

## Letter from the Rector

by **Brad Rundlett**

January is a very busy month for St. Timothy's. On the 8th we have our Annual Parish Meeting to elect four regular members and one alternate member to our governing board, the Vestry. Regular members serve a three year term, the alternate serves a one year term. The Vestry meets from 7:30 to 9:00 pm on the fourth Monday of every month to handle all of the financial and property business of the church. On January 8th, ballots will be handed out during the announcement period of each service. All baptized members in good standing, 16 years of age and older, are eligible to both vote and to serve on the Vestry. To be a candidate, we must have a record of your Baptism (date and place), you must attend church regularly (we don't take attendance but you must be present more Sundays than you

are absent), and you must contribute to the mission of the church (by making a financial pledge or donation). Lunch will be provided for the Annual Meeting after our services on the 8th; retiring Vestry will be honored, election results will be announced, new Vestry members will make a vow, and we will present the 2012 budget for review; questions are welcome. All Vestry meetings are open; any member can attend and may address the Vestry. All Vestry meetings begin with discussion of how God is evident in our lives, an inspirational reading, and prayer. At the end of our meetings we stand, join hands, and sing the doxology.

On January 13th and 14th, the twelve elected members, the alternate, the Treasurer, and the Clergy, are on retreat. We set

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## The Mission to Haiti: Cange and Chapateau, Part 1

by **Scott Zetlan**

The first Saint Timothy's mission to Haiti was, strictly speaking, my second trip to Haiti. The first was a shore trip from a cruise boat, a pleasant day on a sanitized beach.

The cruise lines stop at Labadee, a coastal resort destination that seems to

be much further from the grim reality of Port-au-Prince than the mere 80 miles that separates them. Port-au-Prince is a tumult of exhaust, quickly moving crowds, burning refuse, and dense gray dust that coats even the sparse greenery struggling to grow in highway medians. But everywhere there are signs of hope and pride: typical attire throughout Haiti is well-dressed men in slacks, women

in skirts, blouses, and often heels, and school children in vibrantly clean, neatly pressed school uniforms—girls always sport matching ribbons in their hair, all tramping along streets and highways, across open sewers, past piles of burning rubble and half-destroyed buildings, on their way to work, school, or market.

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*The Haiti Team: Keith Pinkard, Genevieve Zetlan, our hosts Altacracia and Pere Michelin, Fr. Brad, Craig Dubishar, Scott Zetlan, and Chris Brock*

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this time apart to get to know each other, learn to work together as a team, become familiar with the mission and ministries of St. Timothy's, gain some clarity about God's will, and strengthen our faith.

January 26th-28th our three elected delegates and our clergy meet with the other members of our Diocesan Council (our Bishops, diocesan staff, and the delegates of 185 parishes). Approximately 800 of us will meet in the Grand Ballroom of the Reston Hyatt. Our Altar Guild will maintain a chapel during the Council. For more information, visit our Diocesan website:

[www.thediocese.net](http://www.thediocese.net)

If you are a member in good standing

and have never served on a Vestry or as a delegate to Council, I invite you to consider both of these ministries. I think you will be greatly encouraged by the good faith and devotion you see.

### **The New Year**

A new year stretches before us. God may know every detail of what will transpire, but we do not. I am confident that God's will is going to prevail; but we have the power to choose how we will respond to events. I am willful. I get very absorbed in my own plans. And I have discovered that trying to assert my will is painful, yet being passive and uninvolved is fruitless. We are "co-creators" with God. God works with us to accomplish good for us. Our mission is to discern the

will of God and apply our effort and resources to it. Our prayer book has numerous prayers for various circumstances. One that comes to my mind for this New Year actually comes from the "Ministration for the Sick" on page 461. The prayer is suitable for every morning, regardless of health issues.

"This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. Amen." +

## **Youth Plan Spring Agenda, J2A Pilgrimige to New York City**

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**by Leslie Chadwick, Associate Rector**

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Mark your calendars for a parent/youth/leader dinner and meeting on Sunday, **January 22 from 5:30-7:30 pm** in Henry Hall. We will discuss the challenges and strengths of the Journey to Adulthood Program, sign up for youth events for the Winter/Spring of 2012, discuss the upcoming J2A pilgrimage, and more. If you have input for the Youth Advisory Board, please e-mail it to Leslie Chadwick at [lesliec@saint-timothys.org](mailto:lesliec@saint-timothys.org) before the meeting.

Our 10th-12th graders are preparing to take a pilgrimage to New York City July 3-9, 2012. The youth and adults going will contribute a third of the cost, the church will contribute a third, and the group will fundraise the rest. This trip will not interfere with our Dungannon Mission Trip, slated for the end of July. How is a pilgrimage different from a vacation or a mission trip? Read this answer from Jenni Ovenstone Smith, Associate Rector at St. John's Ellicott City, MD the church that has mentored us in Journey to Adulthood.

A pilgrimage is a symbolic journey—an outward journey that's a symbol not only of the inward journey we have all been on together throughout J2A. It's also a symbol of how we want our ongoing journey forward to be. We are always on a journey with God, whether we know it or not, however intentional about it we are, or not. So often when we stop to think about that journey we realize we are not living it

quite the way we "wish" we were. We might rather take more time—to pray, slow down, have more quiet moments, put more things in our day that are truly important to us; or maybe take some risks—to be more connected to others, more open to new things, more revealing of who we really are. On pilgrimage, a short time set apart to pay attention, we can do those things that make our journey with God more like what we "wish" it were. On pilgrimage we live symbolically for a short time the way we mean to live all the time. And I believe that when we take a symbolic step like that, when we do what we can, God helps fill in the gap between where we are now and where we intend to be.

Characteristics of a pilgrimage destination: someplace set apart from our ordinary lives to help us be in a new space, someplace deeply connected to other Christians in time and space (global and historical connection), someplace one might call a "thin" place (where the distinction between earthly and heavenly is so "thin" it's much easier for us to be open to mystery and God's presence), a place where people have already practiced what we are practicing - pilgrimage and prayer. We simply enter in to the space our fellow Christians have helped shape for generations.

The details of our itinerary for the July 2012 trip will be a surprise, but if you'd like to see a sample itinerary, visit [the wonder voyage website here/](#) +

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Midway between Port-au-Prince and Labadee lies Cange, the site of one of the most remarkable transformations in modern Haitian history. Thirty years ago when Fr. Brad first visited the area, Cange was a barren hilltop, completely deforested, where inhabitants



*The children St. Tim's sponsors in Chapoteau, and their parents*

of a few small villages barely scraped out subsistence living. Thanks to persistent efforts by non-profit organizations – in particular, Zanmi Lasante (Partners in Health), which built there one of the best school, church, and medical complexes in all of Haiti— Cange is now home to a thriving community that models the hope for “The New Haiti”. This is where we stayed for the first two nights of our visit.

The Zanmi Lasante complex, effectively a walled city on a hill, is home to Ekól Bon Sauveur, its church, and its rector, Pere Jean-Michel Saint Louis, our host. Pere Michelin is a recent seminary graduate now responsible for 19 parishes ranging throughout the Haitian hillsides in the rural outlying areas surrounding Cange. He is constantly busy, often talking on both of his two mobile phones in quick succession or even simultaneously. He is also either a highly skilled or inexplicably lucky driver (possibly both).

Pere Michelin escorted us throughout

Haiti. Through our conversations with him and with the many others we met, a few common threads emerged: first, that an education makes the difference between a permanent subsistence living and a reasonably middle-class lifestyle. An entry-level accountant with a college degree, for example, can earn

enough in a month for rent, food, water, clothing, cell phone, and a little extra to save. By contrast, an uneducated person faces a subsistence living, growing food for survival and scabbling for jobs that may pay the equivalent of less than \$5 US per day. The

unemployment rate hovers around 50 percent, although it's estimated that in actuality, two-thirds of the labor force do not have formal jobs.

In addition to being the next generation's ticket out of poverty, schools such as the one Saint Timothy's supports in Chapoteau also provide important nourishment: each student receives a substantial daily school lunch, usually of rice and beans. It costs about \$25 to buy a 55-pound sack of rice in Haiti— sufficient for one student's lunch for an entire year. American money goes a long, long way in Haiti.

Chapoteau itself lies atop a hill across Lac de Péligré, the lake formed by the dam construction which flooded

the Artibonite River valley south of Cange. After Pere Michelin drove us partway down the main highway from Cange, we left the SUV by the roadside and scrambled down what could generously be called a path from the guard rail to the lake shore 60 feet below. From there we took a small motorboat — in two shifts, because the boat could not hold all 8 of us plus the boatman — across the lake. It took us about 15 minutes to hike up the hill to the center of Chapoteau, about 600 feet above the water on the opposite shore. We passed several small houses and finally emerged, hot and out of breath, at the center of the village.

We were greeted warmly in Chapoteau, fresh coconuts chopped open with a machete pressed into our hands. We toured Saint Mathieu's church and school and met the children (and their parents) that Saint Timothy's sponsors. And we discussed with the village leaders potential projects to help improve conditions there.



*Craig talking with James, who is studying physics and wants to go to college in Port-au-Prince, but can't afford it*

About 100 children in and around Chapoteau don't attend the school because they cannot afford it. Annual school tuition is about \$400 US, less than most middle-class Americans

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spend on cable television in a year. Tuition pays the teachers and administrator, pays for shoes, uniforms (made by local people), backpacks, and books, and provides a daily lunch.

That daily lunch is cooked in large pots over outdoor fires. When it rains, as happens often in this tropical Caribbean country, cooking becomes difficult or impossible. Several years ago an attempt was made to build an enclosed structure to house the kitchen, but funds ran out and this was never finished. The overgrown foundation features rusted rebar awaiting walls which have never been poured.

In the coming months, the Haiti mission team will share its experiences and goals with the congregation, and will travel with their message to other churches (two have already requested that someone from St. Tim's come and speak). There are several goals: to eventually provide for the an-

nual education for all students in Chapoteau, though asking other churches to sponsor children as we do; to provide an annual higher education scholarship of \$1,000 per year – college tuition is approximately \$1,500 – to a deserving student who can work to provide the remaining funds; and to begin the first of many construction projects—finishing the school kitchen, so that the people of Chapoteau might find it easier to prepare healthy food year-round.

Along with all these tangible projects – which will produce meaningful, concrete results and continue the transformation in Chapoteau – perhaps the most important goal is to form a lasting relationship with the people there, and to always remember our friends.

*Next month: Our visit with Wisnel Dejardin and his parish in Miragoane.*



*(top) A typical street in Haiti - open air markets, lots of tent coverings and scrap tin roofs, and garbage; (above) the foundation of the unfinished kitchen in Chapoteau; (left) Genevieve greeting preschool children before school*

## Q&A from the Congregation

**Q. I see that shield with the red cross on lots of Episcopal churches. What does it mean?**

A. This symbol, which you will see at virtually every Episcopal church and web site, is the official “logo” of ECUSA (Episcopal Church of the United States of America), and depicts our history. It is red, white and blue—the colors of both the U.S. and English flags. The red Cross of St. George on a white field is symbolic of the Church of England. The blue field in the upper left corner mirrors the US flag and represents the Episcopal Church of the U.S.A. The blue field holds a Cross of St. Andrew, in recognition of the fact that the first American bishop was consecrated in Scotland (after the Revolutionary War, English Bishops were not willing to consecrate Bishops in America, but Scottish ones were). The St. Andrew cross is made up of nine crosslets, which represent the nine original dioceses that met in Philadelphia in 1789 to form the Protestant Episcopal Church of the U.S.A.

*Submit your questions to the Question Box hanging on the wall in the narthex below the pictures of the bishops.*

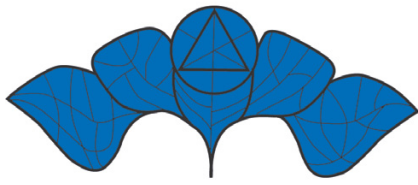
## Gift to Glorify the Lord Campaign Closes 2011 with 114 Pledges

by Elaine Horsfield,  
Communications

The Gifts to Glorify the Lord Ministry wishes a Happy New Year to everyone and grateful thanks to the 114 families who made campaign commitments and gifts in 2011 to the Organ and Building Improvements and Reserve Funds. Ministry members especially appreciate the telephone conversations with the congregation in December that allowed questions to be answered and additional commitments to be made. The campaign is well on its way to achieving its goals and looks forward to more parishioners participating in 2012. Anyone with questions or wishing to make a pledge or gift can contact Chair Randy Karn, at [randykarn@cox.net](mailto:randykarn@cox.net) or (703) 402-0227. Information packets and commitment cards are also available in the Narthex. +

## Christmas Eve, 2011





## St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

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The Word is published monthly and emailed to members and friends on the first weekday of each month. It also appears on the website ([www.saint-timothys.org](http://www.saint-timothys.org)). If you wish to receive a copy by mail, please notify Keith Nelson Stroud in the church office ([keith@saint-timothys.org](mailto:keith@saint-timothys.org)). Copies of The Word are also available in the office.

### Submission deadline for the next issue: Thursday, Friday 27, 2012

Questions, articles, or ideas, and comments for The Word are always welcome. Send materials via email to [wordeditor@saint-timothys.org](mailto:wordeditor@saint-timothys.org) and put "The Word" in the subject line. Photos are also welcome; please identify key people in photos. Articles or letters may be edited for brevity or appropriateness.

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### **Office Hours**

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For appointments, please call 703-437-3790

## Service Times

### **Sundays**

8:00 a.m.  
Eucharist, Rite I

9:30 a.m.  
Eucharist, Rite II  
Godly Play, ages 3-9  
Nursery Care

11:00 a.m.  
Eucharist, Rite II  
Sunday School  
Godly Play, ages 3-9  
Nursery Care

### **Wednesday**

12:15 P.M.  
Eucharist and  
Healing Service