

The Word

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Newsletter • Herndon, VA

June 2016

From the Interim Rector: Fr. Mark Michael

“Preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, and exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching.” II Tim 4:2

I have been reading through Saint Paul’s Epistles to Timothy over the last week at Morning Prayer, and I’ve been struck by how often they discuss preaching. Together with the Epistle to Titus, scholars call them the “Pastoral Epistles.” They are essentially letters of advice from a senior church leader, St. Paul, to his beloved junior colleague.

Paul had prepared Timothy, over many years, for his ministry as a bishop. He had shared the good news about Jesus with him, and showed him how to teach and encourage different kinds of people. He had watched Paul deal with controversies and broker agreements. Paul had watched over Timothy, tested him to know his suitability, and he had sent him off with prayer, trusting steadfastly in the Holy Spirit.

But now that Timothy had been engaged in his ministry for a few years, some further instruction was necessary. And a great deal of that instruction focused on preaching. Some of Paul’s advice is about the content of the Christian message and how it relates to other dangerous ideas. Some of the advice is about adapting the message to different kinds of audiences, who bring different spiritual needs to the weekly gathering for worship. A fair amount of it is simply encouragement and exhortation, as Paul urges Timothy to remember just how important preaching really is, and to always be earnest in presenting his case, “in season and out of season.”

There’s no sign in the Epistle that Timothy was a particularly bad preacher, or that his message

was deficient. Saint Paul was just convinced that preaching was vitally important to making new Christians and building up growing ones. He believed that “faith comes by hearing (Rom 10:17),” and like the other apostles, believed himself to be called first as a preacher, to bear witness to the world that Jesus was truly risen from the dead.

Saint Timothy knew all this, but perhaps after a few years of preaching every week, he was growing a little stale, losing some of the fire he had carried to his work in the days after his ordination. “Stir up the gift of God that is in you,” Paul would urge him elsewhere (II Tim 1:16). Turn to God for the help you need to do this important thing afresh.

Because, sometimes preachers can get stale. We fall into habits in the way we interpret texts, use the same rhetorical structures, turn to the same places when searching for the right story or quote. Some preachers just use whole sermons over and over again.

In the last parish where I was rector, I stumbled on a sermon written by one of my legendary predecessors, a priest who had served, with great distinction, for over thirty years. It was typed on yellowed paper, and in the margin, the priest had jotted down the Sundays he had used it—three or four of them, over a span of 15 or 20 years. It was a good sermon, and on a general topic, and I expect it worked just fine. Decades later, people still remembered this priest as a thoughtful and commanding preacher.

It was a bit less so with Mr. Tendril, the vicar of Hetton, a character in “A Handful of Dust,” one of my favorite Evelyn Waugh novels. Mr. Tendril had served most of his ministry as a chaplain in India, before going to Hetton in semi-retirement. He recycled his old Indian sermons, which didn’t

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always fit the new context. One snowy Christmas, he announced to his English parishioners, "Instead of the placid ox and ass of Bethlehem, we have for companions the ravening lion and the exotic camel, the furtive jackal and the ponderous elephant."

Sometimes, preachers need a bit of refreshment and encouragement, some careful instruction like the kind Paul provided for Timothy. Especially a few years into their work, it can be helpful for preachers to stop and ask God to "stir up the gift" anew.

Over the next year, I will have the chance to do just this. I have been admitted to a program called "Deep Calls to Deep," which many of you will know about, because Rev. Leslie Chadwick left Saint Timothy's to coordinate it. It's part of an initiative funded by the Lily Foundation to improve preaching in several mainline Protestant denominations.

I will join a few dozen other local Episcopal priests for a week of study about preaching this month at Virginia Seminary, and then I will meet each month for a year with a group of peers for further instruction and guidance in preaching. I learned recently that my personal preaching coach will be Rev. David Schlafer, a gifted preacher many of you also know from his times supplying at St. Tim's.

The program is designed for priests like me, several years into ordained ministry. I've preached most every Sunday since 2007, when I first became a rector, and at least once a month for a few years before that. I've found my familiar voice in the pulpit, and though I think it works pretty well, I am anxious to learn more and to try some new things. My own seminary training didn't include much direct instruction about preaching, and I want to learn more about how the experts say it can be done best.

I hope you will pray that this time of study helps me to grow in my love of preaching as well as my skills in preparation and delivery. I'm hoping for⁴an even deeper trust in God's work through the spoken word, and for fresh insights from God that will be a blessing to all of you.

Next Dinner With The Wardens

Friday, June 24

We invite you to sign up for the fourth in our "Dinner with the Wardens" series which will be held Friday, June 24 at 6:00 pm. If you've got an opinion or a great idea about what St. Timothy's should be doing, questions that are easier to ask in an informal setting, or you're just interested in having a nice dinner with relaxed conversation, sign up to attend by email: gzetlan@gmail.com, by June 19. Dinners are held approximately once per month. We look forward to seeing you!

Vacation Bible School Registration



"Surf Shack"

Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love

**Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church
Vacation Bible School Registration is Open!**

Date: July 11-15

Time: 9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Register online at

www.cokesburyvbs.com/sainttims

Questions? Contact Christine Hoyle

christineh@saint-timothys.org 703/437-3790 x17

New Editor for The Word

Genevieve Zetlan, Jr. Warden, has stepped aside as editor of *The Word* and Holly Hartge is now the editor. Thank you Genevieve for the great work as we find ways to improve communication with our members.

Rector Search Committee News

The Rector Search Committee (RSC) continues to pursue our final objective of recommending a new Rector for St. Timothy's in a timely manner. In finding the ideal candidate there are several phases of the process to carefully and thoughtfully address. The RSC is working diligently to review and report on the multiple areas of parish life that profile St. Timothy's. Each member of the RSC has volunteered for a role or roles that best suit their talent in contributing to our most important goal of making sure the congregation is confident we are taking full account of their views, needs and interests in proposing a new Rector.

There are some key efforts underway to pursue one major product of Rector Search, the Parish Profile or Portfolio. In producing a Profile, some of the tasks include gathering feedback from the congregation through Focus Groups and Surveys, preparing a historical history of St. Timothy's, developing an explanation of church finances and stewardship, and explaining St. Timothy's role in the community and the diocese. Each area must be considered carefully and the tasks executed thoughtfully and expediently. The RSC is fortunate in having members whose talents lend themselves well and uniquely to the multiple roles needed for these tasks.

Throughout May you may have heard about the Focus Groups the RSC held. Focus Groups are one tool the RSC is using to reach out to the congregation to learn how people feel about St. Timothy's and what characteristics are most important in a new Rector. The initial Focus Groups have focused on established groups, such as Hand Bell Choir, or groups with common interests, such as Young Families and Shrine Mont Retreat participants.

Focus Groups are meant to invite feedback from a broad section of parishioners and include as many different types of interests and ministries as possible. Typically, the Focus Group is a small gathering to encourage informality and many opportunities for each person to voice recommendations. The RSC wants to get the perspective of as many individuals and representatives of ministries as we can. Your participation is welcome and if you want to recommend a ministry you're a member of or, you have a suggestion for a Focus Group gathering please contact the RSC with your thoughts. Focus Groups will continue over the next several months and will be scheduled when it's most convenient for the specific group to participate. The RSC particularly wants to include as many people as possible.

The RSC is also pursuing two other key components needed to prepare a Parish Profile, a congregation wide survey and an explanation of Stewardship and Finance. The Focus Groups will assist

⁵in developing the survey questions and will allow the RSC to target the most important areas to address when considering a candidate. Both the Focus Groups and the Survey are vital in understanding what is most important to the congregation when selecting a new Rector. The RSC intends to distribute a parish wide survey early this fall.

The Stewardship and Finance piece of the Parish Profile is particularly important because it will explain to any future candidate the financial picture of St. Timothy's. It will reflect our financial circumstances, our approach to Stewardship and our ability to compensate the clergy and staff. An upcoming S&F focus group will inform the RSC on how best to represent the Stewardship and Finance in the Profile.

In order to accomplish our duty as successfully and clearly as possible the RSC has defined guiding principles to apply to each task as we proceed. Our intention is that this guide will allow us to focus on what we most want to accomplish and to prepare an overall picture of our congregation that is consistent and complete. While undertaking the Rector Search is not simple or quick, our objective is to use our guiding principles to move ahead steadily and thoroughly. What can individuals do to help the RSC succeed? Share your ideas and suggestions with us, RSC@saint-timothys.org or speak to any of us individually. Pray for the RSC and the church. St. Timothy's is a unique church made up of people who worship here because of the fellowship and spiritual nurture it provides. *"Lord Jesus, thank you for keeping us united in your grace, hope and love as we minister to each other during our time of transition."*

Search Process Progress

Vestry chooses a search committee

Search Committee is commissioned

Committee selects Chair, Vestry approves

Self study with congregation input

Draft church profile

Profile approve by Vestry and Bishop

Candidate names received

Office of Transition Ministry vets candidates

Finalist candidate selected

Vestry votes on finalist

Call extended to finalist

Vestry negotiates letter of agreement

Candidate, Senior Warden and Bishop sign the letter of Agreement

Thank You for Supporting the Haiti Agape

Thank you to everyone who donated to the 2016 Haiti Agape. Through your generosity over \$10,000 was raised to fund the students at St. Mathieu's for the upcoming school year. The Haiti and Service Ministries appreciate your continued commitment to the twenty-five primary school students, one secondary and one university student that we can continue providing an education. Your donations change the lives of these people and give them opportunities that would not otherwise be possible. Thank you for caring and for living your faith by helping. Donations of any amount are welcome anytime, please make checks payable to St. Timothy's and note Haiti School Fund in the memo line. For more information contact Shon Beury, Haiti Ministry chair, shonbeury@aol.com.

Inside the Anglican Consultative Council

*A Presentation by Fr. Mark
on June 19*

Inside the Anglican Consultative Council is a presentation Fr. Mark will offer on Sunday, June 19 about his recent trip to this important meeting in Lusaka, Zambia. The Anglican Consultative Council gathers bishops, priests and lay delegates from around the world every three years to chart a common vision and develop programs for our life together as Anglicans. The April meeting, which Fr. Mark attended as a reporter for The Living Church, focused on discipleship and a Christian response to climate change and religious violence. Delegates also learned much about exciting work being done in local Zambian Anglican congregations. Come and learn more about how we work together across cultural barriers for Christ's mission. The class, which reprises an evening session held in May, will be offered in the Upper Room at 9:00 a.m.

Cornerstones' 2016 Back-to-School Drive

Each year, St. Timothy's Service Ministry organizes the collection of backpacks in support of Cornerstones' Back to School Drive. This year, our goal is to collect 50 backpacks. There are just over 50,000 students in Fairfax County who qualify for free and reduced lunch benefits. Their families can't provide the school supplies needed for each school year -- many have to make a choice between food and bills or school supplies. Cornerstones and their partner, Kids R First, are already preparing to help equip over 3,500 K-12 children in the Reston-Herndon area (Cornerstones' clients, as well as other local students in need) with brand-new backpacks for the next academic year.

Please drop off your new backpacks in Henry Hall between now and Sunday, August 14 (no wheels or corporate logos, please):

- High School Size 20" H × 14" W × 7" D (the age where our need is greatest)
- Junior High Size 18" H × 13" W × 6 D
- Elementary Age Size 16" H × 12" W × 5" D

Backpacks can be purchased online through Walmart or Amazon (free shipping to Cornerstones using Amazon Prime)! Keep in mind Virginia tax free school shopping Aug. 5th - 7th for your backpack purchases. In addition to backpacks, case managers are requesting donations of new underwear for elementary school age children again this year. We also welcome Payless gift card donations (\$25) so young clients can get a new pair of shoes.

Questions about our Back-to-School Drive? Contact Cornerstones at 571-323-9568 or volunteer@cornerstonesva.org or Amy Hein, Service Ministry Chair amymhein@gmail.com

Helen Guest's Retirement Party

It was a banner day for Helen Guest as over 300 people, including current and past students, celebrated her retirement from St. Timothy's Preschool on Sunday, May 15. "Miss Helen" was part of the preschool from its inception 40 years ago and for the last 37 years was the director.

The Rev. Ralph Bayfield spoke of the beginning of the preschool with the mission to educate every child no matter what his or her faith. He recalled that it was at his first Vestry Meeting (in 1975) that he informed the Vestry "We are going to start a preschool!" "Miss Helen" was teaching in the preschool and two years later was named Director. Rev. Bayfield and Miss Helen worked together to carry the vision forward. He proudly noted that "St. Timothy's Preschool serves a very diverse population."

The Rev. Brad Rundlett shared memories of building the addition around the preschool while it was in session. He spoke warmly of the relationship the school had – and has – with St. Timothy's Church. Not only does it share the building, but it shares the mission of the church to welcome all.

Vestry member Bob Kimmel presented Helen with a large plaque that will be attached to the playground fence. The plaque reads:

**Helen Guest Playground
Honoring 40 years
Of service to
St. Timothy's
Pre-school**

To conclude the formal part of the program current and former pre-school teachers sang their own rendition of Helen's favorite singer Barry Manilow's "Can't Smile Without You"

Beth Lumitzer was the mistress of ceremonies as well as the one who organized the wonderful buffet of international foods for all to enjoy.

As Miss Helen departs, Saint Tim's welcomes Monica Despina to her new role as Director of Saint Timothy's Preschool. Monica has served as a

teacher with the preschool for 16 years and prior to that her children attended the school. Monica brings a wealth of knowledge to the position, working under Helen's mentorship. We are excited about the future of Saint Timothy's Preschool.

This is a link to an article featuring Helen's retirement.

<http://www.herndonconnection.com/news/2016/may/26/herndon-thanks-40-years-miss-helen/>



Vestry Update

Brian Flusche has resigned from the Vestry due to personal reasons. Duane Hartge, Alternate, has stepped into Brian's role and will serve as Vestry Member and Liaison to the Finance Committee. We thank Brian for his 2 years of service on the Vestry and appreciate all that he has done for St. Timothy's.

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

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www.saint-timothys.org

The Word is published monthly and emailed to members and friends the first week of the month. It also appears on the website. 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, June 24**

2016 Vestry

Terms Expires January 2017

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Terms expires January 2018

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Bill Outerbridge
Sewardship
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Officers

Rick Wilson, Treasurer
703.435.1925
rwilson20@verizon.net

Rose Berberich, Registrar
703.471.4988
rberberich@cox.net

Office Hours

M-Th: 9 am-6 pm
Fri: 9 am – 1 pm
For Appointment, please
call 703.437.3790

Welcome, New Registered Members

Welcome to the following individuals who have been baptized, received or had their membership transferred to St. Timothy's:

**Jill (Kozora) Koenig
Andy Josue Alvarado
Yancy Arlene Alvarado
Estela Laine Portillo**

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 or 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).

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

Rector

The Rev. Mark Michael
703.437.3790
markm@saint-timothys.org

Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Mrs. Christine Hoyle
703.437.3790, x 17
christineeh@saint-timothys.org

Director, Parish Operations

Mr. Kevin Hamilton
703.437.3790
kevinh@saint-timothys.org

Service Times:

Sundays: 8:00 am Eucharist, Rite I
Sundays 10:00 am Rite II service with Holy Communion

Godly Play ages 3-2nd grade
SPARK+, 3-5th grade (ends June 12)
Christian Ed, 6-8th and 9-12th grades (ends June 12)
Nursery Care

Wednesday: 12:15 pm, Eucharist and Healing Service
Saturday: 7:30 pm Santa Eucharista