

Messiah Episcopal Church St. Paul, Minnesota 1991-2016

The Collect for All Saints' Day from the Book of Common Prayer:

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so as to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

All Saints' Day 2016 marks the celebration of the 125th anniversary of Messiah Episcopal Church, St. Paul, MN. On this day, we are reminded that we have been knit together into one communion and fellowship in Christ. Within this communion, we are given the grace to look back to see how God has been at work in the lives of His saints. We are also given the grace to look expectantly ahead to what has been prepared for us and for His glory. With this in mind, we give thanks for the grace that was given to those at Messiah Episcopal Church, resulting in 125 years of being knit together in fellowship. A history of Messiah's first 100 years was compiled for the centenary celebration, and is now available on DVD. To commemorate the past 25 years, a timeline of significant events in the life of the church has been put together. May this serve as a small remembrance of our life together, and of God's faithfulness to us over the last quarter century, as we look ahead to what God has prepared for us.

Compiled by Barb Erickson and George Slanger

Contributors:

Ann Schwarz	Martha Olive
Anne Towner	Joanne Slanger
Janice Dames	Suzanne Wiebusch
Judy DesHarnais	Charlie Clauss
John DesHarnais	Grant Fair
Bobbie Booth	Doug Goetz
Jeff Kidder	Dick Guiton
Paul Johnson	Kevin Hendricks
Lori Goetz	Rachael Arnott
Phyllis Bruce	Gayle Miels

1990-1991

- A drama is written and performed at Messiah—"Long Day's Journey Into Light".
- A Sunday evening service is added.
- Ann Schwarz comes on staff as administrator.
- There are two Renewal week-ends with Colin Goode and Kevin Martin.
- Great Adventure Club is held with the theme: Seaside with the Savior.
- The Thanksgiving Service starts including a time of personal witness, with individuals sharing ways that God works in their lives.
- Jeff and Kristen Kidder and John Horton travel to Haiti on Messiah's first short-term mission trip. They meet Père Jean-Elie Charles from St. Croix Parish in Léogâne.

- Children's Ministry coordinator Myra Arnold, looking for a Sunday School curriculum for Messiah, receives a copy of Sofia Cavalletti's book *The Religious Potential of the Child*, a source text for an international religious education curriculum called Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. She senses God leading Messiah to a curriculum such as the one described in the book, that would "lead children to God, and not only tell children about God." Although unsolicited, information about a Level I teacher training program for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is sent to Myra, furthering the sense of God's leading. Rector Ernie Ashcroft supports training three parishioners for the Level I Catechesis program. Myra Arnold, Laurie Koechlein, and Liz Colwell complete the twoyear teacher training. Level I of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd begins at Messiah.
- Three Memory Sundays are held, with the participation of three former rectors: Robert Wolterstorff, Barry O'Leary, and Ed Wittenburg.
- Organist/Choirmaster Richard Bierman resigns from Messiah.
- Rector Ernie Ashcroft forms an interim Music Ministry Team of Jeff and Kristen Kidder with Michael and Janet Linton.
- Eleven House Groups now meet regularly, for the purpose of strengthening their commitment to Christ through the Holy Spirit, with Bible study, prayer, worship, and fellowship.
- Messiah celebrates its Centenary on May 5th, 1991.
- Remodeling work is completed. This includes the addition of five fire doors, the revision of a bathroom to become handicapped accessible, and the reconfiguration of the chapel to create office space.
- A Renewal week-end with Don and Anne Bloch is held.
- There are thirty Receptions/Confirmations this year.
- State of the Parish Meetings are first held.
- The rector, Ernie Ashcroft, takes a sabbatical during the summer.
- Crossroads Community in the Frogtown neighborhood begins.
- The Youth Ministry mission trip is to Juarez, Mexico, led by Paul Saxton.

1992

- Music Ministry Team members Michael and Janet Linton step down, leaving Mike Smith and Jeff Kidder as co-leaders of Music Ministry. Music planning team is now all staff: Ernie Ashcroft, Irene Gifford (part-time Messiah priest), Mike and Jeff and is, in Jeff's words, a "very positive, productive model, lots of diverse music and worship influences."
- Ernie Ashcroft resigns as rector at Messiah to take a position at St. Stephens in Edina. He is remembered for his openness to the Holy Spirit, leading Messiah to a focus on healing and transformation. House Groups are established during his time here, and his welcoming of the arts into the worship service leads to a new creative vibrancy. This is a time of significant church growth.
- The Rev. Walter Dunnett, who was assisting on staff particularly with adult education, becomes Priest Associate-in-charge for the interim.
- Messiah's Organist/Choirmaster Richard Bierman who resigned at the end of '91, leaves in the beginning of 1992. Many transitions in the music ministry at Messiah occur.
- Long time Sexton Aaron Fentress retires, and Matthias James takes his place.
- The Youth Ministry mission trip is to Standing Rock in North Dakota, led by Paul Saxton.

1993

- Search Committee begins meeting to find a new rector.

- Priests Irene Gifford and Walter Dunnett continue serving.
- Exterior safety lights are installed.
- The first color pictorial church directory is published.
- Melanie Swanson leaves for a long-term mission project in Haiti, but returns two weeks later due to political unrest there.
- The Stations of the Cross, using actors, artists and musicians to depict each station, serves as the Good Friday service for the first time—produced by Scott Wilson-Barnard.
- The Youth Ministry mission trip is to Standing Rock in North Dakota, led by Paul Saxton.
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd teachers Myra Arnold, Laurie Koechlein, and Liz Colwell complete training for the Level 2 Atrium, which is established at Messiah in 1993.

1994

- Following a tumultuous search, Messiah welcomes The Rev. Malcolm Ellis as their new rector. It is noted that he comes to Messiah the year of one of our coldest winters, something of a shock to the Ellis family who are from South Africa and have been living in Florida. Malcolm Ellis' time at Messiah is marked by a focus on pastoral needs of parishioners, and on family events.
- Malcom Ellis reinforces “Maranatha!” music influence and 70’s folk styles.
- The House Group ministry grows to 15 groups meeting regularly.
- Children’s Chapel begins to be held during a portion of the worship service.
- A Renewal Weekend is held with Greg Brewer.
- There is significant growth of the Healing Ministry.
- The Stations of the Cross are done for a second time, as part of Good Friday observances.
- Judy Wiley is hired to lead the Youth Ministry.
- The Youth Ministry mission trip is to British Columbia in Canada, led by Paul Saxton.

1995

- The Sunday service times are moved to 8:45 and 11:00 AM to better accommodate adult education.
- Jeff Kidder is designated as primary Music Ministry leader.
- Steve Wehr becomes the summer intern.
- Holly Barnes is hired to replace Judy Wiley as Youth Minister.
- The Youth Ministry mission trip is to Detroit.
- A Healing Ministry sponsored weekend is held—“Wholeness Through Christ.”
- “The Greatest Christmas Pageant Ever” is performed at Messiah, directed by Todd Barnes.
- Messiah formalizes a partnership with the St. Croix Parish in Léogâne Haiti, where Père Elie is priest-in-charge. The focus of the partnership is on the healing ministry, children’s education, and economic development. Funds from Messiah go toward the building of classrooms at Epiphanie School in L’Acul.

1996

- A Vision Statement is adopted—“Gather, Grow, Go.”
- Irene Gifford goes on sabbatical.
- The Alpha program is introduced, with the first session planned for 1997.
- The Organist at Messiah, Larry Martin, resigns.
- Safe Church Training begins at Messiah.
- Sunday service times are changed back to 9 and 11 AM.

- Bread delivery to new visitors to Messiah resumes.
- The Catechesis space upstairs is enlarged by removing a wall.
- The Youth Ministry mission trip is to South Dakota.
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd teachers Myra Arnold, Laurie Koechlein and Liz Colwell complete training for the Level 3 Atrium, which is established at Messiah in 1996.

1997

- The Rev. N.T. (Tom) Wright, a leading New Testament scholar, comes to Messiah for a speaking engagement.
- The first Alpha session is held in 3 sessions with 100 people attending. The main topics are evangelism and renewal.
- The Youth Ministry goes to Mexico for its mission trip.
- Karen Pieper is hired to fill the Keyboardist position.
- Worship band performs regularly, including guitars, bass, drums, flute, violin and trumpets.
- Rev. Walter Dunnett, Irene Gifford, and sexton Matthias James leave their positions at Messiah.
- The Diocesan Assessment is lowered after an appeal.
- There are 165 pledges.
- The Christmas pageant “Return of the Christmas Kid” is performed at Messiah.

1998

- A Search Committee meets to find an Associate Priest who is to have responsibility for youth ministry.
- The Healing Team sponsors a weekend led by Mark Pearson.
- Improvements made to the sanctuary include: refinishing of pews and adding air conditioning, and replacing carpeting.
- The Junior Warden Betsy Kelly leaves Messiah, following her parents to St. Clements.
- Visitor cards number 118 for the year.
- The Youth Ministry intern is Sonja Licklider.

1999

- The Search Committee doesn't find an Associate Priest, and thus decides, with Vestry approval, to broaden the search to someone who is not a priest but is able to do the non-priest aspects of the job.
- Messiah hires David Langille, and welcomes him as Associate Minister.
- Messiah's Office Manager Marguerite Langer retires, and is replaced by Dawn Schimpp.
- Children's Choir rehearses every Sunday and sings once a month, under volunteer leaders Judy Cummings and Helen Franczyk.
- The Music Ministry's Jeff Kidder records a compact disc—“Come Back To Me” (available to be checked out from our library.)
- A Building Committee forms to work on building related issues including crowding in the present building.
- The Healing Team begins offering Crisis Prayer.
- Two Alpha sessions attract a total of 55 people.
- The Parish Nursing Ministry begins, led by parishioner and Registered Nurse, Phyllis Bruce. The ministry serves as a health-related resource to the parish.

2000

- Malcolm Ellis takes a sabbatical during the summer.
- The Confirmation for youth program begins anew.
- Summer Interns are Libby Arnold and Dan Olson.
- The House Group Ministry begins providing coaches to groups.
- A Space Team forms to look at Messiah's space concerns, and Mark Clevenger does a study to assess financial viability.
- An Appreciative Inquiry Study is done, assessing Messiah's readiness for building expansion. The study shows that building capacity has been reached.
- Messiah's phone system is replaced.
- A Healing Team workshop is led by Irene Gifford.
- The Parish Nurse Ministry adds monthly blood pressure checks for parishioners.
- Alpha sessions are held, with 54 people attending.
- Messiah holds an All Saints' Day concert for the first time, now an annual music and arts worship concert.

2001

- The New Members' class has 32 participants.
- Messiah's online web page is added.
- The Space Team produces a Facility Needs Report, and goes to the city for zoning permission to expand.
- The Adult Education Committee is formed.
- The Healing Team begins holding monthly healing services, and also offers prayer appointments.
- The Youth Ministry interns are Rebekah Towner and Pat Thomas.
- The Youth Ministry mission trip is to Montreal.
- Saturday Eucharist evening service begins, with Karen Pieper as music leader.

2002

- The Rev. John Shaver is hired as a part-time Associate Priest in anticipation for assisting with a Saturday evening service.
- The Festival Choir forms in response to declining numbers in the weekly adult choir, with the goal of having larger choirs for the major Festival seasons. The Festival Choir performs during the Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter, and Pentecost seasons.
- The House Group Ministry produces a House Group Leader's Manual.
- A prayer chain utilizing email is developed.
- The Space Team transitions to become the Building Team.
- Messiah begins being used as a host church for emergency shelter overflow by the St. Paul Area Council of Churches Project Home ministry.
- Messiah's participation in Loaves and Fishes ends.
- Youth Interns are Libby Arnold and Paul Johnson.
- Youth Ministry programming begins on Wednesday evenings.
- The Youth Ministry mission trip is to New York.
- Père Jacque and Fenide Deravil from Haiti, visit Messiah for the first time.
- Malcolm Ellis resigns from Messiah, leaving at the end of November.

2003

- The Rev. Lee Doucette becomes the Interim Rector at Messiah.

- Funding of the building expansion begins in March with “Capital Appeal I”. Over the next three years it would collect \$780,000.
- The Building Team begins working on the design of the building expansion.
- The Search Team meets weekly to find a new rector for Messiah.
- Youth Ministry interns are Bobbie Petersen and Ryan Liddiard.
- The Youth Ministry mission trip is to Haiti and to Minneapolis.
- The first John the Baptist play by youth is performed.
- One session of Alpha is held.
- Jeff Kidder and the band accept an invitation to lead music at Eucharist during the National Convention at the Minneapolis Convention Center.
- The Episcopal Church (TEC) holds the General Convention in Minneapolis. Among the difficult decisions before them is whether the House of Deputies should confirm the Rev. Gene Robinson as bishop of New Hampshire. Robinson, a divorced father of two children, had been in a committed gay relationship for over ten years. Although the bishops end up voting to approve Robinson as bishop, there is strong opposition to this decision by those who view it as a departure from the church’s traditional practices and from Biblical teaching. In a separate but also contentious decision, delegates vote not to authorize the creation of common liturgies to bless same-sex unions. The compromise resolution acknowledges that local faith communities already are blessing same-sex unions, but TEC, as a whole, needs to continue in prayer, study and discernment on the topic.
- The dissension experienced within TEC over these issues, is also experienced within Messiah. The outcome of the dissension is that a significant number of church members drift away from Messiah. By the end of the year, the budget is short \$50,000.
- Karen Pieper resigns. Fred Jew and Laurie Dehmlow increase their role in Saturday evening liturgy. Paul Johnson, hired as Music Assistant, assumes leadership of Saturday service, starts Youth Band. At the time, Jeff Kidder described Paul this way: “Paul brings a rich palette of gifts & experiences: vibrant faith, knowledge & love of scripture, experience in leading contemporary worship, good musicianship, flexible keyboard skills, guitar playing, composition ability. Little organ experience, but willing to learn/grow.”

2004

- The Rev. John Newton accepts the call to become rector at Messiah, starting in November.
- Youth Minister David Langille goes on sabbatical. Bobbie Petersen comes on staff as Interim Youth Minister.
- The Youth Ministry mission trip is to Rapid City, South Dakota.
- The design process for the building expansion continues, and a mortgage with Highland Bank is arranged.
- The Saturday evening service is dropped. Despite its small and faithful group of attenders, it is difficult to sustain in the interim. Many thanks to those who supported it for many years: priests John Shaver and Lee Doucette, and musicians Laurie Dehmlow, Fred Jew, and Paul Johnson.
- Youth Worship Band, now called “Out of the Ordinary,” (later renamed “O”), continues to grow under leadership of Paul Johnson.
- Wednesday evening programs for adults and children are dropped, as is the monthly healing service.
- There are two Alpha sessions, with a total of 19 people attending.
- The Healing Team begins to assist with the anointing with oil at Sunday services a few times per year.

- A capital appeal to fund Messiah's planned building expansion begins. The "Growing in Faith" campaign garners 144 three-year pledges, that are combined with building fund money to pay the monthly mortgage over three years—from 2004 to 2006.
- Messiah contributes funding for an "advent goat" and micro-loan projects for L'Acul parishioners in Haiti.

2005

- Messiah's building expansion project begins, bringing with it major inconveniences, dust, and a new mortgage. Total costs for design, construction trades, interest payments, and funding expenses amount to \$1,700,393. Design and construction costs were paid partially up-front, and partially through a construction loan from the bank for \$1,126,271.
- The building expansion reconfigures the building's layout. The west wall in the sanctuary, originally an exterior wall, now overlooks the Gathering Space. The entrance doors to the sanctuary are relocated to its west wall, requiring the removal of the stained glass window depicting Christ's crucifixion that had been in that spot. The window depicting Christ's resurrection is moved to the new entryway bell tower. The window depicting Christ's crucifixion is then moved into the spot where the resurrection window had been. Another change made to the stained glass windows corrects an error that was made when the windows were originally installed. Parishioner Judy DesHarnais and others had noticed that the top panels of the resurrection and ascension windows were reversed, and, thus, didn't match up with their respective main panels. The mix-up is corrected at the same time as the window relocations take place. A final change is the relocation of the St. Cecilia window from the choir loft to an interior storage room, so that the window may be seen from the Gathering Space.
- Associate priest John Shaver leaves Messiah, and David Langille returns from sabbatical midyear.
- The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program and Great Adventure Club are both put on hold during the construction process.
- House Groups are called community groups, and John Newton writes studies for them to use.
- The Big Idea Task Force meets to plan for the next year.
- The Youth Ministry intern is Rachael Olson. The mission trip is to Aliquippa, PA.
- There is much disagreement about whether Messiah should support the Anglican Communion Network, a network of dioceses and parishes adhering to the traditional Christian doctrines of the Anglican Communion, especially in the areas of Scriptural authority and sexual morality. The disagreements are followed by much hurt and dissension within Messiah.

2006

- At the 2005 Annual Meeting held in January 2006, the church votes to decide whether Messiah will join the Anglican Communion Network (ACN). The 2/3 majority that is required for changing bylaws is not reached, and the resolution doesn't pass. Later that summer, with the aid of consultant Frank Berdan, the vestry votes to join ACN. It is an acrimonious process, leading to many Messiah members leaving, and to the resignation of the Senior Warden Bob McClay.
- Messiah dedicates the new building expansion.
- Messiah begins an English as a Second Language (ESL) class as an outreach to some of Messiah's neighbors.
- A Healing Team conference is held with an international ministry, "Wholeness Through Christ."
- John Newton adds anointing with oil, assisted by members of the Healing Team, to the Sunday worship at each change of seasons.

- Messiah is visited by two priests from the Haiti Partnership—Père Jean-Elie Charles and Père Jean-Jacques Deravil.
- Janice Dames is hired as Messiah's Parish Coordinator.
- The Stations of the Cross, using the entire expanded building, serve as the Good Friday service. The Maundy Thursday service includes foot washing. The liturgy used is from Kenya.
- Additional lighting is installed in the sanctuary.
- The Youth Ministry interns are Emily Liddiard and Melanie Woods. The mission trip is to Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.
- Project Home uses Messiah as one of its family overflow shelters in St. Paul.
- Messiah's own reworking of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* is featured in "The Great Narnian Adventure" for Great Adventure Days.
- With completion of the "Growing in Faith" campaign, Messiah collects \$793,416 toward paying off the mortgage.

2007

- Messiah changes to a three Warden system, and revises bylaws so that 16 year olds may vote.
- The Nzimbi method of answering written questions (named after the Most Rev. Benjamin Nzimbi, a bishop from Kenya who had visited Messiah) in group meetings is used.
- Dave Langille is ordained, and becomes associate priest at Messiah.
- Several parishioners go out to serve in various places: Andy and Kimber Iverson to Africa, Jason Philbrick and Mark and Vanessa Bradby to south Asia, and Emily Liddiard to Botswana.
- Youth Ministry interns are Bobbie Petersen and Dwight Reynolds.
- The Youth Ministry's travels to Winnipeg for their annual mission trip.
- A second three-year building appeal is launched, with 75 pledges collected.
- During the summer, Dah Bu and her family become the first Karen family to attend Messiah. By Advent, more Karen families are worshipping at Messiah. (The Karen are an ethnic group from the mountainous border regions of Burma and Thailand. Their long history of severe persecution by the Burmese government pushed them to live in refugee camps in Thailand for years, waiting for resettlement in the U.S. St. Paul now has the largest and fastest growing Karen population in the U.S. There are approximately 7,500 Karen living in Minnesota.)

2008

- Jeff Kidder takes a sabbatical from the Music Ministry from June to September, and Paul Johnson fills in.
- The number of Karen families worshipping at Messiah continues to increase. Transportation to bring them to church becomes a significant need, and a group of volunteer forms to offer them rides.
- The Karen Committee is formed with the goal of assisting Karen families with their needs, such as transportation and English language assistance. The volunteers' help is also intended to encourage the Karen to worship at Messiah, to participate in its ministries, and to form friendships here.
- ESL classes are held for the Karen during the education hour. Volunteers also help the Karen prepare for their citizenship interviews, and are a resource for reading and filling out paperwork.
- Ardell Nelson produces the Stations of the Cross for the Good Friday service.
- A Passover supper is arranged by Aaron Hoffman who serves as youth ministry intern in the summer..

- The youth mission trip is to Winnipeg.
- The “Christians for Biblical Equality” organization is affirmed.
- Greg LeMarquand leads the Camp Crosswoods Retreat.
- In the fall, church staffing levels are reduced because of our decreased income.
- Robin Morical is assigned as a deacon at Messiah.
- Messiah receives a large bequest from Robert Wolterstorff, the rector here from 1940 to 1955, who went on to become the first Bishop of San Diego. The bequest helps fund many projects, but the largest is a payment of \$107,931 toward the mortgage.
- The Music Ministry sponsors Coffee House nights in January and September, with a variety of artistic performances by parishioners.

2009

- The 2nd Capital Appeal to pay off the mortgage concludes after three years. The 75 pledges contribute \$350,738 toward the goal.
- The upstairs youth loft area is renovated and new chairs are added.
- An informal Facebook group for people associated with Messiah is started by Kevin Hendricks.
- Worship service times are changed to 8:30 and 11:00 AM to better accommodate adult education.
- There is an all-church weekend at Camp Crosswoods led by Paul Stevens.
- The Adult Ed Ministry is enhanced, with John Newton working with the committee to locate teachers from inside and outside of Messiah to speak on various topics of interest.
- More Karen families are attending Messiah. Karen music increases at 8:30 service.
- The Karen begin holding dance practice at Messiah.
- New sound board donated.
- The Stations of the Cross are held in the sanctuary as the Good Friday service, produced by Ardell Nelson.
- A Women’s Retreat is held at the church.
- A Tuesday evening Contemplative worship service begins twice a month, led by several parishioners.
- The Youth Ministry intern is Vanessa Bradby, assisted by Dwight Reynolds. The mission trip is to Rose Bud, in South Dakota.
- A one-year Capital Appeal toward paying off the building expansion mortgage is launched.
- Messiah makes a request for Designated Episcopal Pastoral Oversight (DEPO) in August, and is assigned the Rt. Rev. Russell Jacobus from the diocese of Fond du Lac as our visitor bishop.
- At the Diocesan Convention on October 31st, Brian N. Prior is elected IX Bishop of Minnesota, replacing the Rt. Rev. James L. Jelinek.

2010

- On January 12th there is a devastating 7.0 Mw earthquake in Haiti, with an epicenter near the town of Léogâne. The Epiphany School and parish that Messiah is partnered with are severely damaged. The school and church continue meeting in a temporary building.
- The one-year capital appeal that continued the plan for paying off the building expansion mortgage concludes. The 57 pledges bring in \$62,039.
- Messiah continues its Designated Episcopal Pastoral Oversight with bishop Russell Jacobus, who leads our first Quiet Day retreat.
- Brian N. Prior is consecrated as IX Bishop of Minnesota.

- Messiah holds its third All Church Camp Weekend, with Jo Bailey Wells as speaker. She is an associate professor at Duke, and was our Youth Minister from 1988 to 1990. (In 2013 Jo Bailey Wells was named as Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. In 2016 she was consecrated as Bishop of Dorking, as suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Guildford.)
- PrayerNet is commissioned as a Messiah ministry. PrayerNet members are committed to praying daily for Messiah's concerns, and for the needs of church members, their families and friends.
- The youth mission trip is to Chicago.
- Deacon Robin Morical and her family and parishioner David Gee depart from Messiah.
- Various fellowship events occur, including the Getting to Know You dinners, and the All Saints' Pie Social held prior to the festival.
- Janice Dames submits forms for a Sheltering Arms Grant for use in renting a bus to assist Karen parishioners participating in Great Adventure Days at Messiah. The grant request is successful.
- An application is submitted to United Thank Offering for various needs of the Karen Ministry, including the purchase of Bibles in the Karen language, equipment to transmit sermons translated into the Karen language for parishioners, and funding for a bus to transport Karen parishioners to Messiah. The grant of \$10,000 is awarded.

2011

- Associate Priest David Langille leaves Messiah to become rector of St. Martin's by-the-Lake in Minnetonka Beach.
- Bobbie Petersen, who previously worked as a summer intern and an interim youth director in 2004, is hired as Messiah's Director of Youth Ministries. Paul Johnson had been serving as interim youth minister after Dave Langille's departure.
- The Karen choir sings at Christmas services. Jeff Kidder reduces his hours to allow time for training and mentoring, both at Messiah and with other churches. Paul Johnson increases his hours. Music program grows, with involvement of Jr. and Sr. Youth bands, Karen Choir, Festival Choir and Vocal Quartets.
- Youth Ministry interns are: Bronwyn Leask and John Biggs. The mission trip is to Winnipeg.
- The Quiet Day retreat is led by FitzSimons Allison, retired bishop of South Carolina.
- All Church Camp at Chi Ro is led by Woody Anderson.
- A Healing Team conference is led by Mario Bergner, with 100 people attending.
- Monthly healing services are held. (Healing services had begun in the 1980's when Ed Wittenburg helped organize a chapter of the Order of St. Luke's. The ministry became more congregationally focused in the mid 80's under Ernie Ashcroft.)
- The process for developing Messiah's Vision Statement begins, led by parishioner Joy Skjegstad, a team of parishioners, and the wardens.
- The UTO grant money awarded to Messiah is used to fund a bus for transporting the Karen to Messiah on Sunday mornings, the sermon translation equipment and the Anglican Young People's Association event at Messiah in September.
- The Friendly Visitor Ministry begins at Messiah by Phyllis Bruce, who was asked by John Newton to coordinate the program. The Friendly Visitors go to the homes of Messiah members who are no longer able to make it to church, due to age or health issues. John Newton gives a class for Friendly Visitor volunteers on bringing communion to those being visited, if that is desired.
- Great Adventure Club is held, with 100 children attending.

- The three year Capital Appeal to pay off the building expansion mortgage--“Serving Faithfully—Sharing Generously”, begins its first year.

2012

- A \$20,000 increase in pledged income enables the Messiah staff’s cost of living raises to be paid.
- Messiah finalizes its Vision Statement after a year of prayer, discussion, and interviews, facilitated by parishioner Joy Skjegstad. The statement reads: “Bringing people together from many nations and every generation to worship Jesus Christ and take his healing into the world.”
- The Quiet Day retreat is led by Ed Salmon, a former bishop of South Carolina and a current Dean of Nashotah House Seminary. The focus is on reconciliation and right relationships in the church.
- Diocesan Bishop Brian Prior is present at our Palm Sunday service. The congregation processes from the parking lot at the corner of Snelling and Ford Parkway.
- The 7:45 am service ends, due to its small attendance.
- The Evangelism Ministry begins hosting coffee hour, featuring Good Coffee and bread.
- Youth Ministry interns are Kelly Hoffman and Jason Wiley. The mission trip is to Minneapolis.
- Outreach and Missions money and resources provide partial support to two ministries in Haiti, five missionary families or individuals in Madagascar, Mexico, Botswana, East Africa, and South Asia, and five domestic ministries: Intervarsity, Family Place, Project Home, Sharing Korner and Habitat for Humanity. A monthly food collection is given to Sharing Korner.
Père Elie Charles, who hosted Messiah’s first trip to Haiti in 1990, dies. He was ordained a priest in 1970 and some years later assigned as priest-in-charge to St. Croix parish in Léogâne, with its twelve missions.
- Messiah’s Children’s Ministry grows in the number of children and in complexity, stretching volunteers to their limits. Messiah parishioner Lori Goetz is hired as Children’s Ministry Coordinator, to strengthen the program to meet its goals. Partnered with Lori Goetz in the Children’s Ministry are Catechesis of the Good Shepherd leaders Myra Arnold and Laurie Koechlein, Great Adventure Days’ leader Siri Drontle, and numerous Children’s Ministry volunteers.
- Gael Larson and Brad Shrag begin Family Choir, which later becomes Children’s Choir School.
- TEC General Convention authorizes a rite of blessing for same-sex unions, over the objections of fifteen bishops. The objecting bishops submit a written statement expressing their reasoned disagreement with the rite’s creation. Messiah’s vestry approves a letter expressing its support of the objecting bishop’s statement, which is sent to each of them and to bishop Brian Prior.
- TEC General Convention also passes a motion encouraging every Episcopalian to read the whole Bible through the course of the year, which some at Messiah make a commitment to do.
- Justin Welby is appointed the new Archbishop of Canterbury. He is described as being a committed Christian, uniquely gifted toward bringing together the various factions within the wider Anglican Communion.
- With funding in place for bus transportation to bring Karen parishioners to church, their participation in Messiah’s ministries increases.
- Messiah adopts a new fundraising policy.

2013

- With the help of the Wolterstorff bequest and other gifts, Messiah upgrades its sanctuary sound system with a new digital soundboard for improved sound quality and recording capacity.

Dan Booth, Paul Saxton and others assist in the extensive installation process, and train staff and volunteers to use the new mixer.

- Kevin Hendricks revises Messiah's website, giving it an appealing look and making it easier to navigate. It is regularly updated, and new features are being added.
- Susan Heil and other donors add an attractive shrubbery and garden area by the front entryway, and Messiah's sign is upgraded.
- Numerous building projects are completed by the Building Ministry and the work-day volunteers. Among the completed projects are: the repair and painting of the back wall of the sanctuary, the cleaning, painting, reorganizing, and restocking of the lower level and Gathering Space kitchens, the installation of dishwashers in the kitchens, the addition of new carpet for a classroom and for the Gathering Space, other classroom improvements of painting, cleaning, and waxing the floors, and various repairs, including the roof, the boiler, the air conditioning, and lighting repairs.
- Youth Ministry interns are Berit Goetz and Hser Htoo. The mission trip is to Denver.
- John Newton makes a visit to our mission partner, Epiphany School and parish in L'Acul, worshipping with them and preaching there.
- Construction on a new school building for the Epiphany parish and school begins in L'Acul funded by a Finnish organization. They have been meeting in a temporary building since the 2010 earthquake damaged their previous building. Messiah continues its scholarship drive to help fund student tuition at the school in Haiti.
- Judy DesHarnais completes her preparation to become a deacon and is assigned by Bishop Prior to serve at Messiah. In addition to her liturgical role, she ministers to Karen parishioners.
- George Slanger, an ordained priest in North Dakota but presently living in Minnesota and attending Messiah, becomes licensed to officiate here, assisting at principal festivals and during absences and vacations.
- The three-year capital campaign "Serving Faithfully—Sharing Generously" concludes, with 90 members contributing \$331,087 toward reducing the mortgage balance for the building expansion.
- The three-year "Open the Way" capital campaign is introduced, with a plan to finally pay off the mortgage with the pledged donations through 2016, supplemented by funds from the Endowment.

2014

- In January, the Healing Team and Adult Ministries jointly sponsor author-physician Richard Swenson in leading a conference on the topic: "Margin, Balance, Commitment." It is well-attended and well-received.
- Great Adventure Days reprises *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.
- Youth Ministry intern is Kelly Hoffman. The mission trip is to Pine Ridge South Dakota.
- String ensembles, coordinated by Christy Libbus and Gael Larson, contribute to Messiah's worship.
- Messiah's Quiet Day is led by Bishop John Howe, teaching on the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- At their July meeting, Messiah's Vestry votes to discontinue its Designated Episcopal Pastoral Oversight (DEPO) arrangement. This means the pastoral oversight of visitor bishop (the Rt. Rev. Russell Jacobus from the diocese of Fond du Lac, now retired) ends, and Messiah will be overseen by our diocesan bishop, Brian Prior.
- The Rev. Ed Wittenburg, Messiah's rector from 1977-1981, dies. His leadership in the music and healing ministries is especially remembered.

- The Adult Ed Ministry holds an all day conference entitled “Men & Women: Identity in Christ” taught by New Testament scholar Philip Payne.
- There are eleven House Groups that meet regularly. Group leaders meet several times per year with the House Group Coordinator Martha Olive and Clergy for prayer, support and needed information.
- Messiah continues to host homeless families through Project Home in the month of June, requiring a large number of volunteers to cover the evening and night shifts.
- Messiah hosts the Anglican Young People’s Association, a national Karen group, over Labor Day weekend.
- That same weekend, there was a rain-induced flood in the back portion of our building during the reconstruction of our flat roof. Insurance covered the extensive damage.
- The Karen Cultural Celebration is held in October with wonderful Karen food, music and stories from Karen members about making their way to their new home here.
- A significant number of Messiah’s Karen parishioners leave to join a Karen-language church that is not part of the Episcopal Church. Their departure is met with sadness.
- Messiah celebrates Rector John Newton’s forty years in the priesthood.
- Mary Gustafson, retired priest and musician from the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, serves as supply priest for John Newton when he goes on medical leave for a successful cardiac surgery.
- John Newton announces his resignation as rector of Messiah, effective on August 1, 2015.

2015

- Rector John Newton retires. A large farewell gathering is held at Como Park. He is remembered for his steadiness, adherence to Scripture, and caring involvement that helped stabilize Messiah during a time of dissension and crisis. His excellent preaching is also a highlight of his time here.
- Mary Gustafson, who conducted services during John Newton’s medical leave, is named interim rector.
- A Search Committee is appointed to find a new rector.
- There are multiple building challenges to be managed, associated with the reconstruction of Ford Parkway that is taking place outside our front door.
- The Lenten Quiet Day is led by Bishop Bruce McPherson.
- The 25th Anniversary of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at Messiah is celebrated, with the children participating during the worship service by reading the epistle, special prayers, and music.
- Great Adventure Days is held at the end of July, with over 80 children attending. Erin Pratt is the volunteer coordinator for over 60 volunteers assisting in GAD.
- Youth Ministry interns are: Pa Kou Yang and Josiah Thao. The Mission trip is to Winnipeg.
- Jeff Kidder, Paul Johnson, Mike and Peggy Ferdinand lead music at the Diocesan Convention.
- Laurie Koechlein now heads the PrayerNet Ministry, replacing long-term coordinator Peggy Ferdinand.
- Bus service to transport the Karen to Messiah ends, due to low ridership.
- An Adult Ed class for the Karen uses the “Jesus Video” in Sgaw Karen. Good discussions follow, with several of the Karen sharing how they became a Christian and how God has worked in their life.
- The Children’s Festival Choir begins under the leadership of Jeff Kidder, Gael Larsen, and Christy Libbus.

- Cub Scout Pack 10 is formed at Messiah.

2016

- Youth Ministry interns are Pete Nelson and Suzanne Olive. The mission trip is to Minneapolis.
- The musical “Cool in the Furnace” is presented by the youth at their mission dinner, to great acclaim.
- Great Adventure Days is held, featuring The Gospel of Luke.
- The “Capturing Your Children’s Imagination Through Celtic Prayers” seminar is sponsored by Children’s Ministry.
- Holy Week liturgies include performance of W. Wangerin’s “the Cry of the Whole Congregation,” with dance interpretations by Siri Drontle.
- By fall, Search Committee narrows its search for a new rector.
- Messiah receives a bequest from the Chase family for \$297,000.
- A Comprehensive Financial Plan is presented. The building mortgage will be paid in full at the end of 2016, using a combination of pledged donations, Endowment fund money, and a portion of the Chase family bequest.
- New carpet is installed in the sanctuary, and new flooring in the chapel.
- Messiah is sending Outreach money in partial support of a number of missionaries: Molly and Ryan Nielsen with Living Hope International in Puebla, Mexico, a couple with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Ethiopia, Berit Goetz with Intervarsity Christian Fellowship at Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design, Emily Liddiard with Youth for Christ in Botswana, a consultant with Common Ground, and Liz Fleming with World Outreach Ministries in Haiti.
- Jeff Kidder is diagnosed with cancer in September, and takes a medical leave. The congregation prays for Jeff and Kristen at the Sunday service before his leave.
- Paul Johnson serves as interim Music Ministry Director, continuing Messiah’s long tradition of creative music leadership. In Paul’s words, “Instead of breaking up our congregation into services with different flavors (“traditional” or “contemporary”, etc.) we try to reach everyone in the same service. This is sometimes known as ‘blended worship’. To me, it’s just the way the Body of Christ can worship together. Imagine the saints gathered around the Lamb in Revelation. Every tongue and tribe and nation are represented. There are sure to be a variety of musical styles all mixed in that scene! My hope for Messiah is that we can be a microcosm of that heavenly worship, with everyone who comes encountering a musical style that they feel at home with somewhere in the mix. . . While we all come to worship with preferences, singing a variety of music week after week draws us to appreciate the styles that we wouldn’t have chosen on our own, and even grow to love them over time.”
- In November the Rev. Matthew McCormick is called to be the new rector of Messiah. Matthew, his wife and their son make plans for their journey from Charleston, South Carolina to Minnesota