

St. Tim's sends member Natividad Menjivar to Seminary

On August 10th Natividad Menjivar will begin nine months of Anglican Studies at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. Natividad and his wife Ana have been members of St. Timothy's for a few years. They have two young children—Ashley and Natian. Natividad was a Roman Catholic Priest but believed God was calling him to something else. After a year of discernment and prayer Natividad came to the conclusion that God was leading him to serve as an Episcopal Priest. He and Ana married, and they finally came to St. Timothy's.

The process toward Episcopal Priesthood is long and exacting. Every aspirant must be a college graduate, submit to being screened and tested by professionals and committees,

take the Graduate record Exam, get their Bishop's approval, and be admitted to one of the eleven Seminaries of the Episcopal Church. Natividad has completed this process and will soon begin his studies. Ordinarily a Seminary education (Master of Divinity) is three years; but, because Natividad graduated from a Roman Catholic Seminary he only needs one year of Anglican study. So, God willing, Natividad will graduate in mid May of 2012 and be received as an Episcopal Priest.

Please keep Natividad, Ana, Ashley, and Natian in your prayers. And, if you can help with financial support please make a check out to St. Timothy's and put "Seminararian Support" on the memo line. +

Vestry Leadership Re-examines Priorities in Saturday Meeting

With our two very capable process leaders, this year's Vestry spent half of a June Saturday re-examining

what's been accomplished thus far in 2011, and what still needs to be done. Once again the Vestry created faithful priorities for 2012. These will be shared with the Finance Ministry and other ministry leaders as has been done before. And they are printed here for your review. Please, if you have any questions or concerns, want to know more about the Vestry or want to serve on the Vestry, talk with a current member of our governing board (their names and photographs are hanging in a frame on the wall in the narthex).

1. Priority one is Fiscal Responsibility. Of course this is always a number one concern, but we are checking the costs for garbage and recycling collection, payroll, and our copier lease. We are looking at the effectiveness of our financial software, planning an external

audit (we have an audit every year), and considering the cost of a part-time bookkeeper. The Vestry will continue to monitor our Capital Campaign to make sure we have sufficient funds (not just pledges) for the work we hope soon to do. And we continue to amend our voucher procedures as needed.

2. Building and Grounds. We have a wonderful facility on ten beautiful acres of land and we are committed to taking good care of these magnificent gifts. The Reserve Fund portion of our Capital Campaign will help us do this. We are trying to determine when roof shingles and HVAC systems will need to be replaced; when the driveway and parking lots will have to be repaved. We want to be ready for these expensive exigencies when they occur. We

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have facility and construction professionals in our Church family who can help us.

3. Outreach to the Community. We want to make sure everyone really feels welcome in St. Timothy's. We need to consider multi-lingual signs, printed materials, and services. We want to have programs and services that draw people to us, and make sure we communicate effectively to the Northern Virginia community. We will seriously consider calling a Latino/Latina Priest to work with us. And we will continue to provide assistance for our marginal, homeless, jobless neighbors.

4. Growth. The cost of everything is increasing, and St. Timothy's needs to increase too. Therefore our fourth priority is growth. We have to invite, welcome, and value new people in our Christian community. We need to utilize technology effectively, help people understand our beliefs, and invite them to become involved in the wonderful work we do.

5. Christian Ed. Our fifth priority is providing the very best Christian education programs for all ages, and the very best support for our younger members. We need to consider calling a half-time youth minister, encourage more of our youth to experience our mission in

Appalachia (Dungannon), promote our Journey 2 Adulthood program, offer more adult education, and minimize "calendar collisions" with more careful planning of our many events.

That's the top five list and there are, of course, priorities that are assumed. We are called to love and serve God, worship regularly and authentically, help each other fulfill our Baptismal vows, learn to share our faith with other people in a genuine yet respectful way, work for justice and peace, be fearlessly generous stewards of our gifts, revere God's creation, and love each other as Christ loves us. We are the church of God. +



Adelaide Ann Hixon Baptized July 24

On July 24 at the 9:30 am service Fr. Brad baptized Adelaide Ann Hixon, daughter of Amy and Spencer Hixon, granddaughter of Shirley and Dennis Ratliff and Dave and Julie Hixon. Amy and Spencer live in North Carolina, but returned to St. Timothy's for the baptism. +

Mission Trip to Haiti Planned

Sometime this coming Fall (probably mid November; the dates have yet to be determined) a group of us will travel to Haiti and spend a week with Pere Michelin and the people of Chapoteau and Cange. We will meet the students we are supporting, and (I hope) get to see Pere Wisnel who is now the rector of St. Marc's. This trip is for adults, no more than eight of us will go, and most of our time will be spent meeting people. We will learn about their struggles and their faith, and form friendships that I hope will last a very long time. If you are interested please speak with Fr. Brad. +



2011 Parish Retreat Recap and Follow-up

by **Katie Mazza**

St. Timothy's Annual Parish Retreat Coordinator

Forty-one parishioners attended this year's Parish Retreat April 1-3 at Shrine Mont in Orkney Springs, VA. What a great time of rest and renewal, as well as a time of laughter and fellowship. Shrine Mont, our Diocesan Retreat Center, is actually a group of cottages and a grand old hotel (which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places), nestled in the beautiful Shenandoah Mountains. We are truly blessed to have this wonderful gathering place, which is also the home of The Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration, an open-air cathedral of the Diocese of Virginia.

Friday evening was spent in the usual way, getting settled in and chatting. After dinner, our social time was mostly unstructured, and included catching up with friends and—of course—snacking on all of the yummy treats everyone brought to share.

This year's retreat theme focused on an alternative approach to mission: "Mission... The 'Do Be' Model – Informed by Native American Spirituality". Our parish administrator, Keith Stroud, designed and led the adult program for Saturday around this theme, presenting a slide show along with artifacts and wisdom from her mission experiences with the Navajo of the Southwest. The children spent the morning participating in a program lead by St. Timothy's Director of Christian Education, Cassandra Riedy. They spent time making dream catchers, in keeping with our Native American theme, and played outside on the beautiful retreat center grounds, burning off some of their endless energy!

Saturday afternoon was free time. Some took hikes, did

crafts or knitted, worked on jigsaw puzzles, shopped in the bookstore, and just sat in rockers to chat or took a nap. Youngsters enjoyed outdoor play, despite the widely varied weather that day (everything from snow to wind to sun!). Cheryl Brock also held a thoughtful and relaxing guided deep meditation session.

Saturday evening's Talentless Show featured, as usual, a lot of fun and laughter. There was groaning at bad jokes, but also plenty of talent. The famed Halleluiah Honies returned from their hiatus and performed a rousing number centered on our parish's need for a new organ. The night concluded with folks visiting on our cottages' porches or in their living rooms, enjoying company and more sinful snacks.

On Sunday, we held a hymn sing lead by Peter Waggoner and assisted by Evelyn Showalter, and a worship service led by Associate Rector Leslie Chadwick. After a delicious lunch of fried chicken and butter beans (a Shrine Mont tradition), everyone reluctantly packed up and headed for home. As always, the food was great and very filling, and the fellowship was amazing. I hope you will plan to join us next year for this wonderful time of friendship and renewal. **Next year's retreat is May 4-6, 2012, so mark your calendars now!**

A footnote to those who attended: This year, we had different accommodations in housing and meeting space (and dining hall) than in previous years. Post-retreat, the overall consensus was a preference for our old accommodations, and I have confirmed that we'll be back in our usual space next year. In addition, I was able to request a weekend a month later in the Spring, so hopefully the weather will be more cooperative! +

Boy Scout Troop 159 Camps at Assateague Island

by **Scott Browning, Troop Scribe**

For June's camp out we went to Assateague Island, along the coast of Maryland and Virginia. Assateague has wild ponies and horses that were most likely delivered by a Spanish shipwreck in the 1600s. Both the Maryland and Virginia sides of the island have herds of about 160 horses and ponies each.

We spent two nights on the beach near the shore of the ocean. The night we got there I thought the tide would

wash up near our tents. When I woke up in the morning I was surprised to see how far away from the water we were.

For recreation, we did things like fly kites and swim in the ocean. Some of the older scouts went kayaking on the bay. I was not old enough to go so I bought a three dollar kite at the shack down the road and I spent all afternoon flying it with the other scouts that didn't go. All in all it was a really fun trip. I hope I can go there again sometime. +

Q&A from the Congregation

Q. If you were to steal a Bible but used it to pray what would God do?

A. According to the Hebrew Bible, our Old Testament, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments to give to the people. Number eight was “Thou shall not steal.” There are no conditions or provisions; stealing is wrong. In the Christian Scripture (our New Testament) Jesus also says that God judges us by what’s in our hearts (our true motives), and offers to forgive every transgression. God shows us over and over again that God can make good things come out of our sin. So, stealing a Bible is wrong, but by the grace of God it can lead to good.

Q. If your penis is uncircumsized, will you be saved?

A. We believe that “being saved” is not based on anything about our physical bodies. When God chose to make a covenant (or agreement) with Abraham, he asked Abraham and all his family, and the generations of people after him who would keep the covenant, to perform circumcision as an external sign of their commitment to the one God. This sign physically set them apart from the pagan worshipers who surrounded them and reminded them that they were spiritually different as well. Being circumcised didn’t save them, but it did remind them that they were special and God had chosen them. The coming of Jesus opened up the promise of salvation to everyone—one no longer had to be Jewish (from the family of Abraham) to worship the One God and be in a covenant relationship with him. So Paul wrote that in Jesus Christ “There is neither Jew (circumcised) nor Greek (uncircumcised), there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female”—in other words, in God’s eyes these external characteristics have no bearing on your relationship with God. In the letter to the Galatians he writes that “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.” So, being saved has nothing to do with whether or not you are circumcised.

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

Q. Will we ever see Mr. Doddema or Wisnel again?

A. We do not currently know of any plans Mr. Peter Doddema or Pere Wisnel Dejardin have to return and visit us here in Herndon, but other seminarians have done so in the past. St. Timothy’s also is planning a trip to Haiti, and members of the group who travel there will likely see Pere Wisnel. But if we do not see them again here, Christians believe that life goes on forever, eternally. We know that we will all die, but we will be raised up like Jesus was, and all of God’s people will be together in heaven with God. So, yes, we most definitely will see Wisnel and Mr. Doddema again—and maybe even before we get to God’s Kingdom.

“Eight o’clocker” Performs Ministry for Sanctuary

by Leslie Chadwick,
Associate Rector

Many of you may have spent hours on your knees in the sanctuary of St. Tim’s, but few of us have spent as many hours in a row there as 8 am parishioner Beth Hwochinsky has lately. She has come in day after day, week after week, to re-paint the colored stripes on the floor behind the low walls in the sanctuary. I have always loved way the color changes as the sunlight comes and goes behind clouds during a service, often matching the timbre of worship at a given moment. The paint had faded and cracked over the years, and Beth responded to this item on Fr. Brad’s wish list. If you get a chance, please take a look behind the walls to see the beautiful job she’s done! +

Godly Play Seeks Story Donations

We are two very successfully years into our Godly Play program for ages 3 through second grade, and attendance continues to grow. The Godly Play teachers have requested 5 new stories for the coming year: Adam & Eve (Creation, Part 2), the Synagogue & Upper Room, Joseph, Daniel, Samuel, and Jonah. If you are interested in either donating or making a story for the Godly Play classroom, please sign up in Henry Hall or coordinate with Director of Christian Education Cassandra Reidy. +



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

Submission deadline for the next issue: Thursday, August 25, 2011

Questions, articles, or ideas, and comments for The Word are always welcome. Send materials via email to wordeditor@saint-timothis.org and put 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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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