

## From the Rector: Who, and What's, More Important?

Sometimes this is an easy question to answer – “Are the people I love more important than transient things?” Of course! But Mom and Dad have their work and duties; children have school, sports, scouts, music (pardon the cliché; I realize many households are not “two parents and children”) . . . life sends us off in many different directions. Life divides us from each other, and from ourselves.

My family knows very well that I have meetings and other obligations that take me away from them. Some time ago they helped me realize that I need to tell them when I've cancelled a meeting, declined an offer or invitation, that I've rescheduled events so I can be with them. They don't automatically know that I always try to put them first, and keep them first; I have to tell them, and show them.

The same is true for us as individuals—am I always putting work first? Do I make time for myself? Do I give too much of myself away?

Someone once said “You can tell a person's priorities by looking at their checkbook (or credit card statement), and their calendar.” When do the people you love and value fit in your life?

Do you fit into your life? Individuals, couples, single parents, single parent families, families—all of us need time out for rest and recreation.

As we enter this joyful, painful, enervating, exhausting time of year, give yourself and the other people who have a special place in your heart the gift of time. Practice loving yourself so you can love other people. Take back some of the time you have been given, make time for yourself and the people who matter most to you. Spend your time well.

There's so much more to life than being busy and buying stuff. +

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## Haiti Mission, Part I

by Scott Zetlan

Hurricane Sandy's floodwaters have receded from the town of Léogâne, but the approach to this tiny village is anything but smooth. Turning off the crowded, two-lane main road from Port-au-Prince, a tooth-jangling 45-minute drive along the pockmarked dirt-and-cobblestone road will eventually bring you to Paroisse Saint Matthieu. Brad and the Haiti mission team reconnected there with the Rev. Wisnel De Jardin, Seminarian at St. Timothy's until 2011.

The church, built in 1947, was renovated in 2008 to include a second story, now cracked and crumbling as the result of the January 2010 earthquake cen-

tered near Léogâne. Outside the church, shaded by a makeshift canopy of tarps and grain sacks, the people worship in a temporary sanctuary adjacent to the parish school.

Inside Wisnel's church are signs of progress: stacks of two-by-four lumber, rebar, tin roofing, and various construction materials. The priority, though, is rebuilding the tenth-grade classroom, because those students passing the ninth grade need somewhere to study next year.

And what do the students see as the priority? Scrawled on one of the ninth-grade classroom chalk boards are these words: Nou ap mande mange nan tanpri.

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# When Disaster Strikes

by the Rev. Brad Rundlett

The destruction in Southern Haiti didn't make the news, in part because there was so much damage here in the U.S. But I think there's another reason we didn't see more news about this huge storm: The people of Haiti suffer disaster after disaster, and we don't know what to make of that. How can a good and loving God allow such tragedy? And so often, so horribly, to the same people? It is a very disturbing question.

A lot of people have asked the question. And a lot of people have offered answers to the question—though I don't think I've ever come upon an explanation that was worth a nickel. There isn't an answer that makes tragedy acceptable. There isn't a theology that seamlessly reconnects us with our Creator when creation comes apart. Maybe Heaven is silent because there isn't anything God can say that will instantly heal our broken hearts.

The more poignant question is "What do we do with tragedy, when it strikes us or someone else?" It was very

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"We are asking for food, please." Also this: Twalet la tanpri fè sa pou elev yo oke. "Please fix the toilet, okay?"

Still, despite the persistent difficulties, there is reason to remain hopeful for Wisnel's people. A nascent economy in Léogâne provides some jobs and income to the residents, and while some live in abject poverty, others are able to provide food and education for their families. Women run tiny businesses, selling candies and pre-packaged treats to children arriving at school. Edith, who lives near St. Matthieu church, runs a small catering business and makes decorative bowls from calabash, which grow in plenty. Very few children have the clear signs of malnourishment and protein deficiency that were more common in decades past.

Dejardin explains that with ever-present need, it is important to focus

on one problem at a time and resolve it first before attempting the next one on the list. "I can't embrace everything at one time," says Wisnel. Achieving results, he hopes, will build trust with this community to which he is recently arrived—four months ago, his predecessor left after nine years in Léogâne.

Accomplishing anything, though, requires the assistance of partners who can provide money, supplies, and logistics. In parts of Haiti, long-standing partners are withdrawing or failing to meet commitments. The Rev. Gracia Kesner, the team's host in Cange, said that Zanmi Lasante (Partners in Health), a long-standing institution, recently laid off 300 people, many of them local Haitian workers.

In Cange, Kesner has had to dismiss 20 teachers from the Bon Saveur parochial school because funds pledged to him by Episcopal churches in the

United States have failed to materialize. Dejardin has had similar problems, both in Léogâne and previously in Jeanette, where he had been assigned until August 1.

Saint Timothy's currently sends tuition money for 18 students in Chapoteau, near Cange and Wisnel's birthplace. This money is used to pay teachers and for uniforms, shoes, backpacks, and daily lunch. But the lack of jobs makes gaining an education an uphill battle.

One woman from Chapoteau described her dire situation. "I used to work for Zanmi Lasante, but they fired me. I have seven children at home, and only two of them were in school," she said, because she could not afford tuition for the other five. Now those two will no longer be able to attend school. She asks, "what am I going to do?"

No one in the room has an answer. +



# St. Tim's Music Ministry Fills the Air with Song

by John Perkinson

Described by author Thomas Carlyle as the “speech of angels,” music plays an important role in the St. Timothy’s Church experience. At the heart of this religious resonance is the St. Tim’s Music Ministry, which features five choirs: the Children’s Choir, for ages 5-7; the Youth Choir, for ages 8-14; the Hand Bell Choir; and the two adult choirs, which perform at the church’s respective 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services each Sunday.

Led by music director and organist, Peter Waggoner (who has been with the church since 2004), the choirs perform on Sunday mornings, at special evening services, and at designated events throughout the year. Peter notes, “At Christmas, we do ‘Lessons and Carols.’ At other times of the year, we do Taize services, which feature music from a French ecumenical monastic order. We also perform choral evensong.”

The Hymnal of the Episcopal Church—the source for much of this “joyful noise”—provides more than 700 hymns and other liturgical music options for every season of the ecclesiastical year.

However, Music Ministry performances are not limited to in-house choral groups. “We have two sets of independent musicians in residence right now; the Voce Chamber singers who perform at the church four times a year. We also have two violinists who conduct fund raisers for us and hold concerts periodically,” says Peter, who adds, “This is part of the church’s community outreach effort, as these two groups are not specifically affiliated with St. Tim’s.”

Several special programs are planned for the upcoming holiday season. On December 1, St. Tim’s will host a Voce Christmas concert with Latin music from South America and the Islands. On December 5, Jay Chadwick’s brass quintet will perform several Christmas arrangements. (If Jay’s last name sounds familiar, he is Leslie’s husband).

For details of these and other programs, look for more information on the church website at [www.saint-timothy.org](http://www.saint-timothy.org).

And if you can carry a tune, Music Ministry choirs are always looking for new members. Interested divas and divos can e-mail Peter at [PeterW@Saint-Timonthys.org](mailto:PeterW@Saint-Timonthys.org). No previous experience is required and auditions aren’t necessary. +

## Confirmation & Reception

On November 18, Bishop Susan Goff Confirmed eight people, Elizabeth Hacker, Danny Cozza, Nicole Moravitz, Carol Beckett, Will Pfadenhauer, Christian Druitt, Elizabeth Cramer, and Mike Gjormond, and Received Shon Buery into the Episcopal Church. +

## New Christmas Services Times!

In a change from previous years, the Christmas Eve services will begin promptly at the listed times (5, 7, and 10 pm) and Preludes and Carols will occur prior to the posted Service times. To hear prelude and carol music for the 10 pm service, please arrive at least 20 minutes prior to the service.

- 5:00 pm - Children’s Service and Eucharist
- 6:40 pm - Prelude Music
- 7:00 pm - Festival Eucharis
- 9:40 Prelude and Carols
- 10:00 Festival Eucharist Begins +



# Small Tasks ARE Rewarding!

by Christine Cozza

I came to St. Tim's almost 30 years ago. I moved here from Arizona. I was looking for a church as many of us do when we relocate and, after my second son was born, I knew I needed to find a church I could call home. When I walked in to St. Tim's I felt at home. I had Mike baptized and attended weekly services like most. When it came time for my oldest son to attend the Sunday School program, I was a bit nervous. I wanted to be sure he would listen and behave. He hadn't even begun kindergarten and I was worried. So I asked if I could stay and sit in the back of the room, just in case... (as if me sitting in the back of the room was really going to make a difference to a 5-year old!).

Week after week I stayed in the back and one Sunday one of the teachers said, "Christine, you are here every week, wouldn't you consider helping us teach instead of just sitting there?" Well, I was shocked... what could I possibly offer the children? I had no formal teaching certificates, I

wasn't trained in the seminary... what could I offer? The teacher said, "You could read the Bible to them and follow the lesson plans and the rest will follow..." Well, after 20 years of teaching...they were right. My third son came and participated just like my other two sons, and it has been the most wonderful experience of a lifetime for me.

Being able to be with the youth of St. Tim's and watch them grow and be a part of their lives has been so enriching for me.

I have since been on many committees, and assisted with fundraisers, as well as helped with coffee hours, and set-up and clean-up crews for events. My life with St. Tim's has expanded my family simply by stepping out of my comfort zone and offering to volunteer my time and my talent. It can take just a little time to help or as much as you can give, but participating is yet another place where you will feel that you are a part of this wonderful family we call St. Timothy's. +

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moving to see people who have suffered great devastation for hurricane Katrina drive to the communities hit hard by hurricane Sandy. I wish our news showed more of these gracious and redemptive, life and hope restoring, unselfish acts. That was inspiring.

I don't think God causes death and destruction. I don't think it is divine punishment. I hope the things I cannot understand will become clear when (I hope!) I see God face to face in The Kingdom. For whatever time we have in this life we can react to tragedy with bitterness, or with compassion.

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.

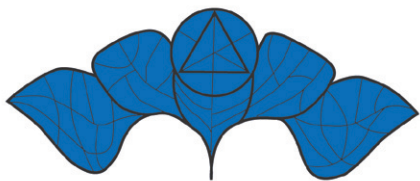
Christine Cozza spoke at the 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. services. She has permitted us to share her remarks here. Thank you, Christine! Sandy Schanne spoke at the 11:00 a.m. service, and permitted us to share her remarks in last month's edition of *The Word*. Thank you, Sandy!

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 our website ([www.saint-timothys.org](http://www.saint-timothys.org)). Click "Getting Involved" and then "STARt here to volunteer." All help is welcome. Small tasks can be rewarding – and fun!

That's really not much of a choice, is it. Bitterness will consume us; compassion will give us new life—though not without some scars. We are called by God to submit our anguish to the One who suffered on the Cross and rose again, and help one another.

In this season of Advent we await the final return of Jesus Christ our Savior who will inaugurate The Kingdom that has no end, where there is no suffering, where all of the children of God are reunited for an endless celebration. Until that promise is fulfilled, we roll up our sleeves, and love as Christ loves us. +



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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: Friday, December 21, 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.

## Welcome, New Registered Members

Welcome to those who have joined, been confirmed, or transferred their membership in the past month:

*Carol Katsumi Yanagihara Beckett*

*Nicole Marie Moravitz*

*Elizabeth Spaulding Cramer*

*Charlie Schumann*

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](mailto:nikki.omalley@gmail.com)) or fill out the Parishioner Information Form: [www.saint-timothys.org/uploads/docs/info-form.pdf](http://www.saint-timothys.org/uploads/docs/info-form.pdf)

## 2012 Vestry

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### **Office Hours**

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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