

# The Word

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

October 2016

## *From the Interim Rector: Fr. Mark Michael*

*“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” I Corinthians 12:27*

The then-director of music Filippa Duke gave me a clear warning before services on my first Sunday morning at Saint Timothy’s. “It will be the longest peace you’ve ever seen.” She was right, of course,

The five to seven (and sometimes ten?) minutes of warm greetings in the middle of the Sunday Eucharist certainly is a notable feature of your life here. It’s wonderful to see someone back after an extended illness being warmly welcomed, and children chatting with people older than their grandparents. When the peace is passed here, people embrace across lines of race, class, and political conviction that keep us apart so starkly in our wider society.

It’s still not my favorite thing about your common life (and I breathed a sigh of relief when told it wouldn’t be nearly as long at my next parish), but I’ve come to see that there’s something deeply important about it.

You live in a place where community doesn’t happen naturally. The two places where I have served as rector before were both small towns. Many people were related to each other and had similar life experiences. They all went to the same schools. They worked together, and crossed paths almost daily in the grocery store and the post office. Churches in places like these don’t have to worry so much about building relationships, because they happen as a matter of course.

But you live in one of the most diverse counties in our nation, where people’s crazy work and commuting schedules just don’t allow for the kind of natural socialization patterns of rural communities. Being in the relationship and community-building business is one of the greatest

gifts you have to share with the world at your doorstep. Your broad and low-slung worship space with its uniquely shaped Altar aims to reinforce this. I can see you working hard to do this in the way you pass the peace, but also in the Shrine Mont weekend, in the way you come together for workdays and fellowship activities, in the activity of the pastoral care team.

And authentic fellowship is something the world needs right now. I read David Brooks’ most recent column yesterday, a lament on the fraying of our nation’s social fabric. Thin digital socialization, an increasingly privatized aging process, a lack of connections between people of different ages, Brooks says, is leaving us with scores of people “radiating the residual sadness of the lonely heart.”

Your focus on meaningful relationships between people responds to that “residual sadness” with an invitation to be connected, to share in friendship and spiritual concern. I will value what you have taught me about this, and will take these lessons into my next call, serving in a context that faces some of these same challenges.

At the same time, churches that focus heavily on building fellowship—the *horizontal dimension*, we might call it, can sometimes lose track of their deeper, transcendent purposes. When I have tried to talk with some of you about your particular vocation as a congregation, the passage from I Corinthians 12 I began with has come up more than once. You are proud of being a body of many different kinds of members, where there is deep mutual concern.

But in that passage Saint Paul is also focusing on how the church unlike any other human community, because it is Christ’s body. By Christ, as one of the Morning Prayer collects says, “the whole body is governed and sanctified.” His Spirit

binds us together more than human friendships, and our true closest encounter with each other is not shaking hands at the peace, but kneeling before Him and receiving His Body and Blood, feeding together on our common source of life.

My most serious concern in the weeks after Father Brad left was how little talk I was hearing among you about religious matters. There was good deal of focus on church bureaucratic process, issues of justice in the community, relationships between parishioners that were working out well or poorly. But in those anxious days, I did not hear the name of Jesus spoken very often. There were no appeals to prayer. Frankly, it troubled me deeply.

Since then, responding to what I believed to be God's call, I have focused much of my work as your interim in trying to help you understand the transcendent elements of the life we share in Christ—the *vertical dimension*, so to speak. I have deliberately celebrated the liturgy in a way that draws attention to its solemn character. I have tried to preach with conviction about the truth and relevance of the Gospel as expressed in the Church's Creeds and imparted in her Sacraments. We have expanded our adult formation programs so that more of us can share in studying the Bible, and through daily prayer services and Busy Person's Retreats, we have emphasized that communion with God should empower all else we aim to do for Him.

I've not always managed to strike the proper balance in this, and I think my intentions have not always been understood as clearly as I hoped they would be. But I have also delighted in so many important conversations opened up in these classes, and in those of you who have joined me in the prayers and have sought guidance in matters of the soul. I do feel that you are in a healthier place as a congregation because you have come to a deeper awareness that God's grace strengthens you and God's will is your highest purpose.

I will hold you in my prayers as you continue your search for a new rector, and I will always remain thankful for what you have taught me. I hope you will continue to grow, in both the horizontal and vertical dimensions of church life, as a people who love God and each other deeply for many generations to come.

+ Fr. Mark

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*Welcome Our New Treasurer:  
Jean Shepherd*

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Jean Shepherd was received as a member of the Episcopal Church at St. Timothy's in October 1999. She and her husband, Milan, were married at St. Timothy's in June 2000. She has been singing in the Adult Choir since 1997. Previously, Jean served on the Service Ministry, Episcopal Church Women, and as a Stephen Minister. She served as St. Timothy's Treasurer from 2001-2004.

Jean is retired from a 36 year career as a senior manager in the federal government, leading financial operations in the Intelligence Community. She currently works part time teaching leadership courses, coaching managers on leadership, and as a Senior Manager for a government contractor.

Jean holds a BS in Business Administration from George Mason University and a Certificate in Leadership Coaching from Georgetown University. She is a Certified Public Accountant in the Commonwealth of Virginia, a Certified Government Financial Manager, and an Associate Certified Coach.

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## Rector Search Committee Update

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The Rector Search Committee (RSC) is excited to hear individual feedback from the congregation about what they desire in a new rector. In late September, we kicked off a two-week survey period giving parishioners an opportunity to provide specific feedback in what they hope our new rector will do and, how each person thinks about how St. Timothy's operates. The survey can be completed online until October 3 using this link

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sainttimothys>

It can also be submitted on paper. Call or stop by the Parish Office to get a paper copy. Anyone who is 16 years or older and considers St. Timothy's their church home may participate in the survey. Responses are anonymous.

In September, the RSC wrapped up two information-gathering programs that had been held through the summer. The final Focus Groups, which offered group discussion of topics the RSC is particularly interested in, ended on September 25. Two of the Focus Groups were held with members of the Latino Congregation to give the RSC an opportunity to hear from broad representation of our congregation.

The recently introduced Question of the Week (QW) also finished at the end of September. These weekly questions requested feedback from the congregation about their impression or experience of particular subjects the RSC will share with the diocese. The QW's are based on questions asked by the diocese to allow for preparation of a portfolio used to publicize St. Timothy's to potential rector candidates. In addition to evaluating the survey results, the RSC will be focusing on preparing the Office of Transition Ministry Portfolio over the next several weeks.

Your contributions and participation in the survey, focus groups and QW's have been a tremendous benefit to the RSC in doing our work.

Thank you for sacrificing your time to contribute to this effort and for helping us do the best job possible for our St. Timothy's family. Your questions, insights and recommendations are always most welcome. Please share your thoughts with any RSC member or contact us at [rsc@saint-timothys.org](mailto:rsc@saint-timothys.org).

-Shon Beury

*Heavenly Father, thank you for your infinite blessings and for making us instruments of your holy work . . . as we prepare to welcome our new Rector to St. Timothy's.*

### Search Process Progress

Vestry chooses a search committee

Search Committee is commissioned

Committee selects Chair, Vestry approves

Self study with congregation input

Draft church Portfolio

Portfolio approved 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

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## *New From Region 5 from Diane Miller, Region 5 President*

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### *A Call to Service in the Region V Region Life Committee*

St. Timothy's is one of the nine parishes in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia Region V (loosely defined as Northern Fairfax County). To help us discern our shared mission and ministry as a region, we formed the Region Life Committee last year. In 2015, we hosted the Teen Sex Trafficking Awareness Workshop to engage local law enforcement, runaway shelters, not-for-profit organizations and other parishes to increase awareness and develop an action plan to address this tragedy in our area. Workbooks were provided to all Region V parishes to guide their further action in this important ministry. This year, the Committee is addressing race and reconciliation, with engagement from the Diocese of Virginia Committee on Race and Reconciliation, Region V parishes, and other churches in our geographic area.

The Committee tackles topics compelling to the parishes in our Region. Participation in the Committee is open to all parishioners in Region V - no need to be a delegate. Please consider participating in the Region Life Committee, whether in general Committee discussion of topics to address, or to work more closely on the activities of a specific topic that compels you. If interested, please contact Region V vice president, Joni Langevoort, at [jlangevoort@gmail.com](mailto:jlangevoort@gmail.com)

### *Region V Executive Board Openings*

Officers of the Executive Board of Region V serve a one-year term, with the opportunity to serve up to three consecutive terms. We have a number of positions open for 2017 due to the incumbent reaching their maximum term. Please consider serving our Region in one of these roles:

- Vice President – perform the duties of the President in the latter's absence or disability and shall perform such other duties as the President may direct. Candidates must "have a history of service as a Lay Delegate to Region V Council"; they're not required to be currently serving as a Delegate.
- Treasurer – general charge of the financial affairs of Region V with authority to collect and disburse funds as approved by the Region V Council, keep all funds in banks in the name of Region V, keep records of all financial transactions, and make a financial report at each Region V Council. Candidates may be any adult congregant in good standing in Region V; they need not ever have served as a Lay Delegate.
- Youth Delegate Alternate – Region V has a Youth Delegate, Linda Lyons of Holy Comforter, serving at the 2017 Diocesan Convention. Since she is senior, we are seeking an Alternate who can begin service and transition to become Youth Delegate for 2018.

The Nominating Committee will be formed by October 10<sup>th</sup>; the election will be held at the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of Region V Council. New officers begin service immediately after the 2017 Diocesan Convention.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Diane Miller, Region V President, at [dianegmiller@verizon.net](mailto:dianegmiller@verizon.net) or 703.860.2432. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!





### Traces of the Trade

Please join Region V on October 22 at 2:00PM at St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 1700 Wainwright Drive, Reston, VA 20190 for a screening of the Emmy-nominated documentary **Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North** (PBS:2008). Filmmaker Katrina Browne will be present to lead discussion with us and to screen this film in which she discovers that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and nine cousins retrace the Triangle Trade from Rhode Island, to Ghana, to Cuba, uncovering this hidden history and gaining powerful new perspectives on the black/white divide. At this time of vexing national conflict over issues of race, please join us for this important look at New England's complicity in slavery and how one white family struggled with issues of legacy and privilege.

### Repairing the Breach

Come join us for a follow-up ongoing deeper and next steps at St. Anne's on October 26 at 7:00PM. Ms. Browne will return to view "Repairing the Breach: The Episcopal Church and Slavery Atonement", Ms. Browne's short film featuring various Church leaders and sharing the process that the Episcopal Church went through in 2006-2008 to apologize for the Church's role in slavery and to embark on dialogue and repair efforts. Ellyn Crawford, co-Chair of The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia Committee on Race and Reconciliation will be joining us for a discussion on how we individually or collectively might feel led by the Holy Spirit to further engage in issues of race and reconciliation in our community in the present.

We hope you will plan to join us for this important series. If so, please submit your RSVP to <http://tinyurl.com/regionV-traces> so that we may plan accordingly.

### Stuff-a-Truck Food Drive in October

The annual food drive to benefit LINK will be on Sunday, October 2 in the rear parking lot. Donations of non-perishable food such as pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, canned tuna, peanut butter, jelly, black, kidney and navy beans, rice, canned fruit, and chili are encouraged. Please bring a bag or box of donations to the designated location where volunteers will assist with transporting the donations. Help us surpass the 2015 accomplishment by donating 1200 lbs. of food for families in the Herndon, Sterling and Ashburn communities.

Want to volunteer or learn more about LINK? Visit the website at [www.linkagainsthunger.org](http://www.linkagainsthunger.org). Or, talk to any member of the Service Ministry. *Thank you for putting your faith to work to serve our community.*

### *Community Pot Luck - October 9*

*Your Stewardship Committee invites you, the Saint Timothy's Church family, to our Community Potluck Supper on October 9 at 6:00 p.m. Please sign up at the table outside the Church Offices. We look forward to sharing in this community meal with all of our fellow Saint Timothy's church family members.*

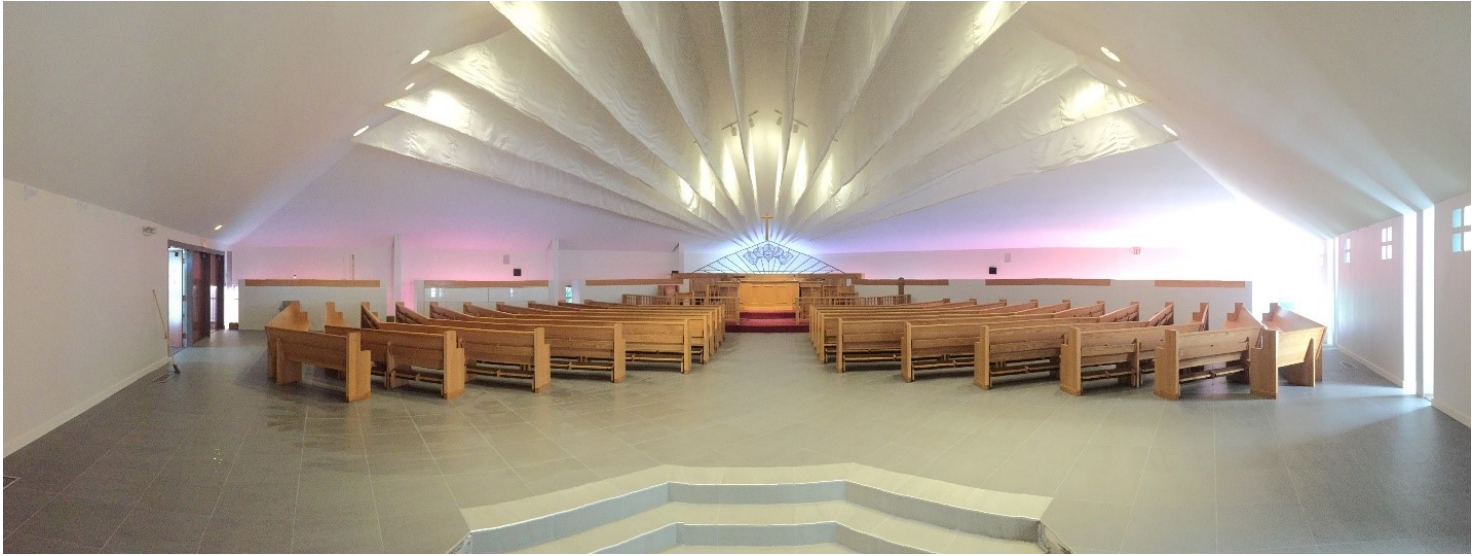
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## *Gifts to Glorify the Lord*

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On Welcome Home Sunday 9/11, our congregation was welcomed back into worship services in the main Sanctuary. Many improvements have been made to enhance the space acoustically and visually. Thank you to everyone for pardoning the dust and for tolerating the limited spaces as this construction work was performed. *Also thank you to all the volunteers who helped us set up the Sanctuary on 9/10 – BRAVO!*

*-Marty Brady*



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## *Announcements*

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### **Red Cross Blood Drive – Monday, October 10**

Give the Gift of Life! On Monday, October 10 (Columbus Day) from 1-6 p.m. in Henry Hall the Henry Family will be hosting their second blood drive. To sign up for a donation slot or if you have any questions, please e-mail Marybeth Henry at [henrymb20170@yahoo.com](mailto:henrymb20170@yahoo.com).

### **Ministry & Calendar Summit**

#### **– Sunday October 16**

After the 10:00 service on October 16 from 11:30-1:00 the Calendar Summit will be held in Henry Hall. In addition to Vestry attendance, *every ministry is requested to nominate and send at least one representative* as we discuss plans for the remainder of 2016. Please email the name of the representative that will attend to Jean Bennett ([bennettj@sec.gov](mailto:bennettj@sec.gov))

### **Do You Have an Hour a Week for Wednesday Morning Bible Study?**

On Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> the Wednesday Morning Bible Study will reconvene in St. Timothy's kitchen from 10 to 11:00 a.m. Bring your Bible (we read from various versions for comparison) if you would like to join this coed multi-generation group. All are welcome! Interested? Contact: Nikki O'Malley [nikki.omalley@gmail.com](mailto:nikki.omalley@gmail.com)

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## *Christian Education Calendar*

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*Christian Education calendar explained by  
Christine Hoyle, Director of Children and Youth  
Ministries*

If you are a parent of a child and/or youth, you may notice that there is a lot going on during the course of a month with our programs. I would like to give some helpful background on our new schedule and to give you some behind-the-scenes info on how we arrived at our current schedule based on feedback from parents, teachers, and the young people themselves!

When first coming to Saint Tim's, I observed all of the classes to see what worked and what we could improve on. I realized we had amazingly dedicated teachers. In listening to their needs, concerns, and suggestions, it became clear that some of the curriculum and schedules were not working as effectively as desired. In the summer of 2014, I put together a committee of parents and teachers to go over each class. The committee's work included calling families to see how we could improve our Christian education program. Since that process, we have made changes to both our curriculum and scheduling in hopes of giving our children and youth the best experience we can provide while making the greatest impact in their Spiritual Formation.

One concern we heard when talking to parents and students was they felt a little conflicted that they had to choose between Christian education and going to service every week. We thought this was a very important issue to address and came to the conclusion that one Sunday of every month the youth would attend service, either sitting as a group or sitting with their family, instead of having Christian education classes. As time went on we heard from parents of younger kids saying they had the same feelings as the parents of older youth concerning having to choose between service and class. Based on the input received, we changed the schedule so that children in grades 3-12 would attend service and we set aside the third Sunday of the month for this purpose. We decided to call this our "family service." This is a wonderful way for the children and youth to continue their Christian education by attending service.

Since starting the Family Service, we have enhanced the experience by adding a youth lector during that service when possible. By witnessing youth lectors, acolytes, crucifers, and torchbearers participating in the service, Children and Youth are affirmed that they are not the church of the future but are the young church of today! They can receive the message clearly that they do not have to wait until they grow up to be a part of the church. They have much to offer our church family now!

During family service Father Mark has child/youth friendly sermons. We are also encouraging the youth and children to be ushers and greeters. Creating these opportunities to serve not only affirms them as a part of the church, it provides a sense of comfort as they get older and start attending church services regularly. If your child would like to participate in service, please email me at [christineh@saint-timothys.org](mailto:christineh@saint-timothys.org) or Genevieve Zetlan at [gzetlan@gmail.com](mailto:gzetlan@gmail.com).

The parents of our youngest church members (birth – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) let us know that the majority prefer their children in the nursery (birth to age 3) or in Godly Play (ages 3, and potty trained – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) during service, so we did not alter this schedule. With that said, please know that children of every age are always welcome during service and do not have to go to the nursery or Christian Education class(es) if parents prefer they stay with them.

As we all know, we live in a very busy area and we are being pulled in many directions with activities for our youth. When I first started at Saint Timothy's, the youth group would meet after school on Wednesdays. This worked well for a short time but the youth got busier with school work so we had to reconsider the day and time. We then tried to have a youth group meeting after the last service once a month. We quickly realized that that was difficult for parents and youth as well because many of the youth had activities on Sunday afternoon(s).

We came to the conclusion that we should have our youth group meeting during Christian education hours and chose the last Sunday of every month. The youth were at church on Sunday morning already and they wanted to continue the youth group meetings, so we thought



this would be a good use of time. We went from having 2 to 3 youth attending the youth group meeting to having an average of 11 youth. This is how the fourth week of Christian education became the youth group meeting day for youth in grades 6 through 12.

So, now our Christian Education calendar is as follows:

Week 1 (of the month): Christian Education class

Week 2 (of the month): Christian Education class

Week 3 (of the month): Family Service

Week 4 (of the month): Youth Group meeting

For children in grades 3 – 5 (the Spark + class) their calendar is as follows:

Week 1 (of the month): Spark + class

Week 2 (of the month): Spark + class

Week 3 (of the month): Family Service

Week 4 (of the month): Spark + class

(Godly Play meets every Sunday.)

The schedule varies occasionally for special services or holidays. Notices of any changes are in the bulletins and I also send out email reminders to parents and students. If you are not on my email distribution list and would like notifications, please send me a message at [christineh@saint-timothys.org](mailto:christineh@saint-timothys.org) and I will be sure to add you to the list. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me!

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## ***BEES, CRABS AND OYSTERS***

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When we contemplate God's creation, most of us focus mainly on its wonderful bounty and glorious natural marvels, but too often we don't consider what keeps them wonderful and glorious. Was that sometimes the case even in biblical times?

In the Holy Bible, for instance, there are more than 60 mentions of honey, all of them quite positive, but there are only a meager four references to the bees that made it into the Good Book, and most of them are scary. The Bible makes no mention of how these busy insects gather the pollen and nectar to make their honey, in the process fertilizing the plants and trees that produce the fruits, vegetables and beautiful flowers we so enjoy. Nor does a search of the Bible find any hint of crabs and oysters, both of which today rank

among the mainstays of Virginia's Northern Neck's marine economy.

Yet bees, crabs and oysters – although they're part of the creation God instructed humankind of care for – are being seriously threatened by pollution, disease and neglect. There are 25,000 different species of bees around the world – about 4,000 of them in the United States. In recent years, their colonies have been collapsing in our country as well as in Europe and the Far East, disappearing from their hives without leaving a trace or any definable explanation.

Scientists are trying to determine if the bee crisis is caused by pollution, or new exotic fertilizers, or genetically altered food crops, or mites, or diseases – or what? So far, no one really knows, but some researchers are making what appear to be some good guesses.

The situation is different for crabs and oysters. Water pollution from fertilized croplands, lawns and golf course, as well as rain runoff, has poured huge amounts of nitrogen into their habitats, causing algae and other undesirable marine growths to drive out the oxygen these creatures need to propagate and live. Crabs and oysters are among critters serving as good indicators of the environmental health of our lakes, streams and estuaries – just as the absence of certain small marine invertebrates shows the presence of water pollution.

The difficulties threatening bees, crabs and oysters are resulting in the higher and higher prices we must pay for the food we put on our tables – and those costs will continue to rise, perhaps exorbitantly, unless effective counteractions are taken. As David Mendes, a commercial beekeeper in Fort Myers, Fla., says in "Vanishing of the Bees," a television documentary, "When the bees are dying, something's wrong, and that's going to affect all of us." His words might be echoed by a Chesapeake Bay waterman.

Indeed, what does the plight of the bees, crabs and oysters tell us about how well we're doing – or not – in caring for God's creation as God directed humankind to do? *(Thanks to the Creation Care Alliance, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Kilmarnock, Virginia for this thoughtful article) Want to discuss more? Contact St. Timothy's Steward of Creation, Craig Dubishar at [wcdubi@gmail.com](mailto:wcdubi@gmail.com))*



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## *Stewardship 2017*

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“Walk in love as Christ loved us” – we’ve chosen this as our 2016 stewardship theme. This clarion call from St. Paul reminds us that love is the central theme of Christianity. While we hope that your support for St. Timothy’s comes from a profound sense of gratitude and joy, we hope above all it comes from *love* for your relationship with God and the members of our church.

Over the next month during Sunday worship we will be sharing stories of how members of St. Timothy’s have “walked in love” and how St. Timothy’s ministries have helped both our own parishioners and others in the community. Our church building facilitates more than 20 ministries that empower, uplift, and befriend – often reaching people who felt they were forgotten. These ministries restore hope – offering an ear to listen, a hand to hold, and the patient gift of silence and simply breathing together. These ministries are playful, creative, and engaging – launching people on paths they never knew were possible. These ministries serve, feed, worship, share, and teach. These ministries are the way we walk in love together.

St. Timothy’s has ministered faithfully for 148 years because generations and generations of members have walked in love by supporting its mission with generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Now it’s up to us. We are currently in a search process for a new rector, and it is important to show potential candidates that we are a committed parish with the funds to support the missions and ministries of St. Timothy’s.

We invite you to pause and take time to reflect on the gifts God has given you and your family. Please prayerfully discern how you are currently walking in love with God, and how you might walk even closer. Some members give proportionally, committing a certain percentage of their income, while others give as they are able. We each have different capacities for giving, and every gift and pledge is gratefully received.

Between now and Celebration Sunday on November 6<sup>th</sup>, prayerfully consider how God is calling you to support our missions and ministries and return your completed 2017 Pledge Card. Your commitment to our stewardship campaign provides the essential gifts that fund St. Timothy’s. Thank you for walking in love with us!

*Jane Burkett and John Nixon, Stewardship Chairs*

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## *Welcome Home Sunday Thank You*

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Thank you to everyone who made the Welcome Home Picnic such a pleasurable day last Sunday. To thank everyone individually would take a great deal of space, but special thanks are due to Kent Miller who gallantly braved smoke and heat to cook hamburgers and hot dogs, the men of the M.O.S.T brigade who hauled tables and chairs out of the building and arranged them so well to take advantage of shade and space, to all those who came early to set food on the table and, of course, to all those generous people who donated delicious dishes and drinks for us to share.

Thanks too, to the Zoo-to-You staff, Sarah and Sam, who gave children so much information and pleasure in being able to handle delightful rabbits. etc. and ride a very gentle pony. I am told that I may not get Christmas cards because of the number of children asking if they could have a rabbit!

OH - MOM, PLEASE!!

I know you will all join me in thanking God for the joy of our fellowship together in beautiful weather and continue to serve Him as a committed church family in any way that we can. Thank you all!

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## *Red Cadillacs and Goodbyes*

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When Fr. Mark first came to St. Timothy's, I met him at his new home to give him a set of keys to the church. The movers were carrying in furniture and Fr. Mark was on the phone with Rev. Allison, coordinating the placement of various pieces of furniture. It was the classic moving day scene with boxes everywhere and movers milling about; it just made sense.

When the movers brought items to the office here at the church, there were many boxes of books. As a matter of fact, I was worried we didn't have enough shelf space for them to fit! After getting to know Fr. Mark it became obvious that he was a voracious reader with an amazing gift to retain a lot of information. I can barely remember my own name by the end of the day, he was able to remember most names after the first encounter. In hindsight, the many boxes of books just made sense.

The only thing that didn't make sense was when I got to work on Fr. Mark's first day. Fr. Mark and I were the only ones at the church at the time. The only car other than mine was a large RED Cadillac Sedan. I thought to myself, "I wonder whose car this is?" Turns out, it was Fr. Mark's car. There is nothing about Fr. Mark that screams Red Cadillac sedan. It just didn't make sense... until it did. As Fr. Mark has shared, the reason he drove that Red Cadillac was because it was his Grandmother's car, and it was given to him when she passed. As he told the St. Tim's family, it still smelled like her perfume when he got inside. Over the last year I have gotten to know Fr. Mark and that car made perfect sense. It was about family, memories, a reminder of home, and on the inside it contained the fragrance of love.

If you are like me, you are "allergic" to goodbyes. No, you may not break out in hives or have a sneezing fit, but your eyes will water, you may experience a few sniffles, and you will have to clear your throat when you try to speak as your voice struggles to find its way. Yes, we will just go ahead and blame all of that on "allergies."

I know it will be tough for many to say goodbye to Fr. Mark on October 23, his last Sunday at Interim Rector here at St. Tim's. During his time here, he has established some wonderful Christian Education and growth opportunities, encouraging St. Timothy's members to drink deep from the

refreshing well found in Christ Jesus, our Lord. His dedication to his faith has been inspiring to so many, from preaching messages that encourage the heart while engaging the brain to offering morning prayer and evening prayer because that was just a part of his own rich prayer life. He leaves a legacy as a teacher and man of abiding faith.

I know you will miss him, and that's ok.

A few months ago Fr. Mark was forced to say his own goodbye to that Red Cadillac. The years of New York winters and road salt had worn away at the undercarriage. I am sure it was hard for him, but no amount of road salt can corrode the beautiful memories left behind by his grandmother. Her life is forever imprinted on his own. The same is true of Fr. Mark's time here. His time among us is coming to an end as he moves on to become the Rector of St. Francis', but allow his faith and commitment to the pursuit of knowing God deeply serve as a "Red Cadillac" for you. Open up the pages of your Bible, crack open that red prayer book sitting on your nightstand. Smell the fragrance of love within, the perfume of the mystery of God. Allow Fr. Mark's example of dedication to his faith be his legacy for you.

I am thankful that I have had the opportunity to get to know Fr. Mark and will miss him as well. I will miss walking by his office to talk to him and see him praying. It has encouraged my own commitment to my faith. While the way we live out our faith is vastly different, I am so thankful for his example of dedication and wish him many years of joy as he serves at his new church.

I am also thankful that the St. Timothy's family is a resilient one. There are some wonderful days ahead and I am so excited for this church family as your rector search continues in full swing. I pray for you all daily and I know that your time with Fr. Mark has been a blessed one. While I do not worship with you on Sundays, I consider myself an honorary member of the family because you have made me feel welcome. It is an honor to serve you here as your Director of Operations and I know that you will look back at this time and say "we couldn't understand what was happening at the time, but now we see how God worked in and through it all and... it just makes sense."

*-Kevin Hamilton, Director of Parish Operations*

# Vestry Update

August Giving: **\$34,750.13**

Revised 2016 Budgeted Giving: \$54,250

July Expenses: \$38,277.79

During the September Vestry meeting on the 26th, the Vestry voted to approve Compensation and Benefits information for the Diocesan Office of Transition Ministry Parish Portfolio. The Compensation and Benefits information for the new Rector has been forwarded to the RSC for input into the Diocesan database.

The Treasurer, Jean Shepherd, presented information on a budget shortfall in the area of Music, which we will likely make up for in other areas. She also noted her plan to upload a draft budget to the Vestry by the 15th of the month prior to the meetings for Vestry review and comment.

The Vestry discussed a proposal from Roger Long to remove one pew at the back of the Sanctuary to make room for the handbell tables. The Vestry determined not to make permanent, irreversible changes to the Sanctuary at this time, but Susy Nixon, Worship and Music Liaison, will look into the cost and repercussions of temporarily removing a pew in order to give the proposal a trial period.

Seminarian Taylor Divine spoke to the Vestry about her plan to continue working with Fr. Mark at his new parish to finish out her field studies and mentoring experience. Her last Sunday with St. Timothy's will also be October 23.

The presentation on the painting of the pipes and organ facade was deferred until the October meeting. The October Vestry meeting is scheduled to take place at 7:30 pm on October 24 in B1. Vestry meetings are open and any member of the congregation is welcome to attend. Our Registrar will post complete DRAFT Vestry Minutes [online here](#).

**St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**  
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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:  
Monday, October 24**

**2016 Vestry**

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*Welcome, New Registered Members*

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](http://www.saint-timothys.org) or send the information to [office@saint-timothys.org](mailto: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](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)

**Rector**

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**Director of Children and Youth Ministries**

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**Director, Parish Operations**

Mr. Kevin Hamilton  
703.437.3790  
[kevinh@saint-timothys.org](mailto:kevinh@saint-timothys.org)

**Service Times:**

**Sundays:** 8:00 am Eucharist, Rite 1  
**Sundays** 10:00 am Rite II service with Holy Communion  
 Godly Play ages 3-2<sup>nd</sup> grade  
 SPARK+, 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade begins Sept. 11, 2016  
 Christian Ed begins Sept. 11, 2016  
 Nursery Care  
**Wednesday:** 12:15 pm, Eucharist and Healing Service  
**Saturday:** 7:30 pm Santa Eucharista