

The Word



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
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October 2010

Why do you believe in God?

Contemporary Biblical scholar and author Marcus Borg says church attendance is dropping because people find it increasingly difficult to believe in the Gospel miracles - Jesus raising people from death, healing people thoroughly and instantaneously, the virgin birth, and his corporeal resurrection. Science and our own experience suggest such things are impossible. And, if we can't take these declarations literally, then is any of the Bible believable?

We might counter that God is not bound by the laws of nature or physics. God can work through natural channels, and God can suspend the rules of space and time to do whatever God wants to do. But people who trust in the "scientific method" are not easily swayed by such a simple rejoinder. Church doctrines and dogma do not impress people who have serious reservations about Scriptural validity.

So, if you had an opportunity to share your faith, if someone asked you why you believe in God or Jesus, what would you say? How do you respond to your own questions and doubts?

Several years ago George Gallup (who is an Episcopalian) conducted his own poll and found that most people have had what they would call a "mystical or religious experience." However, these people don't talk about it for fear other people would think they (we) are not completely sane or rational.

The books of the Bible are personal stories of faith, testimonies about the writer's religious or mystical experiences. In

many cases these were so powerful and unusual that the writers clearly struggled to convey them; words fail to relate what they'd seen and heard.

The Biblical stories remind me of Emma's trifle.

Emma and Axel Henri have been members of St. Timothy's since the early 70's. Health issues prevent them from coming to Church but they re-

ceive Holy Communion regularly in their home. They are a very gracious couple, married now for more than 62 years! Many of us remember Emma for her beautiful hats. I remember Emma for her trifle. Every year when the Bishop paid a visit to St. Timothy's Emma would make trifle, a rich and indescribably delicious dessert. The alternating and repeating layers of cake, fresh fruit, and whipped cream take a long time and a lot of love to create. And to fully appreciate it, you have to dig down and get all the layers.

The same is true of the stories in the Bible. To fully appreciate what they can tell us we have to dig down through all of the layers. We miss a lot if we just skim the surface.

I daresay the same is true about us and our stories of faith. Many of us have had experiences we are reluctant to tell. We share at a superficial level because that's where we feel safe.

I was recently caught off-guard by someone who asked me - without warning - why I believe in God. And before I could think about it I re-

sponded, "Because God won't get out of my life." When the person looked at me quizzically I explained that when my most fervent and desperate prayers weren't answered I tried to walk away from God. I gave up believing in God. But God wouldn't get out of my life; God wouldn't leave me alone.

There is a lot more to this story than I can relate in this article, and I am sure there is a lot more to your story than you can quickly tell. But we should tell our stories, "Proclaim by word and deed the Good News of God in Christ" [BCP pg. 305]. The sharing is like digging deep and savoring all the rich, wonderful layers of Emma's trifle.

Fr. Brad

Fr. Brad is going to Haiti

Our Bishop, Shannon Sherwood Johnston, has invited Fr. Brad and two other members of our Diocese to accompany him to Port-au-Prince October 21st - 23rd. They will meet with Bishop Duracin and explore ways that we in the Diocese of Virginia can help, beyond what we at St. Timothy's are already doing, supporting 18 children. Please pray every day for the people of Haiti, and all of the people who are trying to make life better for our Caribbean neighbors.

Reverend Leslie Chadwick is now on maternity leave, joyously anticipating the arrival of a beautiful and healthy daughter.

New and Noteworthy



Habitat for Humanity Opportunity

Our neighbors at St Anne's have invited St Tim's to participate in a local Habitat for Humanity (HFH) project in Herndon. Through its Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), HFH has purchased foreclosure properties in Herndon and Chantilly. These properties will require renovations before they can be occupied. The renovations to the property in Herndon are underway and will be every Wednesday and Saturday for the next couple of months. Individuals are encouraged to "walk on" to the site and help with the ongoing renovations. People of all skill levels are encouraged to participate in the fun (must be at least 16 years old); work days run from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Your participation can be one afternoon or on a regular basis. The address is: 2256 Berger Place, Herndon. For more information please contact Keith Pinkard at 703-758-2583, evenings between 5-9pm.

Host Coffee Hour

Celebrate a birthday! Honor an anniversary! Pay tribute to a love one! Consider hosting a morning coffee hour after any of the services by signing up in Henry Hall. Call Beth Lumnitzer at 703-262-0403 for information and assistance.

Morning Bible Study



Morning Bible Study meets on Wednesdays, to explore The Bible. Please join us from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in St. Tim's kitchen for a rousing hour of discussion.

We returned in September, so please make your plans now. All are welcome. Please contact Nikki O'Malley at nikki.omalley@gmail.com if you are interested in joining this lively group. In

addition, let me know as soon as possible if you will be bringing children so that we can schedule childcare.

Vestry/Ministry Leader (VML) Meeting

The next will be held on **Saturday, October 16, 2010** at 9:00 AM in Henry Hall. Please mark your calendars! If you would like to have some time on the agenda for the October VML meeting, please provide topic and name of presenter to Janet Koch at jankkoch@gmail.com.

Dinner Is on Us!

Sunday, October 10th at 6p.m. is the Stewardship Ministry's Annual Giving Dinner. We heartily invite one and all to join us. We kickoff with a wine and cheese reception, and, once your taste buds are titillated, a delicious entre follows, and finally a short (and possibly using) presentation, with a yummy dessert. This is an occasion for celebrating the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that you have given to St. Timothy's and reflecting upon how, with your help, St. Timothy's can continue to grow and move forward in the coming year. Childcare is provided. Please RSVP by October 3rd by emailing stewardship@saint-timothys.org or by calling the office at 703-437-3790. We would like to know how many adults and how many children (and their ages) so that we can plan accordingly. We hope to see you there!

STAR Follow-Up!!

In April the Volunteer Coordination and Support Ministry (VoCoSuM) held an event during the services one Sunday called "Jeopardy," in which we put on a fun skit similar to the like-named game show. Participants interactively introduced the congregation to the specific ministry tasks within our parish where volunteer help was needed (STAR = Small Tasks Are Rewarding). We distributed forms, which parishioners completed, indicating those tasks with which they were willing to help. We

had a wonderful response!! A truly impressive number of you collectively volunteered for every single task listed.

Many parishioners indicated interest in continuing to volunteer for tasks that they had already been helping with, which is a vital element of our volunteer pool alone. Additionally, many members who were either new to St. Timothy's or simply new to volunteering at St. Tim's in general stepped up in faith to donate their treasured time and talent. Some of the tasks were one-time in nature and have been completed. Some tasks were recurring. And some have not even yet come to pass.

Here we are 6 months later, and VoCoSuM would like to again say thank you to all of our STAR volunteers, on behalf of the ministries for which you have or will give your time and talent. We'd also like to take a moment to highlight a few areas ("success stories") where the STAR initiative helped ministries gain new volunteers and therefore new insight, enrichment and support.

Vacation Bible School (VBS), an example of a "one-time" volunteer opportunity, received many STAR volunteer responses. Liz Griffith, the VBS coordinator, said, "The Star form worked really well for VBS! We [received] arts and crafts donations as well as donations of time and talents. The form was a great service to VBS!"

Jill Koenig and Lael Lyons played the parts of pirates "Bumpo" and "Bones", respectively, in the VBS opening and closing skits. (See the photo, along with one of the entire VBS group of teachers and students.) In addition to many other faithful volunteers, Jill and Lael were both STAR VBS volunteers.

Here are a few words from Lael on her experience: "VBS is one of the events that I write on my calendar -- in ink -- months in advance. I wouldn't want to

miss it! The campers are always a delight. And I love being part of the large community of volunteers, working together to create the experience.”

And a few more words on VBS from Jill: “This was my first VBS ever and I had no idea what to expect. I was amazed by the amount of planning and work that went in to making it such a great event. I really enjoyed participating and watching the children's reaction to us; it was better than I had expected.”

The Pastoral Care “Helping Hands” Ministry is a great example of an “on-call” ministry. They offer support in the form of meals, transportation to medical appointments, cards, etc. to parishioners who need such help. Many of their new STAR volunteers have had a chance to be active since April, through their ministry distribution lists. Due to the suggestion of one such volunteer, Elizabeth Witter, Pastoral Care is experimenting with a new community help website, www.lotsahelpinghands.com. Shirley Ratliff, the ministry chair, said, “[The web site] has been extremely helpful with organizing meals for one family and I hope to get everyone on board with it.”

Other ministries have received some additional volunteer helping hands through the STAR survey as well. Some are helping to care for our Lay Eucharistic Minister and acolyte vestments; others are assisting the congregation as ushers at Sunday morning services. Office volunteers helped out in the church office during our parish administrator's much-deserved vacation. Volunteers with interests in building and grounds have performed minor repairs in our building. Bake sale items provided by volunteers helped raise money for our Wednesday morning Bible study group for childcare needs. Some have assisted the Open Arms Ministry with newcomer/visitor welcome events. Meals and snacks are being provided for Youth Group, J2A

and Rite 13 events. STAR volunteers recently helped with a Stewardship Ministry mailing.

VoCoSuM hopes to continue to facilitate these types of rewarding volunteer experiences, whether they are a short term/one-time event or a longer-term commitment with a ministry. For more information on volunteering, please contact Katie Mazza at katiemazza@yahoo.com or Jane Perry at eperry2ster@gmail.com.

Sunshine On My Shoulders Makes Me Happy

God is good, all the time. The sun -- and the renewable energy it can produce -- is simply more proof of this! Renewable energy is likely the only way for our dependency on foreign oil to be reduced and eventually eliminated. Although renewable energy is not catching on as quickly as many people had hoped, there are still companies striving to make it a successful market. Currently, the home solar-energy leasing market is dominated by three companies -- SunRun, SolarCity and Sungevity. SunRun has completed more than 5,000 home solar installations in California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Arizona and Colorado - and it just set up shop in Pennsylvania, too. (Does this mean that Virginia might be next? Write to SunRun and help "make it so"!)

SolarCity operates in California, Arizona, Colorado, Texas and Oregon and offers commercial-scale installations, as well as



home solar arrays. Sungevity, meanwhile, operates in California and Arizona and

recently entered the Colorado market. Solar leasing lets homeowners and businesses go solar for a monthly payment - an alternative to paying for a solar array outright. See, e.g., <http://www.sunrunhome.com/why-solar/how-solar-works> for more information on SunRun.

Helpful Links

www.awidercircle.org,

www.vafreeclinics.org/virginia-free-clinics.asp

www.jsfreeclinic.org

www.restoninterfaith.org

www.thediocese.net/Events/eventView.asp?EventID=83

: <http://leaderresources.org/j2a>

<http://www.stephenministries.org/>

Americans Are Clueless

Wow. That's quite a statement, isn't it? A recent study published by GreenTechMedia concludes that U.S. consumers have no idea how much energy they use and don't understand the best ways to reduce consumption (although it is highly doubtful that this study applies to all of the Stewards of Creation here at St. Timothy's!). The study suggests shifting to educating and empowering consumers as such efforts have been critical in the past especially among utilities and smart grid startups in the home area network space. The study also shows that most efforts to date have left Americans clueless and simply doing less of their regular behavior, without looking at simple changes that could reap bigger gains in efficiency. Nearly 20 percent of approximately 500 study participants listed turning off lights as the best way to save energy. What to do? Well, check out the (too many to count) resources available off the Internet regarding energy use and conservation. There are other resources closer to your (church) home as well! Almost every "The WORD" newsletter for the past fifteen years includes one article focused on caring (and preserving) God's Creation (that adds up to over 150 articles!). Check them out on St. Timothy's website and you might be surprised at all the "educating and empowering" that goes on within the walls of St. Timothy's Episcopal! Another new resource is the National Geographic "Buy Green" hardback book that is on the table in the Narthex. It is there for your perusal and education. It has hundreds of suggestions of how we can buy and be greener. Check it out (literally!)

Celebrating God's Gifts:

All that we do, with all we have, once we say we believe.

Celebrating the gifts God has given us calls to mind St. Timothy's mission statement: *"As people of God, we joyfully worship God, spread the WORD of God's love, treasure all people, and serve others everywhere in the name of Jesus Christ. Therefore, with God's help, we open our doors to everyone, open our hearts in worship, open our eyes to the Spirit's gifts, and open our arms to embrace God's work."*

Each week the Stewardship Ministry is studying a core phrase of our mission statement to illustrate how we celebrate God's Gifts. In July we looked at the first three phrases; in August the next three phrases. We conclude this month, by looking at the final two phrases from our mission statement. We hope this stimulates thanksgiving and celebrations as we are reminded of God's Gifts to and through St. Timothy's.

"We...open our eyes to the Spirit's gifts"

Many of us do not realize the value of the gifts that God has given us, both in this world and personally. We take them for granted and consider them of little worth. The Steward of Creation gently makes us aware of the wonders that surround us and our need to nurture them. On a personal level it sometimes takes sharing ourselves with others before we realize that the Spirit has granted us gifts that are both special and of value to the Church. One of the benefits of events like the Women's and Parish retreats is that others get that special insight into our talents and encourage us to use them to the full benefit of the church. These gifts may seem prosaic; a talent for numbers, or organization,

but they are ones that Endowment, Finance, Stewardship and Volunteer Coordination and Support Ministries are so much in need of to support and further the mission of the church.

"We...open our arms to embrace God's work."

Everything that we have comes from God and everything that we give, in the name of Jesus Christ, to each other, to our community, and to our church, St. Timothy's, is given to God. We are blessed with gifts from the Spirit beyond measure; and, in gratitude, we open our arms to embrace the work that God has given us to do.

When we worship and spread the WORD of God's love, we do God's work.

When we treasure all people and serve others everywhere, we do God's work.

When we open our doors and our hearts, inviting all to join in our beautiful and joyful worship services, we do God's work.

When we share our spiritual journeys and our part in God's plan, we do God's work.

We are not compelled to embrace the work God has given us to do. The choice is ours. It is rarely an easy choice. But once we say we believe what else shall we do with all that we have? This is the true celebration of God's gifts.

- Stewardship Ministry

Save the Date!

A look ahead at special events during the Fall here at St. Timothy's

October

"St. Tim's Episcopal Church Women's potluck dinner 6 - 7:30 pm 10/24"

Rite 13 Liturgy 10/24

Sunday, October 10th at 6p.m. is the Stewardship Ministry's Annual Giving Dinner.



November

All Saints' Sunday Choral Evensong 11/7 5:00 p.m.



The 2010 St. Timothy's VBS



Pirates Bumbo and Bones

Back to School for Haiti Students

Twenty-five children in Chapoteau, Haiti will be going back to school in October thanks to the generosity and commitment of the St. Timothy's congregation. Working with Rev. Wisnel DeJardin and clergy in the diocese of Haiti, arrangements have been made to provide uniforms and textbooks for the children.

In July, Wisnel was in Chapoteau to celebrate Mass with the students of St. Mathieu's and their families. Through the director of St. Mathieu's, Renaud Jacob, details of what the children need to be ready for school were gathered and sent to the Service Ministry. Your donations have made it possible to provide each student with two uniforms and the eleven textbooks each need for this school year. As additional donations are received, it is hoped that there will be enough money to also provide shoes and school bags.

As this project has moved forward one of the key pieces has been establishing contacts in Haiti who can verify the money St. Timothy's sends is spent as intended. Not a simple requirement when dealing with a school in a village with no electricity and staff and students who don't speak English! After several weeks of no success in finding a contact that we could rely on, with Wisnel's help we identified a priest in the parish of Cange, near Chapoteau, who reads and writes English and, praise God, has a computer. Father Michelin St. Louis in Cange is in contact regularly with Jacob Renaud. He is able to receive the money St. Timothy's sends, pass it on to St. Mathieu's, and verify with the school that the children are attending and have the materials they need.

For a child in Chapoteau the opportunity to attend school is not taken for granted. If the child's parents cannot afford to pay for their books and supplies, they don't go to school. Because of the money our congregation has donated, many of these children will have an experience they may never have had otherwise. And, in a place where teachers are in very short supply, those children may grow up

to teach others. The faithfulness of the people at St. Timothy's is life changing for the people of Chapoteau.

Do you use Church Windows at St. Tim's?

If so, the Communications ministry has a few questions for you - please email Elaine Horsfield (ehorsfield@cox.net)

Thank you!

Where is God in Stewardship?

The article in July's Word, "Where is God in all this?" asks some challenging questions that we all should ponder. While James clearly states that faith without works is useless, Paul's discourse on faith, hope and charity/love cautions us that those who do works without love are "a clanging cymbal". Nobody said being a Christian was an easy option!

These concerns were foremost in the minds of the Stewardship Ministry as we developed our theme of Celebrating God's Gifts. A vibrant church is one where the work of the ministries is an ongoing act of worship, and those who are involved in this work are growing in their spiritual life because of their involvement. That only occurs when those activities are "God-centered and not people-centered".

We want people to realize that "Stewardship" at St Timothy's is **NOT** about raising money for the church but about people growing as Christians by using their myriad gifts and talents in the most effective way. We want people not only to ask what they can do for the Church, but also, why they are doing it.

If you're looking for where God is in your own life, you will find Him in how you are stewarding the gifts and talents He visited upon you.

Stewardship is "the act of managing another's property or financial affairs; administering anything as the agent of another or others." We recognize that all we have comes from and through God. We are God's agents, managing God's financial affairs and administering the resources that God provides. Those resources include **everything**: our lives (how we spend our time), our abilities and God-given talents, and our things, whether we call them treasure or wealth or resources.

We, as God's stewards, are responsible for managing God's gifts in the way that we believe God wants them managed. How do we know what God wants? We ask, through prayer. We study scripture to get a better understanding of God. We worship in community. We grow in our faith, together. If we take our roles as God's stewards seriously, then we are constantly God-centered., even when doing seemingly mundane tasks.

To this end Stewardship has developed a very broad definition of what we do. The Stewardship Ministry assist the people of St Timothy's in employing their time treasure, and talent to further the mission of the church by:

Bringing to their attention the resources needed by the church to perform its mission

Making them aware of how their myriad gifts and talents can be used to address these needs.

How their time can be most effectively used to employing these gifts and talents to the benefit of St Timothy's

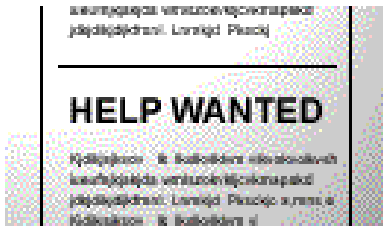
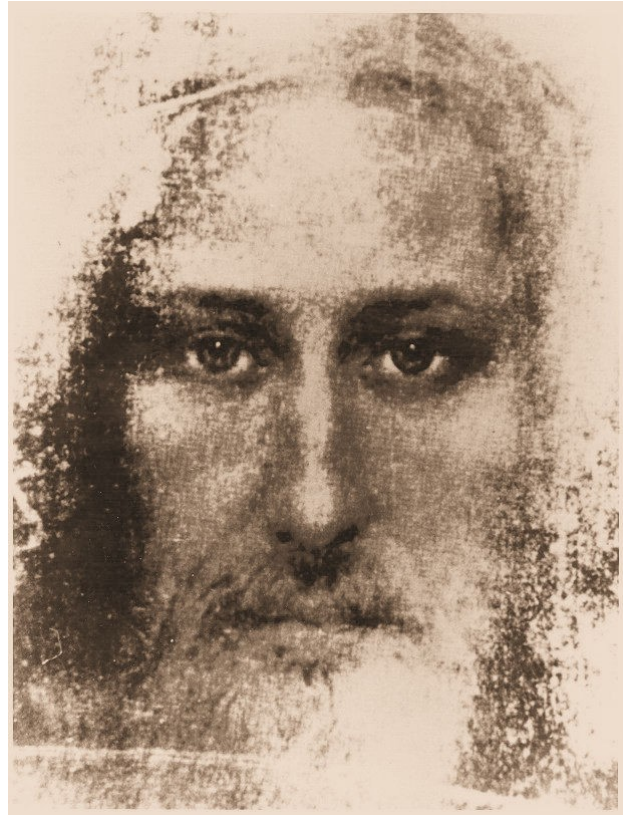
How their treasure can be used to support operations, outreach and worship opportunities of the church.

This is achieved by organizing a series of educational activities through a variety of media, carrying out time and talent surveys, supporting fund raising campaigns and organizing the annual pledge campaign.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



St Timothy's Stephen Ministry is always available when you need to just talk it out, or want someone there beside you just to listen, maybe pray with you or share a thought or concern. Let us know! We are always there for you...just a thought! Please contact Fr. Brad Rundlett or Rev. Leslie Chadwick at 703-437-3790, or one of our Stephen Leaders, Jim Hendrick (703-430-4914), Peter or Beth Hwoschinsky (703-450-8599), Jane Perry (703-478-0032), Ralph or Florita Tildon (703-464-9377).



Friday Folders

Do you have an hour or so to contribute on Friday? The Friday Folders meet **at around 10:30 am** in the kitchen to help prepare the bulletins and announcements for Sunday. This is a wonderful help to the Parish Administrator and an opportunity to meet new people or visit briefly with old friends. There is a sign-up sheet in the kitchen in a green three-ring binder marked "Friday Folders." Please help with this weekly, small ministry.

Let us *consider*
our callings,
let us *reflect*
on our
responsibilities, and
let us *follow*
Jesus Christ
Thomas S. Monson



St. Timothy's newsletter, *The Word*, is published monthly and emailed to members and friends on the first day of each month. It also appears in full color on the website (www.saint-timothys.org) home page under Downloads. If you wish to receive a copy by mail, please notify Keith Nelson Stroud in the church office (keith@saint-timothys.org). Copies of *The Word* are also available in the office.

The deadline for submission of material for the next issue is:
Friday, October 15 2010

Questions, articles, or ideas for The Word are always welcome as are your comments. You may send materials via email to wordeditor@saint-timothys.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.

Church Information

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Seminarian

Mr. Peter Doddema

913-660-9422

ldoddema@vts.edu *Seminarian*

The Reverend Wisnel Dejardin

Services

Sundays

8:00 A.M. - Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:30 A.M. - Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Children's Chapel

(Nursery Care Available)

11:00 A.M. - Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Christian Education

(Nursery Care Available)

Wednesdays

12:15 P.M. - Holy Eucharist And Healing Service

Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 9:00 A.M. To 5:00 P.M. (And By Appointment).

Clergy Are Off On Fridays.

2010 Vestry

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