the major services of 2019 at Messiah, adorned by student-made wax flowers, and carried into the Easter service by members of our church school.

—Revived an original Christmas Pageant—an adaptation of the Christmas Story shaped by our students—featuring both our students' reflections and their creative work (in the form of the many animals that followed the star to offer their gifts to baby Jesus). Our pageant was performed by long-time members and students new to the parish, reflecting the same happy mix that currently comprises our Sunday classes.

—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 content for young readers, using inclusive language and inviting response through words and art. Also in 2019, we continued to invite 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 since we began this practice in 2018.

As Director of Family Programs at Church of the Messiah, I continue to be humbled by the generosity of the Messiah community and leadership, and by the extraordinary group of children and parents with whom I have the privilege of working. I look forward to continuing our journey together.

Submitted respectfully,

Gilda Lyons

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 the choir's repertoire continue to expand. Members of our choir, and their friends, offered several well received recitals at Messiah. Also bringing music at Messiah to the community was a concert by the Highbridge Voices on November 24. The young people's choir, based in the South Bronx, has performed for the justices of the United States Supreme Court and at major venues throughout the New York area. The 50 singers offered a variety of music from Africa, Europe, and the United States, including holiday selections. Admission to the concert was free thanks to the generosity of the Thomas Thompson Trust.

Over the last eighteen months, bids for the restoration of the organ at Messiah were solicited from three firms, all of which have extensive experience with Skinner organs. Each organ builder visited Messiah, and made a thorough review of the condition of the instrument. In May of 2019, the Vestry selected Quimby Pipe Organs of Warrensburg, Missouri to restore the organ. In late July, representatives from Quimby spent almost two weeks at Messiah, removing the organ from the church and safely packing parts for the trip to Missouri. While with Quimby, the organ will receive its first thorough reconditioning in almost 100 years. After returning to Messiah, the restored organ will be a focal point of liturgical life, and a colorful, reliable, partner for concerts and celebrations.

It is with much joy that I watch the growing relationship between our congregation and the Vocal Arts Program at Bard. Two of our choir section leaders, Jonathon Comfort and Chloe Schaaf graduated from the Vocal Arts Program 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, Cody Ray Caho, Maximillian Jansen, and Sun-Ly Pierce joined Katherine Rossiter and Brad Testerman as our most able choral scholars.

We celebrate with Wayne Paul who is taking a leave of absence from Messiah to sing in the Metropolitan Opera production of Porgy and Bess.

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.

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 2020 there are 8 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 a time when we can worship in person, young and old.

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

In ordinary times, Father Richard is able to 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. Unfortunately given the circumstances of COVID19, pastoral care has been changed due to safety concerns. Pastoral care has been done out of doors when feasible, or by telephone. If you are in need of pastoral care please call the office at 876-3533 and we can then address your concerns. We look forward to being able to freely visit parishioners again, which has been a cornerstone of pastoral care at Messiah.

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. We hope that in 2021 we will once again, be meeting for in person services and the work of the Altar Guild will resume. Please contact Nicole Close, Parish Administrator or Father Richard if you have any questions about joining the Altar Guild.

11 ~ USHERS

When we are able to meet, two people are scheduled to usher at each Sunday service. Up until the suspension of congregational services in 2020, the ushers' primary responsibilities were to welcome people and to help the church service run smoothly. This included 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.

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 2020 to celebrate the completion of the restoration project.

15 ~ OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

Grantee (# served)	Amount awarded
Storybook/Waiting Room Project (330 children annually)	\$1,600.00
Nicaragua (15 annual)	\$1,000.00
Cuddleblanket (over 100 children annually)	\$2,000.00
Inmate Education, Dutchess County Jail (40/week)	\$700.00
Third Thursday Luncheon (1450 annual)	\$3,500.00
Violet Avenue School (300 children annually)	\$300.00
Immigration Workshop (40 annual)	\$400.00
ESL (35/week)	\$600.00
Holy Cross, Ulster Immigration Defense Network	\$1,500.00
Total	\$11,600.00

Funds Donated by Parishioners for Other Outreach Needs

Sister City, Nicaragua	\$2,100.00
Rural Migrant Ministries School Supplies	\$475.00
Hurricane Dorian Relief	\$2,480.00

Other Activities

Rural Migrant Ministry back-to-school supplies – 30 children annually
 Food pantry coat drive, provided over 250 coats and jackets, including children
 Rural Migrant Ministries Christmas gifts – gifts for 100 children
 Mitten Tree: hats, scarves, mittens for children in our outreach programs
 River Haven Youth Shelter, Poughkeepsie - \$1,000 Third Thursday donation and bedding & new clothing

In 2019, the Outreach Committee was chaired by Erika Murphy.

A. Third Thursday Report

Third Thursday Luncheons continue to be one of the most active and rewarding missions at the Church of Messiah. Luncheons are scheduled from October through May. At each of the eight luncheons we invite a local service organization to speak to the guests and describe their mission and volunteer opportunities. Each organization receives all the money collected from the price of the luncheon and the donation basket. The average contribution to the sponsored agency is \$762.00. The Third Thursday luncheons serve three purposes. First, this is a social event attracting a more senior population. Second, an underfunded services group receives a contribution. Third, enough food is prepared so that at the end of the luncheon everything is delivered to the Webster House, a homeless shelter run by Hudson River Housing. There are no leftovers.

In the 2019-2020 season, the following service groups have or are being invited: Grace Smith House, the Center for Spectrum Services, the Dutchess County SPCA, the Lunchbox, the River Haven Shelter and Services for adolescents, Mel's Place, the Rhinebeck residence for Abilities First and Animal Kind. We have approximately 100 guests at each lunch. Rhinebeck Animal Hospital regularly purchases 20 lunches.

Funding is provided by the Outreach Committee. YTD Expenses have been \$2595.70. The bank balance is \$232.85. The 2020 funding request of \$1600 has been submitted to the Outreach committee.

There are 30 regular volunteers who help prepare the food, setup, serve, clean up and take the food to the Webster House. All are welcomed to join us.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kris Perry

B. Jayne Brooks Memorial Food Pantry Report

We had a total of over 1700 household visits for the year. At the end of 2019 we had 255 registered households (up slightly from 2018) and served an average of 30-40 households a week. Throughout the year we provided food for over 37,000 meals, including 5,400 for seniors and 7,900 for children. We delivered about 60,000 pounds of food from our regional Food Bank (Food Bank of Northeastern New York). We estimate that donations from community businesses, organizations and families allowed us to distribute 20,000 to 25,000 additional pounds of food.

For the Thanksgiving and December holidays we offered grocery gift cards and special holiday food items, along with holiday books for children. Once again, 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 nearly 200 from members of the community. These were supplemented by donated sweaters and other winter accessories.

With the help of special grants and donations we are consistently able to offer books for children, and our inventory of food items is maintained with good nutrition in mind. At summer's end we also provided our families with school supplies geared to appropriate grade levels.

In cooperation with other Parish programs, we continue to build on our relationship with the Violet Ave. Elementary School in Hyde Park. We work with the school to help 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. After over two years of discussion, we at long last were able to open an onsite satellite pantry at the school in December. This will enable us to better serve client families at the southern end of our catchment area who may have difficulty getting to us in Rhinebeck. Our volunteers and the school staff are very excited about getting this off the ground and expanding our coverage of this vulnerable community.

With the improved economy our client numbers from Rhinebeck itself have dropped, while numbers from surrounding areas, particularly south of us, have increased. We serve clients from the whole Hyde Park School District (accounting for the largest share of our clients), as well as Red Hook, Tivoli, Staatsburg, and other surrounding neighborhoods. It is our hope that the new location at the Violet Avenue school will allow us to help more neighbors in need and eventually extend our reach beyond this closed community of school families.

We continue to operate in a spirit of hospitality and community shared by both clients and volunteers, and several of our clients now serve as volunteers. Some have gotten to know each other well through their visits and provide support and friendship to each other.

We also continue to enjoy a high level of engagement from the community outside of the parish, as is evident from the budget summary below. This additional funding to supplement our valued individual parishioner donations is crucial to our continued operation.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Steering Group of the Food Pantry

Budget Summary 2019

INCOME

General Community Donations	\$ 9,222
Grants	10,458
Individual Parishioner Donations	5,747
Interest	42

Total \$25,469

EXPENSES

Food and monthly truck rental	\$24,049
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We obtained an additional \$9771 of food from the Food Bank from a grant that comes to us in the form of purchase credits. That grant allowed us to order some of our food at no cost.

C. MH Larreynaga Sister City Project 2019:

On February 2019, 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 we raised \$2,100 which went to benefit Sister City providing 40 students with scholarships to go attend school.

Once again I would like to thank the Church of the Messiah and everyone for their past and present support and look forward to what we can accomplish in 2020

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicki Rivera



D. CROP Walk

This was the 50th year for the Crop Hunger Walk. The walk took place in Rhinebeck on September 29th. It was a beautiful day for walking. We had a total of 35 walkers and a total of \$5,021 was raised. Messiah's gift was \$1,371.

The purpose of the walk is to raise 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.

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.

The walk will take place in Red Hook next year. The planning committee would 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

The ESL program began in February 2006 and was shared with St Margaret's Parish. Today this year-round ministry is supported by Messiah. Classes are on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8:30 in the parish hall. We provide beginner and intermediate level classes and a program for children. Although most students are Spanish speakers, we welcome people of all language backgrounds and try to tailor our programs to meet the needs of the students. Our goal is to provide a supportive community while helping students learn and improve English skills. Some students are as new as January 2020 and some have been with the program since 2006. In the summer in addition to one class a week, we schedule a weekly outing. The “field trips” maintain the theme of exploring the beauty of the Hudson Valley.

Tutors include Erica Gratzel and Liz Schembri from Messiah, Susannah Callahan, Cynthia Nelson, Carl Parris and Pat Reilly from the Rhinebeck community. Lisa Prentiss, children's librarian from the Staatsburg Library, presents a story time twice a month for the children. In addition this year we have benefited from support from Rhinebeck and Red Hook Schools, the Culture Connect program and the Rhinebeck High School Spanish Club and Rhinebeck community. In particular Betty Mensch, Deb Alexander and Nancy Richard, all from Messiah, and Gina Fox and Adriana Contreras from the community have supported us steadily and generously this year.

We continue to be thankful for Messiah's generosity of space, financial support and kindness in every way. With Fr Richard's guidance, Messiah has welcomed people from all backgrounds with love and open arms. If you are interested in hearing more about this program, contact Liz Schembri (889-8437 or 242-1199).

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Schembri

F. Linda A. Karr Cuddle Blanket Group

In the summer of 2019, 150 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.