

THE MESSENGER

November 2018



In This Issue

From the Wardens	1
Music Ministry	2
Advent Adult Forum	3
Lay Reader/Chalice Bearer	3
Diocesan Blessing Bags	3
Family Ministry: Children....	4-5
Share the Warmth.....	5
Non-Progressive Dinner	5
Manna on Main Street	6
Shop, Sing, Snack	7
Stewardship 2019	7
Altar Linen Ministry	7
Christmas Bag Decorating	8
Christmas Gift Appeal.....	8
CROP Walk Against Hunger ...	9
Thanksgiving Worship	9
November calendar	10
People and Transitions	11

Our Vision:

Church of the Messiah seeks to be an inviting, welcoming and compassionate Christian community, nurturing spiritual growth through the Word, our actions, and gifts; thereby inspiring and uniting people to be examples of Christ's love.

Stewardship 2019

Imagining Our Future – Our Next Steps—People of the Dream

Last month we wrote about Our Next Steps concluding with the prayer, *“May our story be one of growth, meaningful worship, active social ministries, and attract and serve a diverse gathering of individuals and families into a faith-filled and faithful Christian community. Our Next Steps are to thrive!”*

If Our Next Steps are to grow, worship, minister and serve with faith, then each of us must prayerfully consider our pledge by discerning what Church of the Messiah means to us. In his book, Following the Way of Jesus Bishop Curry opens Chapter 3 – People of the Dream with a simple childhood poem by Langston Hughes that begins “Hold fast to dreams”. What is your dream for Messiah? Think about it. What do your time, talent and pledge mean? Will they ensure your spiritual growth; enrich faith-filled future generations; expand our reach by providing safe and usable space that enables services to our local community? Your dream put into action, and your pledge can accomplish much. Stewardship is not just about keeping the lights on. It is about how we use the resources we have today, and how we can plan for their use tomorrow. Stewardship is about drawing closer to God, by demonstrating individually and collectively our desire to fulfill our mission through the loving and responsible management of our resources. In his letter explaining the Diocesan 2019 Budget, Bishop Gutiérrez challenges us to think and be revolutionary saying, “We are called to build upon the legacy we have inherited.” And so, here we are 150 years later, this once summer chapel, now a sprawling campus, built on the faithful dreams of so many. Whether your time, your talent, your pledge to Messiah make an impact on one or one hundred, today, next week or next year, hold fast to your dreams.

Thank you Bishop Curry for reminding us “God has a dream. If God didn’t, we wouldn’t be here....Surely when God said, “Let there be,” God had something in mind. God didn’t create the world and us out of boredom. God had and has a dream.”

Let us hold fast and be People of the Dream.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

Faithfully yours,
Your Wardens



NOTES FROM THE MUSIC MINISTRY

November will bring music to Messiah from a wide cast of characters, including Chancel Choir, Band, Bell Choir, Hannah Albrecht, Gloria Jones and more. On All Saints Sunday (November 4), the Chancel Choir (with help from a few New Hope-Solebury & Lambertville Community Choir friends) presents a beautiful and memorable new piece based on a traditional camp meeting song called "No Time". Band and Bell Choir follow on ensuing Sundays, and we'll close out the month by featuring organist & pianist Hannah Albrecht.

If singing in the Chancel Choir year-round is too much of a commitment for you to consider, but you'd like to make music at Christmas, why not join the choir for the month of December and then sing with us at the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service? We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., will have a dress rehearsal on Saturday morning, December 22, and then will sing for the service on December 24. Please talk to Mr. Rick if you'd like to give this a try - you'll like it, we promise!

—Rick Rosen, *Music Leader*



Cordus Mundi in concert @ Messiah - November 17 @ 7:30 p.m.

Male a cappella group Cordus Mundi, led by Messiah music leader Rick Rosen, will be appearing in concert at Church of the Messiah on **Saturday evening, November 17 @ 7:30 p.m.**

Cordus kicks off their fourteenth season with a program entitled "Unforgettable", which includes music from a range of composers and styles including Morley, Poulenc, Gibbs, Crabtree, Moore, Barnum, Shaw, Rudoi, Gordon, Forrest, and more.

Tickets are \$20 (children under 12 - N/C) and are available in the church office or at the door.



Advent Adult Forum

The Untold Story of Christmas

Led by Carolyn Custis James, member of our Church of the Messiah community
Sunday mornings, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9 and 12/16



Description: Every year, when Christmas rolls around, we hear once again the beautiful Christmas story. Despite how familiar this story is to all of us, we never seem to tire of hearing it. Events surrounding the birth of Jesus are so well-known, little children can tell the story. Many of them have acted it out in church pageants. Yet, as is true with any biblical narrative, there is always more to the story if we just keep digging. This forum will probe deeper into overlooked details of the Christmas story to unearth unexpected aspects and overlooked participants in a story we all know as well as our own.

Bio: Carolyn Custis James speaks internationally and is an activist, blogger, and award-winning author. Her books include *Finding God in the Margins*, *Malestrom*, *Half the Church*, and *The Gospel of Ruth*. She is a consulting editor for Zondervan's Exegetical Commentary Series on the New Testament and an adjunct professor at Biblical Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. She blogs at www.carolyncustisjames.com, Huffington Post/Religion, and as a Leading Voice at Missio Alliance. Her work focuses on the intersection between Christianity and twenty-first century cultural issues facing women and men globally and has earned her recognition by *Christianity Today* as one of 50 Christian Women Leaders to Watch."

Feel free to grab a cup of coffee and then come to the Guild Room following 9:30 worship and join us in what's bound to be an enlightening and engaging seminar.

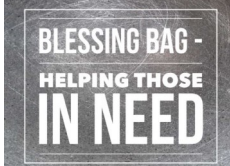
LRCB MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Please consider donating your time and talent to Church of the Messiah! The LRCB (Lay Reader Chalice Bearer) Ministry is in need of **readers and chalice bearers for both Sunday services**. You can learn more by emailing or calling Sam Frenkel (267-902-2087 or sfrenkel516@gmail.com). This is a rewarding and easy way to become involved! By committing to the LRCB Ministry as a reader and bearer, you may be assigned to 1-2 Sundays a month and that's it! It really is easy and simple! Thank you so much in advance!



OUR DIOCESE INVITES YOUR HELP WITH "BLESSING BAGS"

According to Project Home, approximately 15,000 people, including families, access shelter in Philadelphia each year. For those staying in shelters, basic items - toothpaste, tissues, etc. - are too expensive. At this year's Diocesan Convention, participants will help assemble 250 "blessing bags" for those that are experiencing homelessness. The bags will contain non-perishable items and toiletries that are easy to carry and in high need for people living or staying in shelters. The Diocese is asking parishioners and churches to help them collect the necessary items now in advance of Convention (November 3). Even if you are not attending Convention, you can help them reach their goal by purchasing items now. The full list is on Amazon. Items purchased can be sent or dropped off to our offices, 3717 Chestnut Street, 3rd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104, c/o Canon Toneh Smyth.



Children and Family Ministry

It's November, and there's just something about that crisp cool air that makes you feel thankful. With Thanksgiving right around the corner, we are all sure to be extra aware of the blessings in our life. However, God doesn't wait until the holidays to share his love with us. It's here every day. But I will be the first to admit that I don't always look for it. It's so easy to get caught up with life and begin going through the motions. Each day begins with a hectic to-do list and usually ends with the same list (lacking a few check marks). Sandwich in some quick meals and top it off with a little bit of broken sleep and wa-la! You've got yourself a hefty plate of exhaustion. We barely have time to process the day before the new one begins. So those blessings I mentioned before and that "love stuff" that God is sharing each day... Where does that come in? We're grown-ups right? I'm sure we can figure it out if it we just read the right books, listen to the right podcasts and adjust our daily planners to include "count your blessing time." Actually, it might not be as hard as we think. There's a reason Jesus told us to have faith like a child.

My daughter Addie likes to bring her favorite stuffed animals with her wherever we go, including church. A couple weeks ago she even brought one of them up with us for communion. It was Toothless the dragon to be exact. It was Toothless' first time in church. She had just gotten him for her birthday, and he was new to the family. Little did Toothless know, he had a special experience awaiting him. We had all received our bread and were waiting for the wine to come along. The glass was lowered in front of Addison and she immediately lifted her dragon. Dave and I both reached out at the same time with panicked looks. "No no, don't dip the dragon in the wine!" She looked at me, taken aback by our worried looks, and said "I was just trying to share the salvation with Toothless." First came the sigh of relief. Toothless did not actually go into the wine. Next came the thought processing. The salvation....wow! I call it wine. She calls it

salvation. I thought it was ridiculous of her to give some to a stuffed animal. She didn't. She knows it's a beautiful thing and wanted to share it with her current favorite toy. I couldn't act out the gospel message more clearly if I tried. I would definitely overthink it. Who should I invite to share the salvation? What if they don't like it? What if everyone looks at me funny? Why is this so HARD? It's OK. Jesus knew we were going to think these crazy things. That's why in Matthew 18 Jesus tells us,

"Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."



I guess it's a good thing for us there are so many kids around! It is truly a blessing to have so many little teachers running around, effortlessly living out the gospel: listening to us with open hearts, accepting our love, and loving us back unconditionally. We can learn so much from them, and yet they still need our guidance. How did Addie know to share the salvation with her dragon? Because the members of Messiah shared it with her first.

Every time a child walks through the doors of our church and we love them, listen to them and share the salvation with them, we are doing the will of God. We as a church community are preparing the next generation of disciples, and they are so ready. If we keep nurturing their souls and feeding their hearts with the words of Jesus, we will be blown away when it comes time for them to unleash their love on this world. I know we've all

heard the phrase, "It takes a village to raise a child." Today I'm saying, "It takes a church to raise a disciple." Please join me on this incredible journey as we both learn from and teach the children of Messiah.

How You Can Get Involved:

- We are currently looking for volunteers for our nursery program. If you would like to be a part of our children's ministry by working in the



nursery or with the Sunday church school program, please contact Tiffany Reichley at tmreichley@gmail.com

- Trip to Normandy Farms
This November our church school is excited to be traveling to the Normandy Farms Retirement community to visit with residents of the Oak Bridge Terrace facility. On Sunday, November 25 we will meet at 1:15 to share some time and love with the people of Normandy. We will make some crafts and share a snack together. If you feel passionate about this visit and would like to accompany us, please contact Tiffany Reichley.



Our Youth are collecting new and gently-used winter apparel (coats, hats, scarves, gloves) for the homeless and needy. Your donations can be placed in the Narthex. Look for our poster and donation bin. Our children and youth will be putting the donations into care packages, which will then be distributed by the YOMs in Philadelphia. If you would like to help with donations by donating financially, or creating and distributing care packages, please contact Dave Reichley: dareichley@gmail.com.

Save the Date

Our new style Progressive Dinner two years ago was a great success. So, on Saturday December

8, 2018, beginning at 5 pm, you are invited to join your fellow parishioners for another one. Our only goal for this no- cost/no agenda dinner is fun and fellowship. Unlike traditional progressive dinners, ours will *begin* at Messiah and then *stay here*, keeping our "progressing" to within the confines of Messiah.

The main dish will be provided. You are invited to bring a portion of the meal to share, for which there will be a sign-up sheet in the parish house foyer. Categories for contributions are: appetizer, entrée salad or entrée side, and dessert. Additionally, we would love it if some folks

would sign up to help us clean up after the event, with, of course, many hands making light work. So, make sure this event is on your calendar for December 8, and look for the signup sheet in the parish house.

Hope we'll see you there!!



Manna on Main Street

SPECIAL CHALLENGE

MANNA ON MAIN STREET

Messiah has done an amazing job of supporting Manna's initiative of alleviating hunger in our neighborhoods. To date, in 2018, we have contributed over 667 pounds of food. We would love to top 1000 pounds (just 333 more pounds needed by year's end), and with your help, we can do it. Current needs in particular are: **canned yams, gravy, soup (no cream soup), baby food, cereal, fruit and vegetables**. They do NOT need stuffing, pasta, mac & cheese, beans or any form of cranberries.



Ending Hunger, Building Community, Transforming Lives

Manna Thanksgiving

Manna has separated their need for upcoming Thanksgiving basket donations to give specific request lists to their various donors. Messiah's Thanksgiving request list consists of: **canned fruit, gravy, muffin mix, dessert mixes, baking items (sugar, baking soda, baking powder, sprinkles and icing)**.

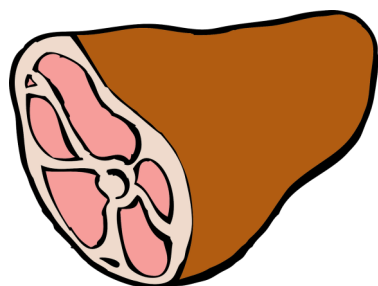


Please--no stuffing, pasta, mac & cheese, beans or any form of cranberries.

All items may be brought to Messiah and left in the designated boxes in the back of the church from whence our volunteers will transport them to Manna.

Holiday hams and turkeys

Many folks shop at grocery stores that offer promotional free turkeys or hams during the holidays.



If you are willing to donate yours to Manna, please leave it in the freezer in the Messiah church kitchen and notify the parish office (215 699-9204/ sue@messiahgwynedd.org) that you have done so, so that one of our current delivery volunteers



(Vincent Ahonkhai, Susan Baumann, Dee Hillas, Jean London or Barb Tudgay) will be sure to collect it.

**SHOP!
SING!
SNACK!**



**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 15TH**

*** COMMUNITY-
WIDE EVENT *
ALL AGES
WELCOME!**

**BELFRY BARGAINS OPEN FOR SHOPPING (4-6PM)
ENJOY CHRISTMAS CAROLS, WARM BEVERAGES,
SNACKS & WARM HEARTS! (6-?)**

JOIN IN THE FUN AS WE SHOP FROM 4-6 P.M., SING AND WALK ALONG THE
CHURCH GROUNDS, LIGHTING OUR WAY TO THE PARISH HALL
FOR SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER, FELLOWSHIP AND A FEW MORE SONGS.



Stewardship talent
commitment growing vision LOVE support PLEDGE giving time
blessing sharing treasure faith caring
community

Have you returned your 2019
Pledge Card? To assist us in the
best planning and stewardship of
your gifts, we would appreciate
your returning your pledge by
Sunday, November 18.

Thank you.

Altar Linen Ministry

We are grateful to dedicated member
of this ministry for some 30 years,
Sylvia Vogenberg, who has now moved
and is no longer able to continue.

This ministry involves caring for the
altar linens: veils, purificators and altar
covers used in Sunday worship.

If you think you might like to join this
team, please contact Brenda Weir,
altar guild co-chair, at:
weirhome251@yahoo.com/ or call: 805
-407-8992.



Christmas Gift Bag Decorating, at Coffee Hour

Save the Date—November 11, 2018



Help spread holiday joy. Each year The Church of The Messiah gives Christmas gift bags to the residents of Silver Stream and Gwynedd Square nursing home. **Join us at coffee hour on November 11 to decorate these bags.**

The bags will then be available in the Parish Hall November 18. Please take a gift bag or several, with you and fill them with goodies for

the residents. A list of suggested items is included. It is important to stick to this list. The bag must be filled, tagged male or female, and **returned to the church by December 9.** Please do NOT wrap the items. If you would like to attach a personalized note, please feel free to do so. Any questions, Call Diana 267-481-6091 or dimulroy1@gmail.com.

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH'S CHRISTMAS GIFT-GIVING PROGRAM

Messiah has adopted families, through Interfaith Ambler and Laurel House for Christmas. By doing so, we have agreed to purchase some or all of the things they have put on their wish list. The tags will be available in the Narthex the week of November 18. Please take as many as you like, but if you take one, please purchase the gift and return it to church. Please note that food store gift certificates are also always welcome and an easy way to participate! Follow these guide lines:
Take a tag from the Christmas tree.
Go shopping for the item listed on the tag.

Attach the bottom part of the tag to the outside of the gift and return it to church.

DO NOT Wrap the gift!!

Return the gifts to Church no later than December 2.

Any questions: Contact Diana Mulroy 267 481-6091 or dimulroy1@gmail.com



CROP Hunger Walk


Thank you to everyone who supported the Crop Walk. The Church of the Messiah had 6 walkers (7 counting Tilly the dog - not pictured) and raised over \$1700. Twenty-five percent of all of the funds raised will support Manna on Main Street, with the remainder going to Church World Services.

We could not have done it without your generous support!



Thanksgiving Worship

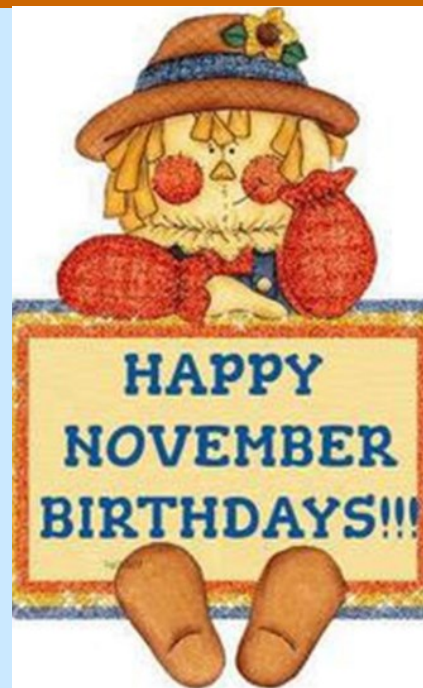
Tuesday Evening,
November 20, 2018
at 7 pm in the church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>4 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Fellowship 9:15 AM Church School and Nursery care 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist and fellowship 6:30 PM YOM (Youth of the Messiah) 6:30-8 pm 11 25 PENTECOST Proper 27 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Fellowship 9:15 AM Church School and Nursery care 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 10:45 AM Fellowship and Christmas Gift Bag Decorating 6:30 PM NO YOM (Youth of the Messiah) today</p>	 <p>5 7:00 PM Fellowship Ministry Meeting-Guild Room 12 6:00 PM Montgomery County AA Zone Meeting-Parish Hall 19 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Fellowship 9:15 AM Church School and Nursery care 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 10:45 AM Fellowship in the Parish House Foyer Harmony Theatre Performance</p>	 <p>6 Election Day  7:30 PM AA, Alanon, and Alateen meetings 13 7:30 PM AA, Alanon, and Alateen meetings 20 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Worship  7:30 PM AA, Alanon, and Alateen meetings</p>	 <p>7 9:30 AM OA 10:30 AM Book Club Discussion--Guild Room 6-10 pm Harmony rehearsal 7:00 PM Bell Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary 7:30 PM ACOA meeting-upstairs YOM classroom 14 9:30 AM OA 10:30 AM Book Club Discussion-- Guild Room 5:00 PM Harmony Theatre chair setup 6-10 Harmony rehearsal 7:00 PM Bell Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary 7:30 PM ACOA meeting-upstairs YOM classroom 21 Parish Office closed 9:30 AM OA No Bell Choir today 7:30 PM ACOA meeting-upstairs YOM classroom</p>	<p>1 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (7-8 pm) in the music room 8 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (7-8 pm) in the music room 8:00 PM Chancel Choir with Band (8-9 pm)-in Sanctuary 15 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (7-8 pm) in the music room upstairs YOM classroom 22 THANKSGIVING DAY office closed No chancel Choir today</p>	<p>2 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (7-8 pm) in the music room 9 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (7-8 pm) in the music room 8:00 PM Chancel Choir with Band (8-9 pm)-in Sanctuary 16 Harmony Evening Performance 23 office closed</p>	<p>3 9:00 AM Harmony Theatre 7 pm Bingo fundraiser-Parish Hall  2 am -SET CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR 10 9:00 AM Harmony Theatre in Parish Hall-9-1 17 2:00 PM Harmony Performance 7:30 PM Cordus Mundi evening concert  24</p>
<p>25 LAST PENTECOST Proper 29 The Rev. Mike Haines' last Sunday at Messiah 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Fellowship 9:15 AM Church School and Nursery care 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist and fellowship 10:45 AM Advent Adult Forum-The Untold Story of Christmas (see newsletter p. 3)  1:15 PM Church School goes to Normandy Farms (see newsletter p. 5)</p>	<p>26 7:00 PM AA, Alanon, and Alateen meetings</p>	<p>27 7:30 PM AA, Alanon, and Alateen meetings</p>	<p>28 9:30 AM OA 7:00 PM Bell Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary 7:30 PM ACOA meeting-upstairs YOM classroom</p>	<p>29 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (7-8 pm) in the music room 8:00 PM Chancel Choir with Band (8-9 pm)-in Sanctuary 30 Mootoo Sr. Softball League setup all day in the Parish Hall to set up for 12/1 dinner</p>		

Pe☺ple and Transiti☹ns

November Birthdays

11/1 Renee Ferullo	11/17 Chase Repine
11/1 Marilyn Bonner	11/18 Nicole DiBonaventura
11/2 Megan Wertz	11/19 Matt Higgins
11/5 Gloria Jones	11/19 Tyler Evangelisto
11/5 Constance Miller	11/21 Abby Rusnak
11/7 Renee Marsh	11/22 Danny Rusnak
11/7 Tonia Uffner	11/24 Mike Mulroy
11/8 Mercer Sisson	11/25 Barbara Groshens
11/8 Sarah Nelson	11/26 Dee Newman
11/9 Zeke Boldt	11/26 Dan Ryan
11/11 Muriel Selheimer	11/26 Sam Fogel
11/14 Joseph Stinson	11/27 Cheryl Berry
11/15 Barbara Robinson	11/27 Matthew Gruszecki
11/15 Val Carr	11/29 Harry Parke
11/16 Lorraine Polard	



Directory Changes

John Long new address
1903 Marlbrook Ct.
Lansdale PA 19446-5347

Sylvia Vogenberg new address
co Claudia Garner
5858 Upper Ridge Road
Pennsburg, PA 18073
215 234-9693

Phone number changes:
Please amend home phone for **Marcalino Senteio** and **Sam Frenkel** to be 267-903-4522.
Please delete listed home for **Mulroy family** altogether. Diana's cell is 267-481-6091
Mike's is 215-872-9896.

New email for **Bill Jacobs:**
wjjwarden@gmail.com

DEATHS: "Rest Eternal, grant them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them"

Elizabeth Esher, Mercer Sisson's mother

BAPTISM: "Marked as Christ's own forever"
Connor James Gladysz

Clergy

The Rev. Keith A. Marsh, *Rector*

The Rev. Mike Haines, *Sabbatical Supply*

Staff

Sue Phillips,
Parish Administrator

Rick Rosen,
Music Leader

Hannah Albrecht,
Organist

Tiffany Reichley,
Director of Family Ministries: Children

Dave Reichley,
*Director of Family Ministries:
Youth*

Sarah Patram,
Financial Secretary

Mike Linn, *Sexton*

Sunday Worship: 8 and 9:30 a.m

Church School: 9:15 am



Church of the Messiah

215 699-9204 / Fax: 215 699-2031

Email: office@messiahgwynedd.org

Website: www.messiahgwynedd.org

Vestry

Dave Prezuhy, *Senior Warden*

Jean London, *Junior Warden*

Bruce Baumann, *Treasurer*

Sam Miller, *Vestry Secretary*

Marsha Althouse Rich Dunlap

Victoria Fogel Tina Madison

Jennifer Marsh Susan Miller

Mike Mulroy Marcalino Senteio

Barbara Stevenson Charles Sudlow

Brenda Weir



Church of the Messiah

The Episcopal Church in Gwynedd Pennsylvania

1001 Dekalb Pike

Lower Gwynedd, PA 19002