

From the Interim Rector: Fr. Mark Michael

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.” Ps. 67:3

“Is tomorrow Sunday School?” Our youngest son, Peter, doesn’t quite follow the days of the week yet, and from about Wednesday at supper he wants to know how soon the big day will arrive. Coming to Saint Timothy’s has been a big event in the religious life of our family for several reasons.

First, we all get to worship together on Sunday mornings. Since our older son was quite young, the boys have gone to my wife Allison’s rural Lutheran church for service each week, while I led worship at the Episcopal church. With Allison’s pastoral ministry on hold during her graduate work, we now gather in the same place—though generally on different sides of the Altar rail. Sunday School is also new for them, and they love the stories, the crafts, and the fun time spent with other kids their own age.

My wife and I, like all the other parents we know, want the very best for our kids. So we were so excited to learn about the strength of Saint Timothy’s children’s ministries, under the leadership of Christine Hoyle and so many dedicated teachers. I had introduced Godly Play in another church before Philip was born, and was delighted to see that it provides the core instruction for kids in our boys’ age group.

But we’re also afraid that our boys might fall behind in one part of their spiritual lives. They might be losing out on the opportunity to grow as worshippers, as regular active participants in the common work of the people of God.

Though that tiny Lutheran church didn’t have a big Sunday School to offer them, it did teach our boys to be liturgists. They learned to “do the aerobics” properly, to sing the canticles, to join in the hymns, and (sometimes) to sit fairly still during the sermon. We’ve had lots of help in this from

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On Mission: Relationships and Hospitality

Romans 12:13: “Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

by **Bob Henry**

Haiti Mission Team Lead

In the early 1990s the technological rage was end-to-end digital transmission of data over common telephone wire at speeds fast enough for “near” real-time video. For the well-heeled organization, the promises of teleconferencing were surging to the forefront of billboards, whole-page magazine advertisements, and (postal) mailbox-clogging requests for free demonstrations of systems that, by themselves,

filled all of the space in some conference rooms. Travel agents were panicking; finance departments were preparing with jubilation to reallocate travel budgets for upgrades to accounting systems. No one would need to go anywhere else ever again.

Of course, this was premature. Twenty years later, it is possible to conduct the same teleconference at many times the picture quality on a smartphone no bigger than a calculator (e.g., Facetime). But just as the Jetsons still had offices and skyway traffic jams, we now know the predicted reality seldom happens.

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Wednesday Bible Study Resumes

Do you have an hour a week for Morning Bible Study? On September 16th the Bible Study will reconvene in St. Timothy's kitchen from 10 to 11:00 a.m. We follow the Lectionary, so you will know what will be read in Church on Sunday. Bring your Bible (we read from various versions

for comparison) if you would like to join this coed multi-generational group. (We also have extra Bibles you can borrow!) All are welcome! Interested? Contact Nikki O'Malley nikki.omalley@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list. Current members need not contact. +

Learn More About Cub Pack 156

Cub Pack 156 would like to invite you to learn more about them and what Cub Scouts do. They are looking for boys from 1st to 5th grade to join the pack. Please visit them at the Welcome Home Sunday picnic on September 13th or at back to school nights for Hutchison

and McNair Elementary Schools (Dates to be announced). These are good times for parents to learn more about the pack and how to get their boys involved. If you would like additional information please contact Chris Brock at Christopher.brock2@verizon.net. +

Vestry Update

July Giving: \$49,468.00
Monthly Expenses: \$58,250
YTD Deficit: \$41,106.00
Monthly giving needed (Aug-Dec): \$66,471.00

At the July Vestry meeting, the Vestry approved the request of the Calendar Summit participants to designate a "Mission Sunday" during which all three mission trips could conduct sales fundraisers on the same Sunday. The Vestry approved a start date for a building cleaning services contract of October 1, 2015. The Vestry formed a Service Times Committee to investigate the desirability and feasibility of moving permanently to two services on Sundays. The Vestry re-iterated the request to Finance to provide information on accounting and bookkeeping services necessary at St. Tim's, a list of obsolete accounts, and a "menu" of church services for which we would accept donations from those using the facilities.

The next vestry meeting is September 28 at 7:30 p.m in B1. +

Help Support LINK in September

Each year St. Timothy's holds a month long food drive to replenish the LINK pantry shelves. Approximately 800 lbs of food are needed monthly to provide food for the 70-80 families requesting assistance each week. LINK delivers food five days a week to clients in Herndon, Sterling and Ashburn and, is an all-volunteer organization that relies completely on donations of food and cash to serve our clients. Volunteer opportunities include transporting, delivering and sorting food, assisting with the monthly Mobile Food Pantry, picking up donations from local businesses and packing deliveries. Volunteers of all ages are welcome to serve once a week, once a month or once a year. LINK is an ideal opportunity for families to work together serving in the community and for students to meet community service requirements.

This September, volunteers will collect donations of non-perishable food in the church parking lot on Sunday, September 27 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. When dropping off donations, please look for the LINK banner and collection van in the rear parking lot. Throughout the month, collection bins and the grocery cart will also be located in Henry Hall for convenient donating. Most needed donations include: peanut butter, jelly, pasta, rice, canned meat, cereal, pasta sauce, kidney and black beans, and canned fruit. To learn more about LINK please visit the website, www.linkagainsthunger.org or contact Shon Beury, shonbeury@aol.com. Thank you for putting your faith to work to serve our community. +

Thank You Back Pack Donors



St. Timothy's reached our goal of donating 65 backpacks to Cornerstones' clients. Jerrome Barnes was one of more than 3,000 recipients of a new back pack through Cornerstones' 2014 Back Pack Drive. He wore his back pack every day for a week before school even started! You are making a difference in our community with your generosity. Thank you! +

Help the Homeless Walk

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, October 18th is Cornerstones 12th Annual Help the Homeless Community Walk. Join other members of St. Tim's as we walk with Herndon and Reston faith communities to support the homeless in our community. Last year a record-breaking crowd of 300 participants walked from the Embry Rucker Community Shelter to St. Anne's Episcopal Church and back (about 2 miles) to help provide basic and essential items, such as pillows, dishes and food for those who moved into stable housing through Cornerstones' Rapid Re-Housing Challenge. More details to follow, but please save this date on your calendar. Service Ministry...putting our faith to work. +

Hospitality: continued from page 1

The truth is: one-on-one human contact and time sharing simply cannot be replaced. While technology enables faster and more frequent ways to keep relationships kindled, most often the real fuel of relationship is presence - showing up counts. What turned out to be true was that the technology improves the speed at which all of the preparation for in-person contact can be accomplished. In some cases, the increase in productivity even enables more travel.

In August, Saint Timothy's established a formal Haiti Ministry. The reason transcends the mission trip itself. The geological, political, economic, environmental and even spiritual crises of Haiti - to name just a few of the plagues- have faded from the headlines, replaced by terrorism and super typhoons. But the Ministry was formed to recognize that the relationship between Saint Timothy's and Saint Mathieus burns brightly with

daily activities—despite dim global attention to the challenges that remain unaddressed. Each day, I am amazed to learn that there are communications (e.g., emails at minimum, but also phone calls, teleconferences, and even meetings) among all of the partners dedicated to Chapoteau, facilitating our efforts to support each other.

But all this would fade if not for the prospect of our annual visit. In November, Saint Timothy's commissions a team of missionaries to visit our friends in Chapoteau, Haiti. This is the result of a relationship with its roots in the reluctant journey of a young priest (Fr. Brad) called by his Bishop to Haiti in 1980. Through the twists and turns of life that followed, that relationship would be renewed in ways unforeseeable—when a young Haitian priest at Virginia Theological Seminary in 2009 (Rev. Wisnel) ended up at Saint Timothy's to finish his field education. Many of us know the rest of that story (and many articles have been written to document it). The relationship

of Brad with the people of Haiti, or Wisnel with the people of St. Timothy's, has generated countless more relationships that strengthen us all. Like our trips to Dungannon and Pine Ridge, the goal of the mission trip is to continue to build meaningful and supportive relationships.

And like any other relationship, that requires sharing time, thoughts, prayers and meals together. For Haitians, practicing hospitality means accepting their invitation to visit them in welcoming homes that lack running water, electricity or bug-detering windows. Moreover, they have invited us all—Wisnel will host our group this year, and each year we visit he asks us to bring as many people as possible to his beloved country, his beloved village. To the extent anyone is capable, all are welcome. The information meeting for the November trip will take place September 20. Commitments to practice and receive our Haitian friends hospitality must be received by the Ministry by September 21st. +

helpful pewmates, who were patient with their squirminess, pointed out the proper places in the worship book, and encouraged their progress with smiles and pats on the back.

But here, that will be harder. Because like many Episcopal churches over the last few decades, Saint Timothy's decided to conduct children's Sunday School during worship, bringing children in just for the final third of the Eucharistic liturgy. In most places, the decision was made for the sake of time and attention spans. Families these days, we are told, don't have enough time for both worship and Sunday School. Kids will be bored to tears if asked to endure an hour and a quarter of worship.

Maybe that's right. But maybe training children to worship, to "continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers" (BCP 304) is just as important as teaching them Bible stories in a class with other kids.

We're in a time of discernment now about the Sunday morning schedule at Saint Timothy's, and this issue of whether it might be advisable to ask parents to bring their children to "the full service" each week has arisen in the task force's discussions. As someone who cares deeply about forming children to worship, I feel I need to present my case to all of you, especially to the parents of young children.

First, worship is really important. We are redeemed by God to praise Him, and we offer our richest praise when we are gathered together, when "all the people praise Him." There is a particular beauty and power to the worship of children, an unselfconscious joy that puts the rest of us to shame.

In addition, The Book of Common Prayer is the source of our doctrine as Episcopalians. Its texts were formed through extensive (and heated) processes of deliberation, and its beautiful prose is widely regarded as the model for liturgical text in English. If it is so important to us, if we love it so much, why in the world wouldn't we want to teach it to our children?

Second, worship doesn't come naturally, but there's no better time to start than when kids begin Sunday School in earnest. Liturgy's repetition and its variable posture (standing, kneeling, sitting) sometimes strikes adults as tedious, but kids love this kind of thing (think of children's games, after all). Research into faith development in children stresses that the ages of 7-10 are especially valuable for liturgical formation because kids love being part of a group at this age, and aren't embarrassed to join in with activities that are important to their parents. Elementary school children also have a high capacity for memorization. If we can get the liturgical texts and hymn lyrics in their heads now, these resources will nurture faith in the days ahead when this kind of learning is harder. Plus, our Godly Play curriculum is specifically designed to support liturgical participation, by cultivating a love for the central symbols and stories that form the Eucharistic liturgy. It's great to teach kids how to worship through a liturgically-focused curriculum, but it's very odd to simultaneously deprive them of the experience of worshipping.

It's not always easy, of course, to worship with kids. Many of them do find it hard to sit still, and maybe it will be necessary to take out a book or puzzle during those long-winded homilies. But, learning to follow an extended argument does have its advantages. Think of how the

presidential race might be different if more Americans had learned complex reasoning in childhood.

More seriously, several extensive studies have documented the waning of religious participation among young adults, particularly those who grew up in mainline churches like ours. In an important recent study, *Almost Christian* (2010) Princeton's Kenda Creasy Dean found that a majority of American millennials who had attended church in childhood had ended up believing in "moral therapeutic deism," a weak, self-centered shadow of authentic Christian belief. Dean pins the blame squarely on churches who don't expect enough of their kids, streamlining the Sunday morning time and failing to discuss and reinforce the faith at home.

Our practice of keeping kids out of church and only expecting them to attend "the full service" when they have been confirmed as teenager certainly isn't the only culprit in this slouch towards deism. But I think it's a major factor, at least for Episcopalians, and it often seems to speed kids out the doors. If we've missed our great opportunity to form young people in the patterns and habits of liturgical participation as elementary school students, it's difficult to expect it of them at an age when social pressure against organized religion (and doing anything with your parents) grows stronger.

If we decide to invite children to join us for the full Eucharistic liturgy each week at Saint Timothy's, this will require that we all learn a bit more gracious and hospitable. There are new resources we can use to help kids engage, maybe a few things will need to be shortened or moved around. It might well be worth the effort to share in the profound ministry of training another generation of God's children to praise Him with joy. +



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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 the church office (office@saint-timothys.org). Copies of The Word are also available in the office.

Submission deadline for the next issue: Friday, September 25, 2015

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.

Welcome, New Registered Members

Carter Michael Louis

Grace Montgomery Schmidt

Lochlan Matthew Cuadro

Sebastian Michael Cuadro

Kennedy Mary Timke

We have *many* active congregants who have been attending and donating to St. Timothy's for many years who are not registered members! Our goal is to aid the transfer of all congregants interested in being registered members of St. Timothy's.

Non-registered members can participate in all aspects of church worship except serving on the Vestry and participating in elections. However, the more registered members St. Timothy's has recorded 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

2015 Vestry

Terms expire Jan. 2016

Keith Sinclair, Sr. Warden

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Terms expire Jan. 2018

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Director, Parish Operations

Mr. Kevin Hamilton

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Office Hours

M-Th, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Fri, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

For appointments, please call

703-437-3790

Service Times

Sundays

8:00 a.m.

Eucharist, Rite I

9:30 a.m.

Rite II service with

Holy Communion

Godly Play,

ages 3-2nd grade

SPARK+, 3-5th grade

Christian Ed,

6-8th 9-12th grades

Nursery Care

11:00 a.m.

Rite II English-Espanol

with Holy Communion

Godly Play,

ages 3-2nd grade

Wednesday

12:15 P.M.

Eucharist and

Healing Service

Saturday

7:00 P.M.

Oracion y Alabanza