

The Church of the Messiah's

Good News

July 14, 2019

*Welcome to the Church of the Messiah
We are delighted to have you worshipping with us.*



Service

*We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all without reserve,
and spread Christ's liberating word.*

“The church of Christ in every age,” *Wonder, Love, and Praise* #779

Church of the Messiah *Mission Statement*

The Church of the Messiah is an inclusive and welcoming community

- *Committed to serving God by serving neighbors near and far;*
 - *Affirming the dignity of every human being;*
 - *Believing we are called to be stewards of creation.*
- adopted by the Vestry of the Church of the Messiah on February 10, 2015.*

A PRAYER FOR OUR FUTURE

As our capital campaign continues, we invite you to join together in praying the following prayer that was composed by members of the parish and the rector.

O God, Giver of all good gifts.
We thank You for the grace of serving You by serving our neighbors.
May our hearts be kind and generous.
May our ministry be rooted in love and bold in imagination.
In transforming the Parish and Community Center, may our lives,
and the lives of all who join us, be renewed by Your love and the
power of the Spirit. Amen.

THANK YOU, EVERYONE!

On behalf of all who attended last Sunday's celebration and blessing, please know of my deepest gratefulness for your gifts of presence, grace and spirit. With heartfelt thanks, *Deborah*

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Our prayers are asked for those who suffer from addiction, anxiety, are survivors of abuse or assault, those who are undergoing treatment or living with cancer, are unemployed or homeless. We also pray for refugees seeking safety and security in this and other countries.

PUNCH ON THE PATIO

July

14 Dicky Allison
21 Irene Macauley
28 Mary Fran Buckley & Barbara Billings

August

4 Carol and Steve Wagner

THE NOONTUNES SUMMER CONCERT SERIES CONTINUES THIS WEEK!

This year's schedule is:

Wednesday, July 17th: Stephanie Miele, voice, Nancy Wendlandt, piano
Wednesday, July 24th: Katie Koglin, harp
Wednesday, July 31st: Woods Hole Recorder Consort

We are looking for sponsors to cover the costs of these concerts. A free-will offering that is collected during the concert goes towards the music program at Church of the Messiah. We welcome donations of any amount, and all donors will be listed in each program during the series. Donations may be made "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone and will be listed that way in the program. Brochures that include more information about Noontunes and becoming a sponsor are available in the back of the church. Please speak to Brittany if you have any questions. Thank you, and looking forward to another great season!

~ *Brittany Lord*

OLD TIME GOSPEL HOUR AT MESSIAH, FRIDAY, JULY 26TH

Friends, it is not too soon to mark your calendar for a wonderful evening of Old Time Gospel Bluegrass Music led by John Yankee, **Friday evening, July 26th beginning at 7 PM.** This evening will feature talented musicians leading us in some wonderful gospel hymns. Further details will follow. I just wanted you to get it on your calendars. Thanks – Deborah, AKA "*The Vicar of Woods Hole*"

OUTREACH NEWS: Supporting the Falmouth Service Center.

As we continue to support the Falmouth Service Center, our suggestion for donations for the summer months is sunscreen for adults and children. The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be Monday, August 12th, 10:30 AM in the PCC Conference Room.

NEW VOLUNTEERS WELCOME AT THE VILLAGE AT CATAUMET:

Next Monthly Dinner, Wednesday, August 7th, 5PM

We're serving dinner to our neighbors at the Village at Cataumet, the shelter for families, on the first Wednesday of the month. This is a continuing ministry and we always welcome new cooks and new servers. Look for a sign-up sheet in the back of the church on Sunday morning and join us. We are trying to show our neighbors that we care about their difficult situation. Help once a year or once a month - every contribution is welcome! If you would like to contribute or have questions, please contact Carol Casey (508-299-8330).

HEADSTONE CLEANING AND RESTORATION

**“Headstones stand out
Surrounded by green grass
Marble and granite rocks
Reflections from my past.....”
Anthony Tucker**

Would you like to join us in cleaning some of the beautiful and centuries old headstones in our Cemetery? The Headstone Cleaning Program is taking place again this year and we are trying some different days of the week. We began this past Friday, July 12th and will continue on the following days; **Saturday July 26, and Sunday August 11 from 9:30 to 11:30**

Wear comfortable clothes and bring sun protection, a stool or kneeling pad, gloves and a beverage and/ or snack. We will have the cleaning solution and cleaning tools.

The cemetery is next to the Church of the Messiah. Hope to see you there.

For more information please call Dee Aukamp,
Cemetery Committee
508.495.9911

**GENTLE YOGA with JENNIFER BETH KELLY, Thursdays, 12:00 – 1:15PM,
Old Fire Station, Woods Hole**

Please join me in lightening and brightening your spirit in this fun and playful Summer class!
Offered weekly for 9 weeks from June 20th – August 29th (no class held on July 4th & August 1st.)
Using singing bowls, as well as other vibrational instruments, combined with gentle & energizing stretching, body movements, breathing exercises, sound toning and guided meditation, this dynamic class invokes a deep level of inner peace, relaxation and rejuvenation within your body, mind and soul. Beneficial & open to all levels, no prior experience necessary.
Bring your own mat. \$15 cash for drop-in. 5 class card available – Jennifer Beth Kelly

SUGGESTIONS OR QUESTIONS RE: OUR NEW SPACE

Since opening our Parish and Community Center, a number of suggestions have been made or questions raised to me. In order to be responsive to these in an appropriate manner, please write these down on the clipboard which is on the counter in the upstairs kitchen or the clipboard by the alcove outside the downstairs kitchen. By following this procedure we can be responsive to your questions or suggestions in a timely manner.

Thanks very much for taking the time to help us as we all settle into our new home and space. *DMW*

NEW PARISH AND COMMUNITY CENTER - *Capital Campaign Update*

The Easter reception in the new Center represented the first public event hosted in the transformed First Church. To record the beauty of the building -- especially the Woods Hole Room, dressed in its butterfly themed elegance – and to capture a sense of community response to the Center, we commissioned Brian Switzer to create for us another short video. This is now available for streaming at our website:

www.churchofthemessiahwoodshole.org

While contributions continue to come in, they have not been sufficient to move us substantially above the \$2.2 million shown on our graphic in front of the Center. With the building's completion, we are planning a renewed push to engage our summer community in the remarkable transformation of the building and encourage their help in closing the remaining funding gap.

As always, we welcome your questions and suggestions. We are deeply grateful to all who are supporting this project that is central to effective service to the parish and to providing new opportunities to the wider community.

Charles Mann, Chairman, Capital Campaign, Phase 2

Don Aukamp

Carol Casey

Deborah Dougherty

Arden Edwards

Mark Haycock

Sandra Rodgers

PARISH AND COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

The final piece of our building project has been completed with the installation of the landscape around our new Parish Community Center. The landscape around the building is simple to match the simple beauty of our new building: minimal foundation shrubs, flowering shrubs along the parking lot to soften the transition from the pavement to the bed/lawn areas. Lawn will be installed in front and under the beech tree, which we anticipate will revert to moss over time. We wanted the landscape to be as environmentally friendly as possible: to that end the steep slope off the parking lot down to the Steamship parking lot will be seeded with a no mow fescue grass seed mix. The plant material chosen for the slope of a mix of all native shrubs and trees - River birch, Bayberry, Clethra and Inkberry. These were all chosen for their ability to adapt to our site as well as promote pollinator species of bees, butterflies and birds. We can't wait for everyone to be able to gather and enjoy our new patio and seating area outside!

I will be looking for volunteers to help with watering/weeding our new plantings for the summer! If interested, please get in touch with me at mtscape@gmail.com.

~ Terry Soares, FCBC chairperson

MIDDLE EAST FORUM OF FALMOUTH - Sunday evenings at 5 PM, beginning tonight, in the Stone Church

July 14, 2019 ~ *Why Trump Is Not the Problem.*

Prof. Andrew Bacevich. Professor Emeritus of International Relations and History, Boston University

July 28, 2019 ~ *Education in the Gulf Arab States: Promises and Perils.*

Dr. Faryal Khan. Visiting Practitioner, Harvard Graduate School of Education

August 11, 2019 ~ *Crisis in the Saudi-American Relationship?*

Dr. F. Gregory Gause, III. Head, International Affairs Department, Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University

August 25, 2019 ~ *Iran-US Relations -- Is Transforming Animosity into Friendship Possible?*

Dr. Seyed Hossain Mousavian. Specialist, Middle East Security and Nuclear Policy, Program on Science and Global Security, Princeton University

For more information: www.meff.world

Bishops of all six Episcopal dioceses in Texas issue a joint statement decrying the inhumane conditions at our country's borders.

To our state and national leaders,

We are bishops of the six Episcopal dioceses in Texas. All but 700 miles of the almost 2,000 miles of the US-Mexico border are in Texas. All of Texas feels the impact of anything that happens on our southern border.

We feel it through our families, many of whom have ancient deep roots in lands south of the United States. We feel it in our economy, as Mexico is Texas' biggest trading partner. We feel it in our culture, since Texas was part of Mexico before we were part of the United States. Most of all, we feel it in our souls, for these are our neighbors, and we love them.

We write to decry the conditions in detention centers at our border because we are Christians, and Jesus is unequivocal. We are to pray without ceasing for everyone involved-refugees, elected officials, and law enforcement-while also advocating for the humane treatment of the human beings crowding our border as they flee the terror and violence of their home countries.

We call on our state and national leaders to reject fear-based policy-making that targets people who are simply seeking safety, and a chance to live and work in peace. The situation at the border is, by all accounts, a crisis. Refugees come in desperation; border personnel are under stress.

We call on our leaders to trust in the goodness, generosity and strength of our nation. God has blessed us with great abundance. With it comes the ability and responsibility to bless others.

We do this because Christians are commanded to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. And how we are to treat our neighbors, especially the children, could not be any clearer than it is in Matthew 18:2-6:

“He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.”

We are to care for the children, cherish them, protect them and keep them safe.

But what if they are strangers, foreigners? The message of God in the Hebrew Scriptures, Leviticus 19:33-34, also is very clear: *“When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”*

And again, in Matthew 25: 31-40. *“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”* And, in Matthew 25:40: *“Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me.”*

This is not a call for open borders. This is not saying that immigration isn’t complicated. This is a call for a humane and fair system for moving asylum seekers and refugees through the system as required by law. Seeking asylum is not illegal. Indeed, the people at our border are following the law when they present themselves to border authorities.

Asylum is “a protection granted to foreign nationals already in the United States or at the border who meet the international law definition of a ‘refugee,’ which is ‘a person who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her home country, and cannot obtain protection in that country, due to past persecution or a well-founded fear of being persecuted in the future ‘on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.’”

Congress incorporated this definition into U.S. immigration law in the Refugee Act of 1980. The Refugee Act established two paths to obtain refugee status—either in the United States as an asylum seeker or from abroad as a resettled refugee.

As Christians, we seek to follow the biblical and moral imperatives of our Lord. In addition, the United States has legal obligations through international law as well as our own immigration law to provide protection to those who qualify as refugees.

And while the border authorities can detain asylum seekers, courts have ordered them to do so in “safe and sanitary conditions.” Credible news reports documenting unsafe conditions, especially for children, have made it clear this is not happening in consistent and sustained ways, as resources and personnel are overwhelmed by the situation.

This nation has the resources to handle these refugees humanely. We call on our leaders to find the will to do so swiftly.

The Episcopal Diocese of Dallas

The Rt. Rev. George Sumner

Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth

The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Mayer

The Rt. Rev. Sam B. Hulsey

The Rt. Rev. Rayford B. High Jr.

Episcopal Diocese of Northwest Texas

The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Mayer

The Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande

The Rt. Rev. Michael Buerkel Hunn

Episcopal Diocese of Texas

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Doyle,

The Rt. Rev. Jeff W. Fisher

The Rt. Rev. Kathryn M. Ryan

Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

The Rt. Rev. David Reed

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson

For more information contact:

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In the Diocese of West Texas, Director of Marketing and Communications Emily Kittrell,
Emily.Kittrell@dwtx.org

In the Diocese of Dallas, Communication Director Kimberly Durnan, kdurnan@edod.org

*A sermon given on Sunday, July 7, 2019
at The Church of the Messiah, Woods Hole,
by The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates, Bishop of Massachusetts,
upon the Dedication and Blessing of the Parish and Community Center*

What's Out Front?

In Shaker Heights, Ohio, where my family lived for ten years, the houses don't have front porches. That's because the wealthy entrepreneurs who laid out the planned suburb in the early 20th century considered front porches to be *déclassé*. You didn't see members of high society hanging out on their front porches, of a summer's evening, shooting the breeze. Porch swings and outdoor furniture did not fit the image the developers wanted for their new town. So – no front porches on Shaker Heights homes! What's out front makes a statement.

At the front of parades all over the country this past week have been all sorts of leaders. Some parades are led by high school marching bands, highlighting pride in the town's public schools. In some places, local merchants have a prominent place at the front of the parade, underscoring local commerce – or, at least, letting you know who paid the costs of the event. Maybe it's a grand marshal, some beloved figure from the town's populace. In Washington DC, the President wanted fighter-jet flyovers and tanks, making a symbolic statement of his own. Often, it's a group of veterans at the front of the parade. In most places, at the very front, is an American flag. What's out front makes a statement.

In the church, when the clergy and other participants enter the nave each week, we also follow behind an image announcing our identity: we follow the Cross of Christ. In some places, the front of the procession features a thurible, sending smoke and incense to the rafters. Or perhaps it's a banner with the name of the church, or the depiction of a saint. What's out front makes a statement.

Porch, or no porch. Marching band, or marching soldiers. Flyover jets, or a hot-air Snoopy balloon. A slogan on a banner. A flag. A cross. What's out front? It is the first thing seen. It announces our arrival. It announces our identity – setting the image of who we are, or at least, who we aspire to be. What's out front makes a statement.

In ancient times, rulers desiring to establish ties with surrounding peoples would send out ambassadors to represent them. These emissaries would venture into the foreign territory unarmed, for to carry a weapon before them would be to announce hostile intent. They bore instead some image declaring their credentials as an ambassador. In a preliterate age, this might have been some carved or painted likeness of their sovereign. By the likeness they bore, by what they did and did not carry, they projected the image of the one whom they represented.

In today's Gospel lesson [Luke 10:1-11,16-20], Jesus sends out seventy such emissaries into the towns where he himself intended later to go. So, what did they carry as a sign of their ambassadorial credential? The seventy did not carry a carving or a painting. No fancy symbols. In fact, they themselves were the image. They themselves were the standard which Jesus projected out ahead of himself. They were to bear the image of Jesus by their words and actions. And what instructions did he give his emissaries? What image were they to project?

The image was first of all one of mutual dependency. Jesus sent them out not alone, but in pairs. Two by two, for mutual encouragement and strength. In each village, they were to rely on the hospitality of those to whom they preached. The image was also one of simplicity. No fancy banner, no imperial or ecclesiastical apparel. Just the rudimentary clothing of the day. Finally, the image was one of peace. This was the message which they were to proclaim first and foremost: "Peace to this house. The kingdom of God is so close you can touch it! Peace!"

Mutuality. Simplicity. Peace. These were the hallmarks of Jesus' identity – the flag, the banner, the image he wanted his ambassadors to present. They were “what's out front” for Jesus.

So, how about you, dear friends in Woods Hole? “What's out front?” at the Church of the Messiah? There's a sign, of course. A literal one, that tells the world your name, your priest's name, and when you can be joined for worship. And then there are your two buildings.

First, there's your stone church, which proclaims the rock-solid, here-to-stay presence of this congregation. Like the nearby rocky shores of Nobska Point, your stone church announces that this is a place where even the worst storms can be weathered. It's a building in which, for more than 130 years, God has been praised; hymns have been sung; children baptized; loved ones buried; prayers offered for the nation in times of peace and times of war; prayers offered for the suffering and for the grateful. What's out front? Your stone church proclaims *strength, tradition, and endurance*.

And now, there's your wonderful new Parish and Community Center. Practical, beautiful, and ingenious, your new building declares your values: *community, mission, and stewardship*. The building is designed to serve the needs not only of your parish members, but also the needs of the town of which this congregation is so integrally a part. “Community” is its middle name, and its architecture is arranged to enable the mission of your parish.

The building proclaims also the environmental stewardship of a congregation who saw that what they need for the future is what they already had from the past. It's one thing to reuse and recycle a tote bag; it's quite another to reuse and recycle an entire building. Well done, Church of the Messiah!

When your leadership determined that a new century required a different sort of facility, you faced into this challenge with clear thinking and with courage. Churches across the diocese and around the country are discovering that facilities which suited their culture and their mission fifty and a hundred and a hundred-fifty years ago are not the same as what God needs from them now. Well, of course they are not – because the world changes, and the needs of God's people change, and we change! But in so many churches there is a paralysis induced by anxiety; and there is a nostalgia that refuses to let go of anything; and there is a mindset of scarcity, instead of abundance, that refuses to believe that, with God's help and our willing sacrifice, big things can be done.

Here at the Church of the Messiah, you avoided those pitfalls of paralyzing anxiety, nostalgia, and scarcity. Instead, you calculated, and you planned, and you looked around, and you looked ahead, and you let go, and you designed, and you sacrificed, and you hoped, and you prayed ... and look at what you and God have done together!

What's out front? A beautiful stone church that proclaims strength, tradition, and endurance. A beautiful renovated Parish and Community Center that proclaims community, mission, and careful stewardship. Thanks be to God!

But in the end, dear friends – just as in today's Gospel reading when Jesus sent seventy of his followers out ahead of him – in the end, of course, what's out front is *you*! What the village of Woods Hole knows about the Church of the Messiah, it knows most of all because of you. What the wider world knows about Jesus – the real, Gospel Jesus, and not the narrow-minded and judgmental Jesus that is the impression too often given these days – what the wider world knows about Jesus, it knows most of all because of you. In the compassion we enact, in the courage we display, in the sacrifices we make, in the truth we tell, in the Good News we embody ... “what's out front” is us!

In the words of today's Epistle, the very stones of this beautiful building are meant to show the way that you and I are built up into something more than the sum of our individual parts. "[Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood ... that you may proclaim the mighty acts of [the One] who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." [I Peter 2:5,9]

So now, with a beautiful stone church that proclaims tradition and endurance, and a beautiful parish house that proclaims community and mission, now you – *you* be what's out front! Step out behind the Cross. Be the ambassadors whom Jesus sends on ahead of himself. The Twelve aren't around. The Seventy aren't here. It's your job now, yours and mine. As we sang, just a moment ago:

*Then let our servant church arise:
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.*

*We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all without reserve,
and spread Christ's liberating word.*

"The church of Christ in every age," *Wonder, Love, and Praise* #779



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Church of the Messiah

2019 Vestry

The Rev. Deborah M. Warner	<i>Rector</i>
Jean Taft	<i>Warden</i>
Nancy Rea	<i>Warden</i>
Winifred Dick	<i>Clerk</i>
John Nolan	<i>Treasurer</i>

Charles Mann	2020	Peg Nicholson	2020
Susan Morse	2021	Peter Franklin	2021
Don Aukamp	2022	Paul Graney	2022

Deanery Representatives

Dicky Allison	Diocesan, Deanery Representative
Helen Gordon	Diocesan, Deanery Representative
Carol Casey	Deanery Representative
Joan Stephenson	Deanery Representative

Staff

The Rev. Deborah Warner	<i>Rector</i>
Brittany Lord	<i>Music Director, Organist</i>
Nancy McDonald	<i>Parish Administrator</i>
Jennifer Kelly	<i>Bookkeeper & Financial Recorder</i>
Bruce Bagley	<i>Church Sexton</i>
Doug Amon	<i>Cemetery Sexton</i>
Warren Bagley	<i>Custodian</i>
Jessica Morrison	<i>Webmaster</i>

The Rev. Deborah M. Warner

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