

From the Rector: God is Coming, God is With Us

by the Rev. Brad Rundlett

November 30 is the first day of Advent (from the Latin word “adventus”, which means “coming”). It is also the first day of the Church New Year. During these four weeks we prepare for the coming of God’s Savior. The Biblical lessons, the hymns, and our prayers have words like “prepare”, “alert”, and “coming.” Of course Christ has come into the world as a newborn baby in Bethlehem. He comes to us in the Sacraments and other moments full of grace. We believe he will come again (no one knows when, or how) to establish The Kingdom of God.

The Judean prophet Jeremiah – who lived between 626 and 627 B.C E. – announced “The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah . . . I will put my law within them . . . and I will be their God and they shall be

my people.” [Jeremiah 31:31-33]. The Gospel author Matthew recorded Jesus saying “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” [Matthew 28:20]. Christians believe that Jesus fulfills both of these prophetic declarations. Jesus of Nazareth, our Savior, the Son of God, the Messiah, the Christ, God Incarnate, entered this world as an infant human male. We celebrate this in the season of Christmastide. God is in the world; God is with us, and the Holy Spirit of God is alive in the hearts and minds of the people of God.

God is no longer *only* the infinite and invisible One in Heaven. God is also alive in each one of us. God comes to be with us in human form. Therefore we offer to be servants of God – going where God wants us to go, doing what God wants us to do; spreading the Holy Spirit of God throughout the world. God in us and with us is the gift of Christmas. +

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Haiti Mission's 4th Visit to Chapoteau

by John Druitt

Sunday morning the Team meets for a 5:45 early morning departure in intense cold. There is frantic repacking in the church parking lot to redistribute among the luggage eight laptops, along with 50 bottles of children’s vitamins. We have five of our six team members: Bob Henry, Chris “Gunny” Brock, Craig Dubishar, and Genevieve Zetlan. We will meet Melanie Peck in Ft. Lauderdale and board the flight for Port au Prince together. Our mission: to visit St. Mathieu’s, the tiny Chapoteau school in Central Haiti where we sponsor 25 children’s education. The most recent Priest in Charge (PIC) has fled his post in fear for his life. We are not sure what to expect.

As the sun rises, Craig drives us to Reagan National in his red van. Bob sent out the PDF with all the boarding passes and at least two of us have printed the whole set to share. It’s a good sign that the team is already looking out for each other.



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Pipe Organ Restoration Begins After Christmas

On October 6, your Vestry accepted the recommendation made by the Gifts to Glorify the Lord team to restore and renovate our 144 year old J.D. Moore pipe organ. Committee co-chairs Marty Brady and Randy Karn made the announcement to the congregation on November 1.

As you all know by now, this organ project has been a long journey, and many parishioners have contributed in one way or another to getting us to the finish line. While many have participated in this success over the years, over the past year the current set of team member's perseverance and dedication as they faced funding shortfalls, their thoroughness and creativity in researching new options, and their honesty and flexibility in deliberating the best options, has been nothing short of heroic. Gifts to Glorify The Lord team members are Carmela Condro, Elaine Horsfield, Sue Van Meers, Sharon McKinney, Andy Hamm, and Paige Williamson plus 2 of our church staff: Fr. Brad and Filippa Duke.

Do you know how long the organ project has existed?
12 years. (So when we say it's been a journey, ... well, you get the idea.)

Do you know how much funding we have donated and gathered to ensure the longevity and excellence of pipe organ music here at St. Tim's?
Over \$340,000. Wow – just wow.

Do you know that our plans now include retaining the best of our old historic tracker?
The existing façade, case and those parts that are still in good repair will all be retained.

Do you know that our plans also include many, many new parts?

All of the organ's broken parts will be replaced AND there will be 50% added new pipes to allow our musicians to provide a greater repertoire of inspiring music.

Do you know that your GTGTL team selected a master craftsman as the organ restorer?

John Allen Farmer is a nationally known pipe organ builder and restorer in Winston-Salem, NC and as approved by the Vestry will be completing our project.

Do you know that the cost of this renovation is less than the donations we have already gathered?

Yes, you heard that right ... we have the money in the bank earning a little bit of interest to complete the whole organ restoration. So let's give ourselves a pat on the back for being good stewards and achieving our goals while avoiding debt. But wait, there's more...

Do you know that we will have enough funds left over to do some sanctuary improvements to improve acoustics?

We have enough money in hand to replace and upgrade the flooring in the sanctuary to a hard surface that will improve this room's resonance. We also have plans in place to restructure the pit and raise the organ enough to allow better projection of sound and long-term maintenance of the renovated instrument.

Do you know how this all happened?

By your faith and gifts of time, talent and treasure, by the grace and guidance of God, this is what can happen when you say "Yes!" to the mission of St. Timothy's. +

Vestry Elections Jan. 11

The Vestry Nominating Committee is seeking members of the congregation interested in serving on the Vestry. The deadline for candidate forms is December 7 ([download and fill out a form here](#)). Elections for four vacancies and one alternate will be conducted during all three services prior to St. Timothy's Annual Meeting on January 11, 2015. Vestry members serve for three years as the board of directors of the church, having the opportunity to take a more active role in the Church mission. Candidates must

be 16 years of age or older, confirmed communicants of St. Timothy's, and attend worship regularly. In addition members attend an all-day Vestry Retreat on Saturday January 17. The Vestry meets on the fourth Monday of each month. Interested members should contact any member of the current Vestry and Bob Kimmel at 571.612.9196 or rkimmel818@verizon.net to discuss this rewarding opportunity to work together for the good of the whole community that Saint Timothy's serves. +

LINK Serves 50,000 lbs. of Food This Thanksgiving

President John F. Kennedy said, “As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” On November 15th and the days and weeks leading up to our LINK Thanksgiving Holiday Program, there were hundreds of volunteers living out those words. Schools in Fairfax County and Loudoun County organized Food and Coat drives for LINK, Businesses set up boxes in their offices to collect donations, Boy Scouts went door to door collecting food through their Scouting for Food event on Nov. 8th, Girl Scout Troops throughout both counties solicited donations, churches asked parishioners to donate, political leaders spread the word and collected food, and individuals found creative ways to donate. More than 50,000 pounds of food was collected and donated to LINK so that we could provide more than 776 families food for 3 – 5 days. Thousands of gently used coats, scarves, hats, mittens and winter clothing were distributed. LINK was able to give \$22,310 in grocery gift cards to the families.

The temperature dropped by 30 de-

grees during the week and hundreds of volunteers worked to distribute food to families who waited in the frigid temperatures. Volunteers worked to sort the food and clothing throughout the week so that clients could “shop” for themselves on Nov. 15th. Each client had an escort to assist with their selections and it gave the volunteers and the clients an opportunity to share friendship. At Trinity Presbyterian Church (Herndon), a group of dedicated volunteers braved the cold conditions to help clients move the food from grocery carts to their vehicles. At Christ the Redeemer, we had the men of Sigma Mu Mu of Loudoun County helping clients load their food. At Sterling United Methodist Church, church members and volunteers continued to restock the racks and tables and help clients find clothing for themselves.

When the last clients were served and cardboard and trash cleaned from the floors, LINK served 776 families (3880 individuals) more than 30,000 pounds of non-perishable food, 750 pounds of frozen meat, 300 pounds of vegetables and fruit, 2500+ winter coats & accessories, and \$22,310 in

grocery gift cards. 18 families who were homebound were served by a dedicated group of volunteers.

The families who received the items are grateful and LINK is so proud to be a part of an amazing community! I want to thank the hard working LINK Board members and member churches who spent hundreds of hours of personal time to ensure the success of the program.

LINK will host the Christmas Holiday event on December 13th, and will need to collect more food to distribute. LINK will also distribute grocery gift cards to the families who are registered. If you would like more information, feel free to email us at holiday@linkagainsthunger.org. Businesses can contact our Business Liaison, Carrie, at businessliaison@linkagainsthunger.org. LINK’s Top Needs right now: canned fruit, pasta sauce, tomato products, canned meat, potatoes, hearty soup, hamburger helper, canned pasta, jelly.

If you want to help by volunteering, [click here](#).

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Getting off the plane in Haiti the air smells different, richer, and the humidity infiltrates the hallway between each air conditioning unit. Through the long entry corridors we somehow find our driver and our luggage. No customs questions asked as we bring multiple laptops into the country to benefit another Episcopal school that is building a computer lab. As we head outside, there are crowds of people awaiting friends and family, and a preacher in full collar dress tells us through a loudspeaker that Jesus will come again.

This is my first exposure to spoken Creole. Loosely based on French, it has Spanish sounds and African rhythms thrown in. People look happy, no one is begging. In spite of every-

thing, Haitians have not lost their spirit, their dignity, or their willingness to try.

We meet Père Ajax, Director of the Haiti Partnership Program, in the airport parking lot and hand over the laptops near the Land Rover that will take us to Cange. Handing over the computers feels like a clandestine exchange, except Père Ajax is carrying them stacked to overflowing in a paper ream box that is completely ripped down one corner.

The Sunday night ride out of Port au Prince is chaotic and dark. Mosquitos get into the SUV with us, swirling in a miniature vortex over our luggage. It’s time for the first application of mosquito repellent. I discover 100% DEET feels like

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sunburn on my arms and neck, but it is a welcome tradeoff to mosquito bites and the attendant risk of disease.

Mikelson, our driver, navigates through the chaos of Port au Prince as the sun sets rapidly. Sitting in the back of the



Land Rover it feels like I am watching a PlayStation racing game, with trucks, SUVs, motorcycles, pedestrians, and tap taps (brightly painted taxi trucks) whizzing past on all sides. No lanes, just a lot of courage. The traffic frenzy and congestion abate at the outskirts of town and we pick up speed. In the dark, it seems like every half mile repeats the same segment of scenery on the side of the road; small fires, people in tee shirts with American logos, colorful shacks and laundry, deep ditches, and always a small yellow dog of unidentifiable species in search of food. Inevitably, the truck in front of us catches one of these dogs a glancing blow. It squeals and runs away with no obvious damage.

Mikelson shows more courage going up the switchbacks through the mountains on Highway 3, leaning into curves before the headlights can touch them. I didn't expect mountain ranges on a Caribbean island. Up on the Central Plateau, people have converted most trees into charcoal, the deforestation rapidly eroding the topsoil. As a result, this new highway is already sliding off

the mountain. In one particularly dicey spot, concrete barriers and speed bumps keep vehicles out of the lane that has cracked away. Later, a canted BMW SUV with a broken axle highlights the dangers of getting too close to the deep ditches that run alongside the road.

Finally, we pass Lac (Lake) Péligre, formed by the hydroelectric dam project. This indicates we are near Cange and our ultimate destination for the evening, the Zanmi Lasante (Partners in Health) compound. Chapoteau, more an area than a village, is just across from Cange on the other side of lake.

Suddenly, our driver navigates the Land Rover between two incredibly

high white walls. We drive up a steep angle to arrive in the Zanmi Lasante compound, which holds a school, the Bon Sauveur church, a library, and even an art center where artisans work on rugs, paintings, metal sculpture, and beaded jewelry. Victoria Jolibois, our host, greets us in a courtyard and ushers us down several confusing flights of steps to our home for the next three days: Chart House.

It's time for dinner at the View – a converted Clinic from the old hospital



where we take our communal meals. On the way there, Craig casually il-

luminates the tarantulas that sit in every hole in the walls by most pathways. The one we look at is as big as my hand. Given the nonchalance of the rest of the team members, my own heart rate finally slows down. Later, Chris will merge tarantula and nonchalance into 'tarantulance' to indicate that we aren't afraid of these things.

At dinner, we meet with several Clemson interns who have been doing work through the college and the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina (EDUSC). The View looks across wide valleys to mountains located over in the Dominican Republic.

After dinner we meet Waile, one of many students here. He takes down the names of my children so he can create bracelets to sell me. He tells me he is an artist and has big plans. This purchase will help support his family.



We are eager to get to Chapoteau in the morning and see how our students and the school fare. Our first day of the trip has taken us to a completely different world only a two hour flight from the U.S. +

Open Letter to St. Tim's from Seminarian Lisa Erdeljon

Dear Saint Timothy's,

It's hard for me to believe that I'm more than half way done with my first semester at Yale. It seems like my to-do list keeps getting longer and the amount of time keeps getting shorter. I feel like I just got here, but I've also managed to do quite a lot since school started.

To start, my classes are going well, or at least the classes I'm currently taking are going well. I originally signed up for Biblical Hebrew, but I didn't make it very far in that class. At least I learned how to read Hebrew text and how to look words up in the Hebrew dictionary! I am taking, though, Old Testament Interpretation (a basic, introduction to the Old Testament class, with a mid-term, a final, and a term paper); Foundations of Christian Worship (sort of like a survey course, reviewing what worship is like in various Christian communities); and History of Theology to 451 (commonly referred to as Patristics, each week is spent reading and studying a different early Christian theologian). I'm also taking a colloquium class for the Anglican program (it's not called Episcopal here) and voice lessons!

I like all my classes, but the parts that really inspire me are my written assignments. So far, I'm working on two papers. For Patristics, I'm looking at how one theologian (Tertullian, in case you're wondering) perceived baptism through his Rule of Faith (he came before any Christian Creeds existed). For Old Testament, I have permission to write a paper different than the assignment. Instead of simply analyzing a passage from the Bible, I am looking at how the Hebrew Bible seems to portray violence as not only acceptable but even encouraged by God. I'm specifically looking at Deuteronomy 7, and I'm having a hard time figuring out how to keep this paper to only 7-10 pages. Maybe it can be the first step of a much bigger paper for a later class!

Advent: Bishop to Visit

The Right Reverend Ted Gulick, Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, will visit St. Timothy's on Sunday, December 14. He will be with us during the 11:00 am service and for a reception after that service. This service will be in English and Spanish. Bishop Gulick will Confirm, Receive, and hear vows renewed.

The rest of life is going well, thankfully! I have a lot of new friends, both within my program and in the greater Divinity School community. The First-Year Episcopal group is really great, and so far, we are getting along very well. I've been enjoying learning more about what The Episcopal Church looks like in other parts of the country – from a Ukulele ministry in San Francisco to a daily Morning Prayer said in Latin in Rhode Island. I've also been exploring the Episcopal churches in the New Haven area. So far, I have been to a different church every Sunday, and I have experienced everything from a jazz Eucharist to a Spanish Eucharist to my first high Anglo-Catholic service. I've also learned I'm allergic to incense, which is probably something good to know now, before I start looking for jobs.

The rest of my semester will probably be busier than the first half. I have finals in every class, at least one paper due in every class, and a jury performance for voice lessons. Plus, my parents will be coming to visit for Thanksgiving (I'm already trying to decide which church to go to with my mum). I have a paper due the last day of finals, and the very next day starts the winter Ember Days. That means, after submitting my final paper for my first semester of Yale Divinity School, I have to write a letter to the Bishop, talking about my experiences, how I'm growing, and the things I've learned. Once all that is done, I'm hoping to take a couple of days to relax here, and then I'll be home for the holidays. You all will definitely see me on Christmas Eve and at least a couple of Sundays after that, but I'm not sure if you'll see me on the last Sunday of Advent.

Regardless of when I do make it home for break, I am definitely looking forward to seeing my Saint Timothy's family! I miss you all and I look forward to worshipping with you this Christmas season! Countless blessings and prayers! +

During Advent, consider making use of some of these resources:

- [Episcopal Relief and Development Advent Toolkit](#)
- [Society of St. John the Evangelist](#)
- [Episcopal News Service Advent Resources](#) +



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Submission deadline for the next issue: Friday, December 26, 2014

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.

Member Registration

Please don't let St. Timothy's be the last to know if you move! If you receive offering envelopes it is essential that we have the most up to date information so we are not charged when the offering envelopes are returned to St. Timothy's. Further, if we don't have an email address for you and your family, or if your email has changed, update your information at www.saint-timothys.org or send the information to office@saint-timothys.org. To transfer your membership to St. Tim's, or to find out if you are a registered member, fill out the Parishioner Information Form: www.saint-timothys.org/uploads/docs/info-form.pdf. Email the completed form to office@saint-timothys.org, or print the form and mail it to St. Timothy's, or place it in the collection plate. Questions? Please don't hesitate to call 703 437-3790.

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Service Times

Sundays
8:00 a.m.
Eucharist, Rite I

9:30 & 11 a.m.
Eucharist, Rite II
Godly Play, ages 3-8
SPARK+, 3-6th grades
Nursery Care

9:45 am
Journey to Adulthood
Rite 13, 7-12th grades

4:00 pm
Misa en Espanol

Wednesday
12:15 P.M.
Eucharist and
Healing Service

Saturday
7:00 P.M.
Oracion y Alabanza