

The Word

December 2011



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
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#1.

The Advent and Christmas seasons are filled with sights, and sounds, and smells that enchant us. The air is crisp and cold but homes and Churches are warm. The nights are dark and long but candles and decorative lights are bright. The aroma of seasonal foods and drinks, of ever-green trees and wreaths, drifts through the air. The music of the holidays makes our hearts dance. This is all part of “getting into the spirit.” And nothing does this more than the hymns and carols of the season.

One of my favorites (though it is not assigned to Advent or Christmas) is number 475 in our hymnal. Both the melody and the words touch a deep place in my soul, especially during this time of year.

God himself is with us; let us all adore him, and with awe appear before him. God is here within us; souls in silence fear him, humbly, fervently draw near him. Now his own who have known God, in worship lowly, yield their spirits wholly. Gladly, Lord we offer thine to be forever, soul and life and each endeavor. Help us to surrender earth's deceitful treasures, pride of life, and sinful pleasures: thou alone shalt be known Lord of all our being, life's true way decreeing. Thou pervadest all things; let thy radiant beauty light mine eyes to see my duty. As the tender flowers eagerly unfold them, to the sunlight calmly hold them, so let me quietly in thy rays imbue me; let thy light shine through me.

I rarely get through the final verse without a lump in my throat and tears in my eyes..

Come abide within me; let my soul, like Mary, be thine earthly sanctuary. Come indwelling Spirit, with transfiguring splendor; love and honor will I render. Where I go here below, let me bow before thee, know thee, and adore thee.

It is the phrase “let my soul like Mary, be thine earthly sanctuary” that most speaks to the season. The One whose return we long for in Advent, whose first coming we celebrate in Christmas, waits to be conceived in us, to be born in our love for God and each other.

It has been said that “s/he who sings prays twice.” Indeed our hymns are poetic prayers set to music. Thus, from time to time, it is good to pray the text of our hymns without the music. This makes us appreciate the words, when we sing them, even more. And notice the hymns and carols that touch you in deep places; pray them. I believe, as a result, Christ will be born in the love and joy that swells in your being. “Get into the spirit”, and let the Spirit get into you.

#2.

January is a busy time at St. Timothy's. We have our Annual Parish meeting on Sunday January 8th. At all three of our services members of St. Timothy's (16 years and older, whose date and place of Baptism are in our record books) will be invited to vote for 4 people to serve a three year term on our Vestry. After Church we will have a luncheon (compliments of the Church) during which we will examine the budget for 2012. Our Vestry and clergy will be on retreat January 13th and 14th. We will pray, reflect, and work on the mission God has given us. Then our delegates and clergy will attend our Diocesan Council January 27th and 28th. All of these things are very important. The members of our Vestry are our elected leaders. They are responsible for finances and property, and all of us should be aware of what is done with our collective resources. During their retreat our bonds to each other and God are strengthened, and we get a clearer sense of our mission. At Diocesan Council we re-connect with the 185 other congregations, realize why it is so important that we work together; we debate issues and make decisions with far-reaching implications. Please attend, vote, and stay to review St. Timothy's budget and ministries on January 8th. And pray for St. Timothy's, for the Vestry, and for our Diocese.

#3

We have three services on December 24th Christmas Eve. The 5:00 pm service is especially for children. Our younger members are encouraged to

help tell the Christmas story while Fr. Brad holds a very large Christmas story book. The 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm services include choirs, traditional hymns and carols, anthems, and extra musicians. And the Sanctuary is decorated beautifully to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Christ. This year Christmas Day is on Sunday. We will have one service on December 25th at 11:00 am. Please invite your families, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to experience our Christmas worship.

Fr. Brad

An Invitation to all Women of St. Timothy's

*With thoughts of the holidays, the spirit of giving and friendship
- it*

is time to mark your calendar

Sunday December 4

6 PM

The ECW (Episcopal Church Women) Holiday Social

At the home of Kathy Froemming

12846 Parapet Way - Oak Hill, Virginia

*Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share and a \$10 wrapped
gift for*

the ever fun and festive gift exchange.

*In the spirit of caring and the holidays, an optional item/gift
may be*

*donated to LAWS, (Loundoun Abused Women's Shelter). All
donations will be*

delivered to the shelter before Christmas.

Please RSVP to Kathy at 703-620-9290

or

kathyfroemming@cox.net

Come and enjoy an evening of holiday fun and friend-
ship

The Service Ministry ~ Putting Your Faith to Work.



Stewardship – Milk of Human Kindness

When I was asked to write an article on, “Why I support St Timothy’s”, the first thing that came to mind is that I have already had the privilege of sharing these with many of you on previous occasions, either from this altar or at last year’s Stewardship Dinner. So why repeat? Why in fact did it have to be about me?

I could write about the mission programs. I could write about the hours faithful people give selflessly to this church. The liturgy itself is inspiring and our clergy Godly loving people, so ready to provide spiritual and pastoral help and advice. But no, I felt I needed to write about something more intimate, more St Timothy’s specific.

The closing phrases of 1 Corinthians 13, St Paul’s famous paean to Love, came to mind, “But the greatest of these is Love.” I turned to it and was reminded that Love must be at the core of all we do, “If I give all I possess to the poor ...but have not love, I gain nothing.” The question then posed in my mind, “Is the milk of human kindness to be found in St Timothy’s, and if so where?”

I was then that I was further reminded of a small incident that I recently witnessed. It relates to one of those little humdrum activities that many people are hardly aware of, but demonstrated for me that the heart of this church is well charged with the milk of human kindness.

It occurred a couple of months ago, I was waiting in the Narthex preparing to serve as a LEM at the 11:00 Service. Sitting next to me was one of the daughters of St Timothy’s, a 13 year old girl who had been born into the church and whose parents had raised her in it. I thought no more of it as she had served as an acolyte many times before. As Father Brad approached the growing altar party, she got up and told him in that nervous, one-breath monotone of youth, this was her first time as a Server, and that her mother had said the one mistake people would notice is if she spilled the wine. Brad was his usual consoling self and assured her that anything she did wrong he had already done himself at least twice, and as for spilling wine he had once caused the entire jug to be spilled on the floor!

Well that seemed to reassure her. We processed in and as I was assigned "Prayers" I was sitting next to her. She had no duties during the first half of the Service, but when it came to the Peace, there were kind words of encouragement from Leslie and Michael Cook. Once the preparations for Communion started then she had things to do; Leslie quietly made sure she knew what to do with the basin and towel. Brad was glancing over, smiling as she served each of the alter party. I made sure she stood at the right place once we rose to stand around the altar, and I could see Michael watching, with a little smile on his face while she snuffed out the candles.

So she did fine. There are a couple of what I consider remarkable facts about this story; first she felt comfortable enough with the Rector to voice her fears (how many of us would have felt the same at her age in whatever church we attended?), and secondly, there was such a sense of caring present on that altar towards this young girl, almost a sense that we were willing every action to be correct one and warding off any chance of error.

I do not know how much this young lady felt that sense of caring. It may be she is so used to feeling so in this church that it was perhaps an expectation. For me, however, it was a poignant little demonstration of what it has come to do so well, caring for people, demonstrating the milk of human kindness. Let's face it, no matter how impressive a church's mission program might be, if it does not care and nurture people then, as St Paul charges, it is all for nought.



Keep Fairfax County Clean

Are you bothered by those less-than-considerate citizens that you see tossing cigarette butts and other litter out their car windows? Want to do something about it? You can! Go to www.cleanfairfax.org and click on "Report a Litterer" and provide the date, time, location of violation, make and license plate number of the vehicle, and type of litter. The Fairfax County police will send a letter to the registered owner reminding them of

the county's anti-littering laws. What a gracious way of being a pro-active Steward of Creation! (A Message from the Stewardship of Creation Committee -- visit us at www.caringforgodscreation.org, join our blog, or come to our next meeting on Saturday, January 21, 2012 (10 am to 2 pm) at St. James-the-Less, Ashland, Virginia)

Invite the Steward of Creation to your Christmas Party!

Well, not really. But you can be your own Steward of Creation by remembering to reuse last year's wrapping paper and tags again this year (user discretion advised!), recycle all non-usable wrapping paper and gift boxes (including the paper and plastic that comes with the gift), and keeping your home heat down a notch or two so you can enjoy that new sweater you received on Christmas morning! The holidays are all-too-often filled with excesses -- let "using God's precious resources" not be one of them! (A Message from the Stewardship of Creation Committee -- visit us at www.caringforgodscreation.org, join our blog, or come to our next meeting on Saturday, January 21, 2012 (10 am to 2 pm) at St. James-the-Less, Ashland, Virginia)

Wonder

*There is faint music in the night,
And pale wings fanned by silver flight;
A frosty hill with tender glow
Of countless stars that shine on snow.
A shelter from the winter storm,
A straw-lined manger, safe and warm,
And Mary crooning lullabies,
To hush her Baby's sleepy sighs.
Her eyes are rapt upon His Face,
Unheeded here is time and space;
Her heart filled with blinding joy,
For God's own Son--her little Boy!*

Nancy Buckley

Robert, Cyril. *Our Lady's Praise in Poetry*. New York: Marist Press, 1944.

Christmas, the Season of Giving

Busy with the hustle & bustle of the Season? Me too! My shopping list is greater this year because of all the kindness I've received and the people who would benefit with a token of understanding and love.

There is Aunt Mary who loves to read and always remembers the kids' birthdays. I can't forget Bob my neighbor to the rescue, who fixed my flat tire one hurried morning and is a proud veteran. Then there is dear troubled Louise, whose mother is suffering with breast cancer. And what about that dinner Sam brought over when I had broken my leg? Loved his lasagna!

As the wise men brought gifts upon our Savior's birth, Christmas is the most joyful time of the year to remember friends, family and strangers with tokens of love. These needn't be purchased on sale or costly. And who needs another candle or a tie? With our budgets stretched, a small donation in that person's name to a burdened non-profit organization might be just the answer.

St. Timothy's Service ministry has an array of ideas to share our Christian faith with gifts of caring. Each Sunday of Advent you will find a different brochure in the bulletin listing a variety of organizations and a short overview of their work. It is a thoughtful way to offer a present that keeps on giving.

Service Ministry... putting your faith to work



The R13/J2A crew

Join the tradition at St. Timothy's -- Christmas Eve Illumination!

On Christmas Eve, at 1 p.m., gather just outside by the bell to help us assemble and place 500 luminaries all around the St. Timothy's property! We'll have the assembly line set up and ready! Christmas music too! Dress for the weather as you will be outside the entire time (rain is the only thing that cancels this event -- water does not mix well with paper bags and candles!). Questions? Contact Craig Dubishar at wcdubi@cox.net or 703.850.1751.



Antietam: December 3, 2011

Think: hot chocolate on a cold day, lighting candles as the days get shorter...

The youth group (grades 6-12) will be taking a day trip to Antietam Memorial Battlefield on December 3, 2011!

We will meet at the church at 6:30 AM and will return to the church around 9 PM.

We will help set up a field of candles, to contribute to the 23,000 candles lit across the whole battlefield, in remembrance of those who died during the bloodiest battle of the Civil War. After we set up, we get to drive through the battlefield and see all the candles lit. If you would like to participate (either as a youth or as a chaperone), please send a message to youth@saint-timothys.org

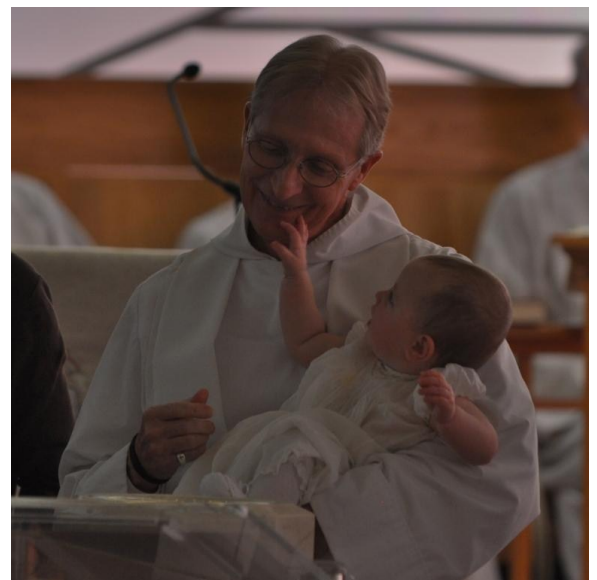


The baptism of Justine Komatz—welcome to the family!



On this day we place our child in God's care forevermore.

Author unknown



2011 Vestry

Terms expire January 2012

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Services

Sundays

8:00 a.m.- Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:30 a.m.- Holy Eucharist,
Rite II

Children's Chapel

Godly Play, ages 3-9

(Nursery Care Available)

11:00 a.m.- Holy Eucharist,
Rite II

Sunday School

Godly Play, ages 3-9

(Nursery Care Available)

Wednesday

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

Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9:00 a.m. –5:00 a.m.

For appointments, please call
703-437-3790



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, November 25, 2011

Questions, articles, or ideas for *The Word* are always welcome as are your comments. You may send materials via email to Jillian Hajdasz at 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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Parish Administrator

Keith Nelson Stroud

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Our Mission:

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.*