

The Word

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

January 2018

A Message from our Rector

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I am so excited to be here beginning a new year with new friends. I am looking forward to what this new life in Virginia and among the people of St. Timothy's will hold for me. The unknown nature of what lies ahead is exciting and fills me with hope. I am looking at 2018 as the beginning a new adventure, both in environment and in a new community. That is a choice I am making.

All of us are blessed with a new beginning this year. With a new beginning comes a choice. We can see what lies before us as "more of the same", keeping to what we have always done before, avoiding or mitigating the unknowns. Or, we can make the choice to see 2018 as an adventure. The key to changing "more of the same" into adventure is to embrace and value the unknowns. Unknowns usually evoke a measure of fear. That is normal. It is an animal instinct that has served us well in the past. Being suspicious of unknowns kept many of our ancestors alive. It made a journey through the wilderness safer. But we are more than just animals and our lives are more than a trip through the jungle.

Yes, it is easier to fill our days with what we know and with doing what we have always done. That is one way to avoid some of the unknowns and lessen the impact of still others. That is cautious, predictable, and safe. It is also a bit staid. The consequences of this option are atrophy and decline. It is easier to live this way because it requires less energy and fewer struggles.



As followers of Jesus we are called to Abundant life, not staid existence. Jesus and his followers walked the roads of Galilee moving from village to village never sure of what they would find. They could have remained in one place, which would have been easier and safer. They would have avoided robbers on the road and wild animals in the wilderness. But they didn't, and neither will we. We are called to The Adventure. The one that puts our very lives on the line, challenges us to risk and sometimes throw caution to the wind (the wind being the Holy Spirit and the breath of God).

In this new year, I invite the people to St. Timothy's to remember our Post Communion prayer, which ends "Send us out into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you..." and ask for that strength and courage that enables us to embrace a New Adventure for the parish and for ourselves. The opportunity is now to embrace the unknowns as an adventure that calls us to new ways of being followers of Jesus. Let us pray for strength and courage.

New Year Blessings,

Father Rich

Vestry Report

December 2017

November Giving: \$42,011

Budgeted Giving: \$47,223

YTD Expenses vs. Income: \$30,048

At the December vestry meeting the Vestry reviewed the Treasurer's report, noting that Income is \$29,857 below the budget but spending is \$59,908 below budget due to everyone's efforts to cut expenses. The Vestry then discussed the 2018 budget, reviewing the "ideal" budget structured from Ministry inputs and other funding requests as well as fixed expenses. The Vestry also reviewed the latest pledge information from Stewardship to calculate projected income for 2018. The ideal budget was a deficit budget, with anticipated income falling short of desired expenses by \$138,350.

The General Fund bank account balance is currently \$89,561, and the Vestry resolved to not pass an unbalanced budget above the amount of cash reserves we currently have on hand.

The Vestry cut the 2018 budget in all possible areas to achieve a projected deficit of only \$83,332.54. The budget then passed Vestry vote unanimously. It will be presented in hard copy at the Annual Meeting on January 14, but an electronic copy can be viewed here: [2018 Approved Budget](#)

It was brought to the Vestry's attention that a motion passed in December of last year to allocate 2016 surplus to the Reserve Fund after the close of the year was never carried through. Given the anticipated shortfall for 2018, the Vestry approved a motion to keep all existing cash reserves in the General Fund for operating expenses rather than carrying through the Reserve Fund transfer.

Finally, the Vestry voted to designate up to \$5,000 of 2017 surplus, if there is any once the books are closed, to staff end of year bonuses, to be distributed at Fr. Rich's discretion. The Vestry also voted to allow Director of Parish Operations Kevin Hamilton to carry over unused leave from 2017 into the first quarter of 2018.

Draft minutes can be viewed [online here](#) once they are available.

Genevieve Zetlan, Sr. Warden

Christmas Revels at St. Timothy's!

The tradition of celebrating the winter solstice with communities gathered around bonfires can be traced back to the ancient Britons before the Christians arrived, but for St Tim's this was our first attempt at a Christmas Revels celebration led by Father Rich. It was a very jolly occasion with dark spirits well and truly warded off by the bright and crackling bonfire, the warmth of fellowship and the laughter of children.

Thankfully, we were blessed with an evening of mild temperature with a crowd of about 50 at its peak gathered around the bonfire that was well managed by Brian Dodd. The children were particularly taken with the bright light and heat from the bonfire, and the opportunity to run around and eat s'mores in the dark.



As for the creative acts, we were marvelously treated to a wide range of contributions from friends of all ages. At the beginning of the week, I had been slightly worried that the evening would be somewhat short with only 5 acts having volunteered, but on the night, we had 13 very entertaining performances.

Carmela and Chuck Condro broke the ice by leading a sing-along with the children of the famed Spiritual, 'Mary had a baby'. We were treated to readings of the perennial favorite 'The Night Before

Christmas', a merry Cajun version read by Marty Brady and the traditional original by Andrew Guthrie.

We were particularly blessed with three contributions from children - after a tentative start, Sophie Dodd led us in a very powerful cheer for Christmas and Jesus, Davis Zetlan performed a perfectly executed dab dance move (if you don't know what that is, then let me suggest you either ask a child or enlist the help of Google) and Will Schulte told us a very funny joke.

There were several musical contributions, including the Genovez family singing some traditional carols in Spanish. The Guitar Ensemble provided a gifted performance of some traditional melodies and Genevieve Zetlan and the Nixon family lead us in an energetic and hilarious version of The Twelve Days of Christmas with actions for each day. Rachael Hixon entertained us with a brief but illuminating history of the recorder and played some very old and melodious traditional tunes on several recorders of varying sizes. Mark Fleming, Nancy Miller, Ching Fang-Weeden and I performed two Christmas favorites – “What Child is This?” and “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.”

I rounded off the evening by telling a story about How Santa Got His Beard that pulled in full audience participation and actions. This was a wonderfully pleasant and relaxing evening of fun, fellowship, fire and s'mores and I sincerely hope this will become a regular part of the St Tim's Advent Calendar.

Joe Weeden

Seeking St. Timothy's Representative for North Fairfax Region Life Committee Event

St. Timothy's is one of nine Episcopal congregations in the North Fairfax Region of the Diocese of Virginia. Each year, the Region Life Committee hosts an event to address an important challenge facing our Northern Virginia community. Past events have addressed Race & Reconciliation and Teen Sex Trafficking. The Region Life Committee is seeking at least one representative from each parish to help plan their next event about the tragic Opioid Addiction crisis. Join Fairfax

County non-profit organizations, health professionals, the ecumenical faith community and Fairfax County Police Department in planning a community-wide event to be held April 28th at Epiphany Oak Hill. The North Fairfax Region was recently recognized at the annual Diocesan Convention for its visionary leadership in addressing these tough topics in a faithful, comprehensive and thoughtful way.

Please consider sharing your talents toward success of the event.

Contact Sharon Nachman at sharonsnachman@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer. This can be another outstanding program, especially with broad participation from our entire North Fairfax Region community!



“No place available (No Vacancy)”

These were the only words that existed in the script of that theatrical performance of the Birth of the Messiah, and that corresponded to Antonio, a 11 years old boy with Down’s Syndrome who played the owner of the Inn. But Antonio, immediately paralyzed the audience with the following words that came from himself: -... But you can stay at my home!

I was paralyzed as well, when I heard this fantastic story from the seminarian Bill Baker on the Christmas sermon in the Spanish Service last December 23rd. These words went so deep into my heart that I ended up asking the same question, which moments later Bill would do at the end of the sermon: “Are you allowing Jesus to enter and dwell in your heart?”

By the time you read this meditation, it will be 2018, and we will have heard a couple of resolutions to carry out this year, some repeated, others incredible to believe. But in everything and in all I want to ask myself (and you) a question: Is one of my resolutions to get closer to God in 2018? Will I allow God to come to dwell in my heart (actually dwell within me)?

He tells us: *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”* (Revelation 3:20 KJV)

God is calling to our lives in different ways, He is a gentleman and knocks at the door, the one two thousand and a little more years ago still in the womb of that blessed woman of Nazareth asked for an inn; Today, he is asking us to open the doors of our hearts and seek to draw closer to Him. It is time that we open the doors of our hearts and make this 2018 a year we put God first in all our plans and projects, to approach Him through service in our church and its different ministries. Approaching Him through prayer and look to be our lives transforming each day with His Word.

May God allow us by the end of 2018 to be pleased to have allowed God to come and dwell with us.

May God bless your lives and Happy 2018

Vidai Genovez



Jesus stands at the door and knocks in....
[*“The Light of the World”*](#)
[*Oil on canvas, William Holman-Hunt*](#)
[*St. Paul’s Cathedral, London*](#)

Poetry Corner

“Galilee”

The waves of the lake in Galilee
Lapped the shores in such constancy
That Christ was aware of the eternity
Of God’s Kingdom and the serenity
Of the shore. And the vast desert
Beyond drew Him to go apart
To pray to His father for guidance and love
And sustain Him with Breath from above.

On the shores of this lake he taught about
Seeds that withered or thrived, but did not shout
Or rave like prophets of old, nor like others who
sold
False hopes, wrong methods or even told
That only the rich, the righteous, the followers of
law
Would be granted a place in Heaven or more.
He told about sheep, a gateway and a shepherd
Which gave such hope to the crowds who had
gathered.

He spoke of the love of their God, whose lilies
Never spun cloth yet shone in such glories
Of color and form, and sparrows who flew
Without fear of fall or hunger and surely they knew
That God watched over each piece of creation
With such great love and affection
That all who followed and worshipped with love
Would allow each to feel peace like the dove.

On the lake, He rested, despite such a storm
That His friends, alarmed at the force and the form
Of the waves and the wind and the peril that
threatened
Their safety. He woke at their cries, stood and
gestured.
He said, “Be calm” to the forces of nature
Which further convinced them of His Power and
stature
In the Divine Kingdom as the winds died,
The waves calmed and there was no need to hide.

In a second storm, He walked on the water,
Called to Peter, “Trust me, come on, don’t falter”,
“I come, Lord” said Peter, but his faith was not
strong
And Jesus reached out to His friend who not long
From this time would deny Him three times
And feel so ashamed that he left for new climes
To hide with the others for fear that the Romans
Would seek out His followers to make new
demands.

That they give up their trust and belief
In someone who was hanged on a tree like a thief,
Yet faithfully prayed and comforted others.
Then three days later they heard from brothers
And sisters that He was not dead, but alive
In this world and so they would contrive
To go as instructed to wait at the lake
In Galilee, where they were sure He would make

All things well and give tasks and instructions
To feed His flock and move all obstructions,
Not only in Galilee, but throughout all creation.
To seek the path of full redemption.
“Love thy God” and “Love thy neighbor” would be
all
That mankind would need to recall
In order to live the life that he offered.
No other reward would need to be proffered.

So it is for us many centuries later.
Though we are far from that body of water.
We constantly prepare as He instructed
To receive Body and Blood consecrated
And proceed to the life that we hope to attain
When Christ comes again to permanently reign
Over His Kingdom on earth, never more riven
By sin, hate and war from our Father in Heaven.

Jill Cox



Calling All 11-18 Year-old Boys!

Do you enjoy outdoor activities? Want to learn new skills, build leadership expertise, and have fun? St Timothy's charters a Boy Scout Troop. Troop 159 is a "boy led, leader supported" Troop which meets most Monday evenings from 7 – 8:30 p.m. at St Timothy's. Monthly outings include activities such as camping, canoeing, cycling, climbing, blacksmithing, horseback riding, and the like. For further information and to arrange to attend one of our upcoming meetings, get your parent(s)/guardian(s) permission and contact our Scoutmaster scoutmaster@herndon159.mytroop.us or the Committee Chair at Committee_Chair@herndon159.mytroop.us.

What's it like to visit Haiti?

How do you describe someplace that's so different from anything you've ever experienced? Well ... the best analogy I can come up with is that of "Alice in Wonderland". To visit Haiti is to fall down a rabbit hole and emerge in a world full of color and chaos, of chickens and goats running free, of footpaths instead of roads, of spotty electricity and intermittent running water. And so, on November 4th 2017, eight of us from St. Timothy's fell down our rabbit hole and began a strange and wonderful adventure.

The 2017 Haiti Mission Team consisted of team lead Craig Dubishar, Chris Brock, John Druitt, Bob Henry, Kate Jennings, Eugene Nkomba, Paige Williamson, and Genevieve Zetlan. Eugene, Kate,

and Paige were participating in the mission trip for the first time.

From the air, the island of Haiti and the Dominican Republic is quite beautiful. Steep hills wrinkle and fold across the landscape. Emerald water rings the island, deepening to a dark blue. Sadly though, the state of deforestation was impossible to miss, not in patches, but from horizon to horizon.

We landed and made our way through something resembling a rugby scrum to baggage claim. The veterans of the trip warned us not to let anyone handle our bags. It wasn't for fear of them being stolen as much as it was being faced with a forceful tip request. And, the guys aren't shy about it either. They'll grab your bag with the solid confidence of a legitimate airport employee. It can be quite intimidating, so we newbies followed the vets, claimed our luggage and headed for the exit and our waiting drivers.

As we were too many to fit into one vehicle, we split up into two minivans (one of which was driven by the Priest-in-Charge, Kesner Gracia), and ventured out into the streets of Port-au-Prince. We didn't actually drive at first, we inched, scooted, nosed and wormed our way through the bustling and dusty streets lined with all kinds and types of brightly colored shops and stalls. Facts: there were paved streets. Truth: roads were not delimited by a center stripe, and lane possession (not to mention direction) was up for debate. Often, what ought to be two lane traffic was three or four lanes going in alternating directions—with motorcycles weaving in and out and pedestrians threading the open spots or stopped to sell items to equally stopped cars. At home, this sort of traffic would have shot my blood pressure through the stratosphere, but in Haiti it took on a surreal, out-of-body experience. After all, no matter how many traffic jams I've been stuck in, I've never seen people leading or riding horses ... leading cows ... or dodged chickens!

Before long, we made our way out of the city and were barreling through the countryside. Street vendors thinned out, shacks and huts in various stages of disrepair or completion dotted the hillside. Except for one unplanned stop for an overheating engine, our drive to Cange was uneventful ... bumpy, but uneventful. We arrived at the

compound where we would be staying, a good sized collection of buildings that served as schoolrooms, various offices, kitchen and dining rooms, and dormitory style bedrooms.

After depositing our bags in the rooms, we gathered to discuss the itinerary for the next few days. It was to be a short but full schedule - from attending church services to meeting with school officials as well as the 25 children we support.

It's amazing how quickly a strange new world can become familiar; how fast we adjusted to intermittent electricity and sporadic running water. When the power was on, we leapt to charge phones and cameras. When the water flowed, showers were quickly taken. Our rooms were basic but clean and comfortable. The food was ... sublime. Talk about farm fresh! We ate chicken, eggs, fried plantains, beans and rice, mango, papaya and pineapple. We ate with gusto, with relish, and with many thanks to the wonderful staff.



Our first full day began with church at Bon Sauveur, and it was not like any service I'd ever experienced. Early in the morning, the sound of church bells rang through the air. Worried we were late, it was explained that the bells rang two hours before the service and then again one hour before. This was to let parishioners far and wide know when to start walking to church! And they do walk, up to two hours, to get there!

Church lasted over two hours, but didn't feel like it. The inside of the church was brightly painted with murals and clouds. Folded chairs filled the sanctuary and soon, people filled the chairs. A

balcony ran along three sides of the church, and it too was soon full. There was singing by a variety of choirs, music by children and adults played on instruments ranging from drums to violins. The whole service was in French but the format was the traditional Episcopal format, so even if we couldn't understand the language, we could still follow along.

After church, we met with Wilpha Pierre, the college student we support. He is expected to graduate in 2018. He brought with him a copy of his thesis outline, "Ethics in Business".

Once our meeting concluded, it was time for lunch. We took the long way back to our rooms, walking along the street and looking at the colorful stalls and shacks, when the sudden sound of a Dixieland jazz band filled the air. To our surprise, that's just what was coming around the corner! Twenty or so musicians playing trumpets, trombones, and drums in what I can only describe as a tune solemn yet lively. Behind them marched eight men carrying a shiny wooden casket, and behind them 30 or more mourners. It was so unexpected and amazing ... serious and respectful, cheerful and joyous. We watched the procession as it passed by and vanished around the corner, the Dixie notes still echoing through the muggy mid-day air. It was a first for the Haitian Ministry ... no one had ever seen anything like it.

The next day was a highlight of the trip, and our main purpose. We were to travel to Chapoteau to visit with the principal, teachers, and the children - especially the 25 we sponsor. We were advised about the logistics of the trip, but ... in my humble opinion ... the difficulty of the hike to the school was under-described. After a slight but typical delay waiting for boats, we motored across the lake, passing native fishermen in their strange half-boats, and quite a few floating plastic bottles. It took two trips to get us all across. No sooner had we all gathered at the shore when a gaggle of smartly dressed kids came out to greet us, accompanied by the new school director, Jacob Venet. The children looked so fine and happy in their uniforms, smiling and laughing at the pictures Craig was showing them - the pictures taken of them the year before. With the kids, we started our hike up the mountain to the school.

To call it a path would be generous. It was a gully in places—steep, uneven, riddled with rocks and roots, and a couple of us required some assistance. I don't know who helped me up some of the more tricky places, but I was sure grateful for that strong and steady hand. It was muggy and sunny, and we were all happy to reach the top. Our reward was freshly peeled and opened coconuts, generously handed out and gratefully accepted. While not personally a fan of the trendy coconut water, I'll have to say it was just the ticket after our strenuous ascent. Full of electrolytes, fresh and cool, we gulped it down. As an added treat, the coco-nuts were cracked open and the meat, while thinner than store bought coconuts, was soft and easily scooped. We devoured it and felt much recovered.

After that, we gathered with our 25 students in the church. Eugene handed out photos, portraits Craig had taken the year before, to the students. Craig then took new pictures of them for this school year. Genevieve told a Godly play story "Noah and the Arc" complete with a boat and pairs of animals. While she told it in English, Wilpha translated into Creole. We also showed a video of our St. Timothy's kids back home singing "Jesus loves me" in Creole. The Haitian kids were mesmerized by the video, some even singing along. Genevieve provided a battery powered projector—money well spent in this place with no infrastructure at all. It ought to be a staple of all future trips.

We were surprised by a full and wonderful lunch, another first this year, which we ate with the school officials and teachers. Once lunch was served, we got down to business. Projects were discussed, past ones and their status, future ones and how to go about them. We heard from the teachers as well. It would be nice to answer every request, but some were just not practical—such as a request for a printer. Without reliable electricity to run it or ink refills readily available, it just didn't make sense.

We took a short tour of the school, but not wanting to disrupt the classes we didn't linger. Soon, it was time to start the challenging trail back to our waiting boat. We had the extra surprise of a mid-day rain storm during our meeting, beating loudly on the metal roof, and now the path was not just steep, but slippery and muddy. Several times I

thought it'd be easier to give in and just slide down the mountain on my backside!

The rain paused long enough to let us get down to the shore, but was clearly going to return. Half of us made it back fairly dry, the other half got quite wet. We were tired and muddy ... but it was a good day, and we had a very productive meeting with lots of items to discuss for the future.



It was almost time to climb back out of the rabbit hole. We started packing and were faced with that common traveler's dilemma ... why is it the clothes you put into a suitcase before a trip never fit back in at the end of a trip? Eventually we were packed and ready to return to Port-au-Prince where we would spend the night before returning to the States.

This was a whirlwind trip, to be sure. One minute you're in Northern Virginia, blink, now you're in Haiti, blink and it's back to Virginia. The time went by in fits and starts - at times we let ourselves ignore the clock and lived life as the Haitians ... other times we were rushing to meet with this person or catch that boat. In between, we tried to meet and get to know as many people as we could. The kids were the most memorable. They would look so serious, but take their picture and show it to them and they'd fall apart giggling and poking at each other. Some would cling to you, soft desperate hugs, can I have a dollar or can I have something to eat? You want to gather them all up, feed and clothe every single one, but you know you can't. The need is so big and you are just one person. It's hard to keep from feeling hopeless in the face of such poverty. We have so much here, too much,

and they have so little, and such a struggle to get that little.

So what do we do? What's the answer? Where do we start? I don't know the answer but I do know, even if it feels like a small drop in a very large bucket, what we do through our Haitian ministry does help. It may only sponsor 25 children out of (?) and only through the 6th grade ... but to those 25 children what we do means everything. We help the school by supporting the teachers' salaries, literally keeping the school running for not just out 25 but for the hundreds in Chapoteau. By helping the teachers, they are able to help more children.

Haiti has a lot to overcome, and it won't be a quick or simple road, but I found there's hope. We may be separated by water and language, by infrastructure and conveniences, but we're not so different as people. Haitians want what we want, what anyone wants: to be happy, to educate our children and provide them a good life, to be respected and productive, to share our abundance and love one another.

And, yes, this newbie will be going back next year!

2017 Vestry with Liaison Assignments

Genevieve Zetlan (2018) – Senior Warden
gzetlan@gmail.com

Eugene Nkomba (2019) – Junior Warden
nkomba@gmail.com
703-715-8667

Terms Expire 2020

Vidai Genovez (Andres) - Spanish Service/Misa en Espanol
vidaigenovez@live.com

Elizabeth Witter – Communications
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Sandy Wright – Pastoral Care
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Gerritt Peck – Service
gpeck14@su.edu
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Hollis Colie – Formation
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Susy Nixon - Worship
senixon@verizon.net
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Terms Expire 2018

Duane Hartge – Finance
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Vilma Lemus Majano - Fellowship
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Hal Hallett – Buildings & Grounds
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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.

Service Times:

Saturday: 7:30 pm Santa Eucharista

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

Rector

The Rev. Dr. Rich Bardusch

Director, Parish Operations

Mr. Kevin Hamilton

kevinh@saint-timothys.org

703.437.3790, x 10

Interim Director of Music

Mr. Roger Long

rogerl@saint-timothys.org

703.437.3790 x.16

Bookkeeper

Mr. Fernanda Marinkovic

bookkeeper@saint-timothys.org

703.437.3790 x.13

Welcome New Members

Please be aware that there are MANY active congregants who have been attending and donating to St. Timothy's for many years that 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 congregants can participate in all aspects of church worship with the exception of 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, giving us a stronger vote in Diocese 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

Submission Deadline for the next issue:

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

Submit to Ian Smith at

ids227@gmail.com

