

From the Interim Rector: Fr. Mark Michael

“Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the Lord.” I Chron. 29:9

I'm so grateful to Bob Kimmel, Sean Kenis and Elaine Horsfield for reflecting on Christian stewardship in such thoughtful and compelling way in the lead up to our Consecration Sunday celebration. Though as I write the big event hasn't yet arrived, there really seems to be excitement throughout the congregation about focusing on this part of our spiritual life. A number of you have come to thank me for talking directly about the importance of giving. Others have stopped by my office to share why financial support of the church is such an important part of how you practice your faith.

Opening up the topic in this way has also led to some helpful questions. One of our head ushers, Jim Wallis, mentioned a concern to me about the fact that people who make their donations electronically don't have anything to

put in the plate on Sunday mornings. Their gifts, also, he noted aren't blessed as part of our worship service. Should we do something about this, he wondered.

Now our dedicated treasurer and our counters would want me to begin by assuring you that electronic donations make the work they do much easier. I actually tried, unsuccessfully, to introduce electronic giving in both of the congregations I served before. Electronic giving allows congregations to enjoy a more consistent cash flow, and simplifies the work of tallying and recording donations. It reduces anxiety for our leaders and allows them to make wiser decisions.

But, as Jim was pointing out, something also is lost in that switch; something that's at the heart of what it means to offer gifts to the Lord. The word offering comes from the Latin for “to bring forward,” and it suggests a physical act—giving a certain thing over to God to be used for his purposes. In ancient Israel, that offering was an animal, grain,

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Service Times Report Presented to Vestry

**by Brian Flusche
Service Schedule Team Lead**

The service study team commissioned by the Vestry this summer recently finished its research and presented the final report to the Vestry. Thank you so much for taking the time to provide feedback through emails and our survey! 141 households responded to the survey, almost half online and half via the paper survey handout. The entire report is available on our website for those who would like to read it.

The first key finding was that implementing the 2-service summer schedule year-round would make our church

sanctuary “uncomfortably full” much of the time in the spring and fall. This means in practice that lack of space in the Sanctuary would turn away newcomers (and in some cases, existing parishioners), limiting our parish's growth and potentially shrinking our congregation. The second key finding was that the traditional 3-service model, while it aligns well with the times that people want to come to church, is seriously straining our hard-working volunteer teams—meaning we either need some extra helpers or we need to change how we currently do things.

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Because two of the Vestry's key goals this year were growth and outreach, the Vestry did not recommend eliminating a service, because that will limit our growth potential. The Vestry did recommend that we take this opportunity as a parish to consider how we could revitalize the later (11 am) service.

Because the three main factors driving attendance at a particular service

on Sunday morning (according to the survey) were service time, music offerings, and child activities/offerings, the Vestry recommended potentially exploring ways to increase attendance at that service starting with those key areas. It was clear from the study that there is an overwhelming desire to add music (choir) at the 11 am service. However, no specific recommendations were made and no changes will be implemented until further input on possible ways forward is gathered.

The full report is posted for anyone to review, and we encourage everyone to read it to understand the details behind the factors that were evaluated and the different perspectives that exist in our congregation. If you have any questions about the report, please talk to Brian Flusche.

[READ THE REPORT](#) +

Vestry Update

At the September 28th vestry meeting, the vestry approved a severance amount for Phyllis Hogan in the amount of \$8,000. The Vestry also voted to compensate Fr. Adolfo Moronta \$500 per month to perform two Spanish Eucharist services per month on Saturday evenings through December 31, 2015. +



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Service of Lessons and Carols

A service of readings and carols to celebrate the
Advent and Birth of the Christ Child

featuring

St. Timothy's Choir

St. Timothy's Handbell Choir

The Children's Choir

Sunday, December 6, 2015

6 o'clock in the evening

Reception to follow in Henry Hall

Upcoming Special Services

The Daily Office: Father Mark thanks all who have been gathering for these weekday services. A change in his family schedule allows us to simplify the pattern a bit. Beginning November 2, Morning and Evening Prayer will be offered each week on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:45 am and 5:00 pm.

Bishop's Visit: Bishop Susan Goff, our Suffragan Bishop, will be with us to celebrate and preach on November 15 at the 11:00 Eucharist. She will administer confirmation to Matthew Gjormand, Beau LaWalt and Stephen Solliday, and will receive Schantal Montgomery into the Communion of this Church. Candidates from other congregations may also be presented. A reception will follow the service in Henry Hall. Father Mark thanks Taylor Poindexter, Ralph Tildon and Peter and Beth Hwochinsky for sharing in the ministry of preparing these people to reaffirm their Baptismal promises.

Thanksgiving: Eucharist will be offered this year on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday November 25 at 7:00 pm in the Church. This is a wonderful time to give thanks

to God for his blessings throughout the year. We will sing a few beloved harvest hymns and hopefully share some testimony about why we are thankful to God for His blessings. If you would like to offer a testimony, please speak to Father Mark. There will be no Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service in Herndon this year.

Advent Services will be offered this year on Thursdays December 3, 10 and 17 at 6:30 in the Church. We will use the Prayer Book's beautiful Service of Light and Father Mark will offer a meditation each week on one of the verses of the beloved Advent hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." You are invited to bring some soup or bread to share for a simple supper beforehand, beginning at 5:30 in Henry Hall. +

Daily Office:
M, T, Th: 8:45 am & 5 pm

Bishop Goff's Visit:
Nov. 15, 11 am

Thanksgiving:
Nov. 25, 7 pm

Advent:
Thursdays in December
5:30 pm - Supper
6:30 pm - Service of Light

Angel Tree Comes Nov. 22

As hard as it is to believe, the special season of thanks and giving is fast approaching, and with it comes the time when we think about setting up our beloved Angel Tree. On Sunday, November 22nd, the Angel Tree will once again grace Henry Hall, filled with Christmas present requests from the children served by Cornerstones. Each year the community of St. Tim's comes together to provide presents to more than 50 children in over 30 families in order to ensure each child has something special to open on Christmas morning. Thank you for the generosity you continue to

demonstrate each year! We hope to have the same success this year.

As in past years, you will find the Angel Tree filled with close to 200 individual gift requests. Please consider taking one or more tags in order to fulfill a child's wish again this year. You can shop in-store and online for the requested items and return the unwrapped gifts with the original tags firmly attached to St. Timothy's by Sunday, December 6th. We will hold a sorting party after the 9:30 am service on December 6th. A request for volunteer sorters

will be forthcoming in the bulletin. For more information, please contact Diana Wright at 703-298-0391.

Once the gifts have been delivered, our Angel Tree will become a collection point for hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and socks for adults and children at the Embury Rucker Shelter and Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter (LAWS). In this way, our Angel Tree continues to give to our local community during the holiday season and throughout the winter months." +

From the Piano Bench: Music Notes by Dr. Donna Whited

It's a great honor to serve as a church musician because of the opportunity to contribute to Christian formation through the power of music. We are transformed from "sinner to saint" as we take on the roles, during worship, that move us from our everyday life to behaviors and postures which honor God. We get the opportunity to "simmer" in spirituality. After a while, it becomes habit.

Saint Timothy's is a great community, I'm finding. The church is a spirit-led place that embraces service to the surrounding Northern Virginia community. You demonstrate on a weekly basis the hospitality of welcome as you invite the world through your doors. The strength of the church lies in its multi-generational congregation that is blessed with gifted choristers and instrumentalists who are central support for the worship life of the church.

Adult Choir - The core of the music ministry is the Adult Choir, a dedicated group (18+) that has steadily been building its skills over the years, that sings in support of the nine-thirty worship service. I think of them as "small, but mighty"; mightily talented, that is! The way they quickly put together a beautiful program for Choral Evensong in under a month was inspiring. Now is a perfect moment to join the choir as they begin to prepare music for Advent and Christmas. Rehearsal is on Thursday evenings from 7-9 pm.

Adult Hand bells - They are a friendly, welcoming group of ringers (8), some of whom are experienced and have been part of the choir for years, along with others who are simply learning to play bells for the first time. They play in worship about every four to six weeks and rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30. We still need more ringers to be able to showcase the church's beautiful three octave set of Malmark hand bells.

The Children's Choir - Meets on Monday from 5:00-5:45 PM and follows the curriculum for the Royal School of Church Music, a well-known British choral program. The children (grades 1-6) learn basics of choral singing and

music fundamentals, while singing a variety of spiritual songs. It's hard for a children's choir to compete with the numerous sports and after-school activities as well as traffic in Northern Virginia, but it is well worth the investment of time. It's not too late to join for the Advent/Christmas season; the choir will sing for Lessons and Carols (12/6) as well as for Christmas Eve.

Why join the choir program at Saint Timothy's?

FELLOWSHIP - For the many friendships that are made in a choir program. It's a place to feel connected and be a member of a small group that is part of the larger church family at Saint Timothy's.


FOUNDATION - It's a wonderful opportunity to establish a musical foundation for you and your children.

FORMATION - Strengthening your relationship to God. We take with us what we sing or ring on Sunday morning throughout the week.


As we give thanks for God's bounty, I encourage you to think about how you might serve God through music. 2015 will continue to be a time of transition for the church; please help make 2016 the year in which we begin to express the fullness of our potential to serve God and neighbor through worship and music. +

Gifts to Glorify the Lord
Presents a
Holiday Bazaar to Benefit the Pipe Organ Fund
**All proceeds to be used for choir seating*


Sunday, November 8th, 2015
8:30 am to 1 pm




Coffee Available



Raffles



Bake Sale




DIY Ice Cream Sundaes!!

Vendors Galore

- Handcrafted Jewelry & Scarves
- Mary Kay
- Christmas decorations
- Pampered Chef
- Toys & Books
- Tupperware
- Shawl Ministry creations
- Many more

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Fellowship (Henry) Hall, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon VA 20170



wine or oil—a natural product. Some of the gift would be burned or poured out in an act of worship in the temple, and the rest would be stored for distribution to the clergy and the poor.

This was true in the early church as well, when the bread and wine, the Eucharistic gift, was brought forward alongside other kinds of food. The practice of the priest washing his or her hands at the Eucharist was originally for scrubbing up after shifting livestock. The switch to monetary offerings only came gradually, and the practice of taking up a collection and then presenting it at the Altar only became main stream in the Episcopal Church about 150 years ago. Before that, church attendees generally left their gifts on the floor in the aisles, and expenses were paid mainly by annual pew rental fees.

The spiritual value of the offering is that it serves as a powerful bridge between the work we do in the world and the worship of God in the church. Every week, we send you out “to love and serve the Lord.” One of the most important ways you do that is by using your skills, your time and your effort in work that earns money. You bring part of that money back to God in gratitude for those skills and the strength and time He has given you. That money is then blessed and taken up into the holy work that is done in His Name. The physical offering is a symbol of your inner desire to give yourself back to God, so He might use you in His service. The offering, therefore, should be marked by joy, as it was for those who brought gifts for the rebuilding of the temple in I Chronicles. God has been good to us. We rejoice in His grace. We respond by giving back.

I saw an illustration in a book about

the Eucharist for children years ago that imagined what’s really happening here. It showed a rather typical congregation, with ushers bringing forth the plate. But everyone in the pews was shown with symbols of their work—a doctor with her stethoscope, a teacher with his pile of textbooks, accountants with their calculators, and so on. The offering was gathering together all these experiences and blessings. It was a real harvest of God’s good work through His people.

God then uses a little part of these gifts, namely the bread and wine we purchase and bring forth, as a means of allowing us to share the great offering His Son has made for us, when He poured out His life on the Cross. God’s gift to us is so much greater than what we offer to Him. But our offering is essential to His work of grace—He can’t bless us in this unique way unless we give Him something

The offering is appropriately worldly. It’s an important place where the eternal realm meets the insides of our wallets. To lose that connection is dangerous.

One of my favorite writers, Wendell Berry, remarked on this in a recent interview. “My concern about modern Christianity?” he said, “I don’t know when, why, or how it happened, but at some time the mainstream denominations put themselves in charge of the Sunday job of accrediting people for admission to Heaven, turning the workdays, the human economy, and the material creation over to the materialists. And so it became possible for people to commit their souls to God while participating in an economy dedicated to the swiftest possible extraction and consumption of everything it values in God’s world, with unlimited collateral damage to

all creatures, humans included, that it does not value.”

Berry is being a bit contrary here, as usual. But I think He makes an important point. The Eucharistic Offering is our way of making sure that “the workdays, the human economy, and the material creation” don’t get “turned over to the materialists.” The offering reinforces the duty we all have of serving God faithfully in the world so we can return to Him something worthy of His goodness. If our work really deals in “the swiftest possible extraction and consumption” of God’s gifts, then we really shouldn’t be offering a symbol of it in the Sunday collection. God expects more of those who would serve Him in the world, and the Eucharistic offering is a valuable reminder of that calling. And I suppose that reminder works best when it is as tangible as possible—maybe not our calculators and stethoscopes, but real money or a real check, physically presented in worship.

So where does that leave us with Jim’s thoughtful question about those electronic gifts. Maybe we could make a printout once a year of the totals, put it in a sealed envelope and bless it alongside the rest. Some electronic giving companies suggest a small card or token which can be placed in the plate by electronic givers. Maybe if you give this way, you could place your hand in the plate as it goes down the pew with a little prayer—a reminder of how your gift, too, is involved in this sacred act.

But perhaps one of you has an even better idea—why not talk with me or Rick, our treasurer about it. Good questions so often lead to new discoveries, and we might all still have more to learn about joyfully offering our gifts to the Lord. +



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

Submission deadline for the next issue: Friday, November 27, 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.

Update Your Registration!

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 diocesan matters).

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, 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

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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.
Santa Eucharistia