

From the Rector: Thanksgiving

In The Book of Common Prayer each prayer of The Holy Eucharist is also called “The Great Thanksgiving.” Thus the heart and soul of our corporate worship is gratitude for the uncountable and immeasurable blessings of God, for “all we are and all we have is a gift from God.” So prayers of thanks and praise are our first offering to God, when we awaken each day from sleep, pause for a mid-day meal, return home, as each day ends, and in every service of Holy Communion.

Of course, in November every year we also set aside an entire day—the 4th Thursday—to thank God. On November 18th, the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day, Baptists, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Methodists, and Presbyterians, invite every member of the community to attend an ecumenical service of Thanksgiving. Each of the Christian Churches of these five denominations takes a turn hosting; this year we will be guests of Trinity Presbyterian Church on Dranesville Road. The service will begin at 7:00 pm and the offering will go to our community food bank, LINK. The service includes Holy Communion according to the tradition of the host church. On Thanksgiving Day, St. Timothy’s has a service at 11:00 am.

was written sometime in the 17th century by the Bishop of Norwich, Edward Reynolds, and was included in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. It has been in all of our prayer books since then. This is the current version.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

I commend our Community Thanksgiving service, St. Timothy’s Thanksgiving Day service, and this prayer to you. Attend our Ecumenical and St. Timothy’s Thanksgiving services. Use the prayer for your personal morning, mid-day, evening, and night time prayers. If we started today enumerating all the blessings bestowed upon us by God, our thanks and praise would never end. +

This Issue

[A Plea to Pledge](#)

[Give Someone a Merry Christmas: Angel Tree](#)

[On Being a Member of the Vestry](#)

[Small Tasks Are Rewarding](#)

[Holiday Bazaar, Nov. 11](#)

[Bishop Goff Visits Nov. 18](#)

[Welcome, New Registered Members](#)

Some of us are familiar with a prayer called “A General Thanksgiving.” It

Many Pennies for Pipes!

The Gifts to Glorify the Lord committee gives a great big thank you to the Cozza’s, Peter’s, Tigar’s and Williamson’s and all others who have donated Pennies for Pipes, plus a special thank you to Eric and Matthew Horne for donating their bottle of \$71.54 in change—which kept committee member Elaine Horsfield counting and wrapping for a week! We continue to collect, so bring your aqua boxes or your change to the organ pipes in the lobbies. Boxes left to be emptied can be reclaimed from the Narthex and used again. Keep those pennies coming! +



A Plea to Pledge, from Fr. Brad Rundlett

I invite you to make a generous pledge to the work entrusted to us by God. We live in one of the wealthiest areas of this country, and of the world. Of course we also live in one of the most expensive areas of this country and the world as well (I know; my wife and I have two children in college!).

But what we do is critical, vital! We worship together as an inclusive and multicultural congregation—compare your experience on Sunday morning with what you see in the evening news. We have the finest preschool in the community, with children from all over the world. We host two dozen Recovery groups for people who are afflicted with the disease of addiction, and in these meetings people's lives are saved every day and every night. We host a Nurturing Parent program for adults who need better parenting skills; this program saves children from neglect and abuse. We have outstanding programs for children and older youth (Godly Play, Journey to Adulthood, youth group, choir, music and voice lessons, acolytes, and more). We offer a safe and hospitable place for members of our community who are marginal and homeless (we offer them food, give them a list of community support services, and offer some financial aid). For 22 years we have been sending our older youth to work for a week in the poorest county in Virginia. For almost as long we have been sending a team of adults to work and form relationships with the Lakota people on the Pine Ridged Reservation in South Dakota (they are the poorest people in North America). We support eighteen children in Haiti (the poorest country in the Western

hemisphere) and send a team of adults to assure our Haitian friends of our continual support. We support Reston Interfaith, the Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, The Closet, the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter, Facets, a Boy Scout Troop, people in Africa and Jerusalem. We supported one of our members, Natividad Menjivar, through Seminary; he is now a Priest in this Diocese working with our Latino neighbors. We offer trained supervision and practical experience to men and women who are in Seminary. Our clergy and delegates attend Regional and Diocesan Councils and make decisions that determine the mission of our Diocese. Our professional staff, Sunday school teachers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, Ushers, Greeters, and Choirs offer our faith and best efforts to provide corporate worship that fills your soul. And if you are still reading, God bless you for your perseverance! I'll stop, but I have only scratched the surface!

The point is, your pledge goes a very long way (our Finance Committee, Vestry, and Treasurer make sure of that!), and I can't think of anything more important that I can do for my family and this community than support the amazing and gracious work of St. Timothy's. I invite you to make a generous pledge to St. Timothy's, and experience the joy of knowing that what you give literally saves lives and gives hope to more people than you will ever know. On behalf of all the people in this community, this state, this country, and the world, who benefit from your generosity, I thank you with all of my heart. +

Give Someone a Merry Christmas; Take An Angel Tree Tag

It's hard to believe, but the holidays are just around the corner. On Sunday, November 18th, look in Henry Hall for St. Timothy's Angel Tree filled with requests from children and families in need from Reston Interfaith and LAWS (Loudon Abused Women's Shelter). Last year we provided more than 50 children and 30 families with multiple presents to open on Christmas morning. Thank you all for your generosity! Let us have the same success this year.

In November, the tree will be filled with close to 200 individual gift requests. Please take one, two, or even several tags from the tree. Shop for the requested items and return the gifts **unwrapped** with the original tree tags firmly attached to St. Timothy's by Sunday, December 4th. We will hold a sorting party after the 11 a.m. service on December 4, and volunteers will be needed to sort and deliver gifts to Reston Interfaith and LAWS. For more information or to volunteer, please

contact Amy Hein at 719-352-5815.

Once the gifts have been delivered, our Angel Tree becomes the collection point for scarves, hats, mittens, and gloves for adult and children clients of Laurel Learning Center, the Embury Rucker Homeless Shelter, and LAWS. In this way, our Angel Tree continues to give to our local community during the holiday season. Consider picking up a new pair of gloves or a hat while you are shopping. Thank you! +

On Being a Member of the Vestry

by Duncan Hutcheon

Why become a Vestry Member? Why indeed?

Why would I want to be? I am not qualified/not smart enough/not good at meetings /I like watching Monday Night Football. What is the Vestry anyway—isn't the insiders of St Timothy's?

Do any of these concerns seem familiar to you, if, in fact you have previously given it any thought?

Some or all of the above have occurred to past and present members of the Vestry. The purpose of this article is to address the above and, hopefully, make more folks open to what is a most rewarding service to our church.

First let me address the last two points:

The Canons of the Episcopal Church stipulate that, "The Vestry shall be agents and legal representatives of the Parish in all matters concerning its corporate property and relations of the Parish to its Clergy." Now I realize that probably reinforces whatever reservations you may have about membership, but it is the official definition. What it means is that they are appointed to work together for the good of the whole parish (does that seem a little easier to understand).

There are no insiders! Each member serves a 3 year term. While it is possible to stand for election after a minimum of a one year hiatus, most folks serve only one term. What this means is that many members get to serve. I am an exception in that I have served twice in a 7 year period. During that time I have served with over 30 other different members of the congregation.

So what are the qualifications?

- 16 years or older
- Confirmed communicant of St Timothy's (received communion at least three times in the past year)
- "Known" to the Treasurer

These are not onerous! You don't have to be smart. You don't have to be "good at meetings". And even though the Vestry is responsible for approving the budget, you do not have to be a CPA!

What you do have is a willingness to serve the good people of this parish, and I know no greater privilege. Those who serve and have served on the Vestry find that their willingness to give of their time and talent is more than repaid in a number of ways:

- They learn so much more about St Timothy's; how integral the mission of this church is to this community at large.
- They learn how that mission extends to the poorest in the state (Dungannon), to the poorest in the land (the Lakota at Pine Ridge) to the poorest in the western hemisphere (Haiti)
- They realize that they have gifts and skills that they did not know could be utilized at St Timothy's'
- They receive the gift of comradeship with members of this church they would not even otherwise meet. You get to know the Clergy better
- There is the sense of being a part of something meaningful and worthwhile.
- It strengthens their commitment to St Timothy's.

Now some Vestries have the reputation of sometimes being overly political, and contentious. That has not been my experience at St Timothy's. There is rarely a vote that is not unanimous; it may take some time and debate, but always in a civil manner and with the mission of the church as the focus. Those who tend to speak little and listen most get a fair hearing when they do speak up.

Now I listed at the start of this article a number of potential concerns that potential candidates may have. The only one I have not is the one related to Monday Night Football. It is true that the meetings are schedule for the fourth Monday of each month from 7:30 – 9:00, so once a month a member is going to miss some of the game. That is inevitable, but believe me, it is well worth while. It really is. +

If you are interested in running for the Vestry, please download the Vestry Candidate Form from the website. More information on the expectations and requirements of the Vestry can be found on the website.

Small Tasks Are Rewarding!

by Ucpf { 'Uej cpgg' }

Each of us has a unique church story, and I have been asked to briefly share mine. As a child member of St. Timothy's – back when the building was on Elden Street and two doors from my home – my parents, my brothers, and I participated in a myriad of church-related activities along with our nearby friends and neighbors. I knew every single parishioner.

As our area mushroomed once Dulles airport opened, "Life" happened to me. My range of responsibilities spiraled, and I felt lucky if I merely made it to a service. I was overwhelmed at even the thought of doing more. That's why I felt so happy and excited when I first learned about STARs – the Small Tasks Are Rewarding program. It's the perfect choice for busy people who can't – or don't prefer – to make a huge commitment of time...but who want to do something to be of help.

This is a parish that virtually HUMS with activities, but we don't flourish because of a mere handful of unusu-

ally talented people. All of us can join in and perform a small task – such as stuff envelopes for a special mailing, assemble bag lunches for a homeless shelter, or fold the handouts for the bulletins beside you in your pew this morning. It's possible to even lend support from your own home! Bottom line? The more hands there are, the faster and merrier the results.

That's STARs best-kept secret – and, for me personally, the most "Rewarding" aspect of volunteering! I can't tell you the number of wonderful people I have gotten to know while my hands were busy. Many of us only recognize those who attend the same service we do, but in STARs' work, I have met – and gotten to know as individuals – people from all of the services and even some – like a nurse and an airline pilot – who often have to work Sunday rotations and don't make it to any service. For me, I not only enjoy the gratification that comes from giving but I'm also recapturing that warm sense of "church family" that I experienced as a child. +

On October 21, St. Timothy's Volunteer Coordination and Support Ministry (VoCoSuM) hosted "STAR Sunday" – an opportunity to thank the many volunteers who so generously offer their time and talents throughout the year to support St. Tim's many ministries. As part of the celebration, VoCoSuM invited volunteers to talk about their own experiences. Sandy Schanne spoke at the 11:00 a.m. service. She has graciously permitted us to share her remarks here. Thank you, Sandy!

VoCoSuM helps individuals to connect with small tasks (one-time or recurring) in which they may feel called to participate. STAR tasks are a great way to fit volunteer work into a busy schedule, to meet new people, or to try out a new ministry or church activity.

To learn more about current opportunities or to suggest additional needs, visit St. Timothy's website (www.saint-timothys.org). Click on "Getting Involved" and then "START here to volunteer." All help is welcomed. Small tasks can be rewarding – and fun!

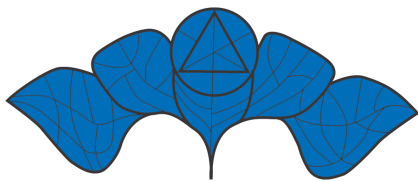
Holiday Bazaar, Nov. 11

Sponsored by Gifts to Glorify the Lord Committee; All proceeds to benefit the Pipe Organ Fund

Get a jump start on your holiday shopping and benefit the GtGtL organ fund at the same time. We will have vendors present from Mary Kay, Tupperware, several handcrafted jewelers, Pampered Chef and 31 Gifts to name a few. In conjunction with the Bazaar, we will also have a bake sale, used book sale, choir CD sale and numerous items for raffle. Please join us for this festive event in Henry Hall on 11/11! +

Bishop Goff Visits Nov. 18

On Sunday November 18th our newest Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff, will visit St. Timothy's for our 11:00 am service, to preach and celebrate, to confirm and receive members of our Christian community. Bishop Goff made her first visit to St. Timothy's on Saturday September 29th to Receive Natividad Menjivar as a Priest of the Episcopal Church. We will have a reception in our parish hall after the service. We welcome Bishop Goff back to St. Timothy's. +



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). 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.

Submission deadline for the next issue: Friday, November 23, 2012

Questions, articles, or ideas, and comments for The Word are always welcome. Send materials via email to 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.

Welcome, New Registered Members

Welcome to those who have joined or transferred their membership to St. Timothy's in the past month:

Margaret Glover-Addo *Robert N Beury, Jr*
Quaye *Shon M. Beury*

Gustavo Alfonso Bonilla *Anne Beury*

Gustavo Bonilla-Lemus *Caroline H Beury*

We have *many* active congregants who have been attending St. Timothy's for many years who are not officially registered members. If you requested a membership transfer prior to 2005, the request might not have been processed. Non-registered members can participate in all aspects of church worship with the exception of serving on the Vestry and participating in elections. However, the more registered members St. Timothy's has on record, the more delegates we can send to the conventions (thus giving us a stronger vote in Diocese matters). To transfer your membership to St. Tim's, or to find out if you are a registered member, contact Nikki O'Malley (nikki.omalley@gmail.com) or fill out the Parishioner Information Form: www.saint-timothys.org/uploads/docs/info-form.pdf

2012 Vestry

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Rose Berberich, Registrar
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Terms expire 2014

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Office Hours
Monday-Thursday,
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

Saturday
7:00 P.M.
Latino Prayer Service