

The Word

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

January 2017

From the Bridge Interim Rector Anne Turner

Dear friends in Christ—

In the life of the Church, January has a split personality.

Liturgically, we move into the season of Epiphany, in which we celebrate the arrival of the magi at the manger and the revelation of Jesus to all nations. Epiphany means “showing forth,” and the prayers and hymnody of this season teach us about showing forth the Light everywhere, to everyone. It is a time of bold mission.

Administratively, we move into the season of Meetings. We begin with our parish’s annual meeting on January 8, following the 10 a.m. service that day. We’ll elect new vestry members, who will dig into the work of the parish at their retreat later in the month. At the Diocesan level, clergy and lay delegates will gather for Virginia’s annual convention. In all of these settings, we will talk about budgets, bylaws, resolutions, and the like. It is a time of necessary maintenance.

This dichotomous theological message—talking about global mission, yet turning inward to balance a spreadsheet—sometimes frustrates me. Honestly, I am inspired by the shining light of revelation. The shining light of bylaw revision? Not so much.

And yet, the two tasks are related, the tasks of mission and maintenance. Congregational development specialists will talk about the spectrum between the two poles, noting that different parishes fall at different places on that spectrum. A congregation that looks extensively inward tends to be maintenance-minded, getting wrapped up in its own concerns, thinking excessively about the survival of the institution for its own sake. But a congregation that looks only outward faces pitfalls,



too. Without the hard work of institutional maintenance, the vision of mission has no scaffold, no framework to support it. Hopeful aspirations collapse without a healthy institution to support them.

I hope that at Saint Timothy’s we can honor both ends of the spectrum. This parish is at a moment in its history where institutional maintenance is critical. We need to continue the hard work of search and preparing for a permanent rector. We need to attend to our financial health and to the care and security of our building. None of this is especially glamorous. But it allows us to prepare for the mission in the world- a mission at which this church excels. It’s been remarked that the church is one of the few institutions that does not exist for its own sake. We make ourselves healthy and strong so that we are in a position to offer love to a hurting world.

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I encourage you to have some double vision this month. Think of it as theological bifocals. Keep your eyes on the prize—that light that God wants to reveal to this world. But be ready to look close at hand to see the immediate work that needs to be done at arms length. They are connected, the great and the small. And God hallows all of it.

In Christ,
Anne

And Special Thanks To...

There is much preparation in Advent to Celebrate the Birth of Christ. Special thanks are extended to:

- John Nixon, for providing dinner between the two later services on Christmas Eve
- Jeanne Marie Raymond, who directed the pageant
- Craig Dubishar, who spearheaded the luminaries and took the pictures you see in The Word
- Members of the Altar Guild, and
- All the others (too many to mention by name!) who worked so very hard to make the liturgies happen.



In December, the RSC presented to the vestry the Office of Transition Ministry (OTM) Portfolio. The vestry and Rev. Thorpe, of the OTM, recommended some revisions and the RSC delivered a revised version to the vestry for approval. Once approved, the document will be forwarded to the diocese. The OTM will use the Portfolio to create an online profile of St. Timothy's for potential candidates to review. The next step in the rector search process is to receive candidate profiles from the OTM. In January, with direction from the diocese, the search committee will prepare for candidate interviews once names are received. Additional information and updates will be published in the weekly eNews, bulletins, and future Word articles.

Your questions and comments are welcome anytime, rsc@saint-timothys.org.

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

-Shon Beury

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

John Druitt was a member of the Mission Team that visited Haiti in November. He submitted this interesting and informative report on the trip:

Haiti is a land of contrasts, not compromises. Arriving in Port au Prince on Thursday, this contrast is manifest the moment we leave the air conditioning of the airplane and walk into the 90 degree heat and humidity. There is no transition zone, just cold, then hot. Even the air smells different; sea salt, earth, and spicy food against a backdrop of burning charcoal. Our mission team this year includes Craig Dubishar (Team Lead), Chris Brock, Genevieve Zetlan, Bob Henry, and John Druitt. The heat is inescapable, even in the Nissan SUV that we all squeeze into for the three hour drive to Cange. Cange is the town closest to Chapoteau where our St. Mathieu's school nestles on the side of a mountain. There is no transition in leaving Port au Prince. One moment we are stuck in city traffic where drivers invent new lanes and squeeze trucks and busses through gaps using prayers to create sufficient space. Then abruptly, the Easter egg colored concrete housing gives way to a few drab shanties and we are on an open road headed up into the mountainous central plateau.

A sharp contrast awaits us on Friday. In Cange, the school of Bon Sauveur is filled with school children singing before the start of class. However, after trekking across the lake and up the steep goat paths to St. Mathieu's, we find our school startlingly empty. The school is closed. The teachers have not been paid for much of the previous year and are finding it hard to support their own families. Thankfully, the 25 children that we sponsor do show up, along with the teachers and School Director Renaud. The children are dressed in impeccable blue and white checkered shirts and formal skirts or pants, their pressed neatness a striking contrast with the surrounding dust.

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These uniforms are a result of St. Timothy's direct support. And thanks to the soccer balls the team has brought, the courtyard is briefly filled with the shouts of children playing as we drop off 60 bottles of multivitamins. We get a chance to talk with the children in the church that is attached to the school. The foundations have eroded even further. The concrete steps to the church start almost two feet above where the hard dirt has washed away. A set of rocks act as an ersatz first step, highlighting where nature starts and man's efforts stop. Inside the church, Craig takes pictures of each child, coaxing shy smiles from some and outright laughter from others. We meet some new students and say goodbye to others who have graduated 6th grade. Craig hands out pictures of everyone from last year to the delight of children and teachers alike. Craig's daughter Natalie has prepared letters from Virginia schoolchildren to hand to each of our Haitian students. Each letter includes a picture of the Virginia student author. Our Haitian students are excited to see who these other children are, happily comparing pictures and laughing. Genevieve tells a Godly Play story about the Good Shepherd using felt for grass and wooden figures for sheep and shepherds. In spite of the language barriers, the children follow Genevieve's story avidly and point to the wooden sheep.

Our team meets with the teachers outside the church after the children leave. We sit under the shade of an enormous ancient Baobab tree, as the direct sun is too intense even for people acclimated to the heat. Pere Kesner, the new Priest in Charge, facilitates the meeting. We show the teachers the check we have brought as a tangible demonstration of St. Timothy's ongoing support. Our contribution leads directly to reopening the school. In sharp contrast to today's empty and silent classrooms, classes will start again on Monday. Another Episcopalian group also commits to helping Chapoteau's teachers where possible, and the meeting ends. The teachers are smiling, a big change from the long faces at the beginning of the discussion.

As we thread our way back down the steep, trail, some of our group stop to visit Hermane Pognon's garden. Hermane is an Agronomist committed to growing food and sponsoring other projects to support the families and children of Chapoteau. Seeing his garden is like stepping into another world, as he has actual grass growing and a

number of healthy plants in his nurseries, including a set of avocado trees the team helped plant last year. Hermane plans to expand his operations by 27 acres to further support Chapoteau food and economics. The rest of the mountain is threadbare and thirsty, uncompromising in its lack of water and greenery. As we wait for the boat to take us back across the lake, one of our friends hands us each a coconut with a small hole cut at the top. There is an amazing amount of milk in each of these shells, and the cool liquid counteracts the heat coming down from the sun and up from the earth.

That evening we talk with Wilpha, our sponsored college student, about how to finance the final portion of his education. Without the degree, there is no half credit or interim job. After pictures of him together with the team, his gratitude is evident in his voice as he thanks us individually and asks for "blessing from God on all of St. Timothy's". Later he provides us with cards for the team and for Father Brad that are eloquent in their sincere thanks.

On Saturday we set off from Cange to Cap Haitien where Pere Wisnel is now stationed. Many of St. Timothy's congregation may remember Wisnel as our 2010 Seminarian. A few miles past Cange the road is not paved, once again a sudden transition. Asphalt just disappears giving way to gravel and dirt. There are no bridges on this road. After fording three streams, we come to a river swollen with the recent rain and therefore uncrossable. There is no compromise or middle path. Our driver Johnnie backtracks to find the other road over these mountains and down to the coast. The path turns out to be a goat track. We pass Haitians leading donkeys who seem to be surprised just to see a car. On the mountainsides, the hard packed dirt has eroded so deeply that Johnnie has to strategize each angle of attack to keep the Nissan's axles from breaking. Each jolt tosses us into the sides of the car and each other. Chris Brock mutters the classic Inspector Clouseau phrase "That was a good one!" after one of the worst teeth-rattling potholes jounces us unmercifully. The dirt turns to mud at times, and in particularly deep patch, we get stuck until paying the local villagers to help us push the car through. At times along the road we see pigs, goats, dogs, roosters, donkeys. These animals truly illustrate the

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ongoing poverty and recent starvation in Haiti. The month before we arrived, Hurricane Matthew wiped out all the crops in Haiti's lowlands, killed 800 people, and reintroduced cholera. While we are not in the lowlands, the lack of food is evident across the country as I can count every rib on each dog and mule that we pass.

After 6 hours' travel, paving suddenly appears with a central dividing line to indicate lanes. There are even street lamps and a stop light. Craig and John wonder whether we might have died and gone to heaven. It's clear we are getting close to Cap Haitien. Once again we are surrounded by concrete, color, noise, and traffic, with five lines of cars trying to pass on two lane roads. Pere Wisnel's compound directly overlooks the sea, and his hospitality erases much of the harrowing trip stress. Cold Coke has never tasted so good. We hug our driver Johnnie – without his unflinching attention to the road we could have broken down miles from any support. The road was uncompromising in its difficulty and harshness. Instead, we are safely in Cap Haitien.

On Sunday we have the honor of attending Holy Eucharist at Pere Wisnel's Church, the Holy Spirit. The church is three stories high with a golden dome above the nave. It is clear this church was well built as the earthquake toppled many similarly tall buildings in 2010. The unusual combination of a keyboard player and a trumpeter provide of the background music, with the Sisters of Faith singing in harmonies for many of the hymns. Pere Wisnel's sermon focuses on finding new ground, new agreements as old ones have not helped Haiti. Haiti has an upcoming election and he encourages all Haitians to vote. That afternoon we share gifts for his children at lunch. He drives us to the airport, hugging each of us in turn as we walk back into air conditioning and comfort leading to the flight home.

My heart is full on the return trip. So many of the things we take for granted; roads, electricity, food, education, health, safety, are not a given in Haiti. I go because against this backdrop of poverty the spirit of the Haitian people soar. I see it in smiling children wearing school uniforms and in the new baptisms in the Church of the Holy Spirit. I'm proud to be part of St. Timothy's outreach, helping children find a brighter future that allows some compromise, not just stark contrast.

Vestry Update

The Vestry gathered for their monthly meeting on December 19; however only seven members were able to attend. Because this did not constitute a quorum, no votes were taken. The members in attendance heard several reports, including Gifts to Glorify the Lord (Organ Committee), Rector Search Committee, Rector's Report and the Treasurer's Report. In addition, the proposed 2017 budget was discussed.

-Susy Nixon

Fr. Mark Michael to be Instituted as Rector of St. Francis Episcopal

God willing, the Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of Washington, will institute the Reverend Mark A. Michael as sixth rector of St. Francis Episcopal Church (10033 River Road, Potomac, MD) at the Holy Eucharist on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 4 p.m. All are welcome. Reception to follow. Please R.S.V.P. to 301.365.2055.

Welcome Newly Baptized

December 31 was a special day! The seven people below were Baptized at St. Timothy's:

Katie Larisa Mira-Alvarenga
Cristofer Ulices Mira Alvarenga
Jayden Adrian Serrano Alvarenga
Enri Alexander Lopez Baquedano
Iker Jafeth Lopez Baquedano
Manuel Alexsander Serrano-Serrano
Michael Jesus Serrano-Serrano

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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:
 Friday, January 27, 2017**

2016 Vestry

	<i>Terms expire January 2019</i>
<i>Terms Expire January 2017</i>	Eugene Nkomba, VoCoSum 703.715.8667 nkimba@gmail.com
Robert Henry, Sr. Warden 571.235.9466 rsh27892@gmail.com	Susy Nixon, Worship/ Music 703.437.0370 senixon@verizon.net
Stephanie Kenis, Communications 703.850.8104 Stephanie.kenis@verizon.net	Hollis Colie, Youth/CE 703.787.0272 Hollis211@aol.com
Bob Kimmel, Latino 703.437.3157 rkimmel818@verizon.net	Bill Outerbridge Stewardship 703.860.8537 outerbridge@aol.com
Larry Grantham, Service 703.450.4941 granthamlb@aol.com	<i>Officers</i>
<i>Terms expire January 2018</i>	Jean Shepherd, Treasurer jbshep78@gmail.com
Vilma Lemus Majano Open Arms /Hospitality 240.299.5522 lemusvilma3@gmail.com	Rose Berberich, Registrar 703.471.4988 rberberich@cox.net
Hal Hallett, Building & Grounds 703.793.5219 hal.hallett@verizon.net	
Genevieve Zetlan, Jr. Warden 703.475.9951 gzetlan@gmail.com	Office Hours M-Th: 9 am-6 pm Fri: 9 am – 1 pm For Appointment, please call 703.437.3790
Duane Hartge 703.318.8292 Duane.Hartge@verizon.net	

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. Anne Turner
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Director of Children and Youth Ministries
 Mrs. Christine Hoyle
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Director, Parish Operations
 Mr. Kevin Hamilton
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Service Times:
Sundays: 8:00 am Eucharist, Rite 1
Sundays 10:00 am Rite II service with Holy Communion
 Godly Play ages 3-2nd grade
 SPARK+, 3-5th grade
 Christian Ed
 Nursery Care
Wednesday: 12:15 pm, Eucharist and Healing Service
Saturday: 7:30 pm Santa Eucharista

