

The WORD

July 2025

Dear St. Timothy's Family,

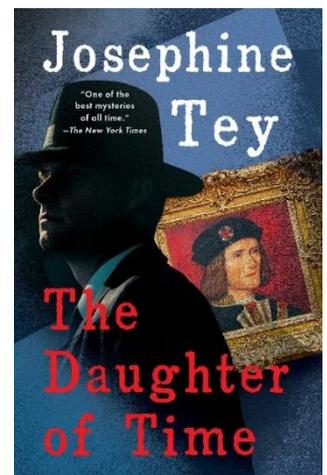
Attentive readers of the WORD will remember that *last* July, my [article](#) concerned the need for rest, Summer Reading, and my love of books. I am happy to present this year's version in the hope that it will provoke, as it has over the last twelve months, conversations about what folks are reading these days.

First, a confession. Last year I shared four books that parishioners had given me and that I had read, and a few others that had been lent to me, but I had not read. This year, I have about a dozen books that have been given to me, with only a couple read. I must admit that my desire to read sometimes outweighs my ability to do so. There are 400-odd parishioners at St. Timothy's, and I simply cannot keep up! My sincerest apologies to those who gave me books that I have not gotten to. I say, therefore, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, and somewhat genuinely: **If we could have a temporary moratorium on giving books to your rector, that would be great!**



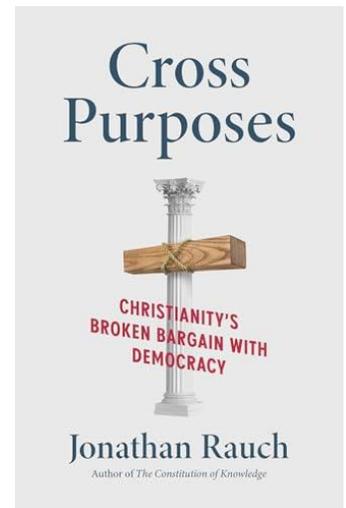
Here are a few books that I indeed was able to read (and again, with no ill will to those books that I did not get to.)

- 1) St. Timothy's newcomers Belinda and Tony Collins are members of the *American Branch of the Richard III Society*. This is an organization that has "been working since 1924 to secure a more balanced assessment of the king and to support research into his life and times."¹ Both can share more information about how Shakespeare (erroneously) shaped Richard III's reputation for posterity with his famous play and the recent rediscovery of the king's body in a Leicester parking lot! They gave me Josephine Tey's *The Daughter of Time*. What a fascinating reexamination of a historical figure whom I *thought* that I knew. Tony and Belinda also connected me with the 2012 film *The Lost King* on the subject.

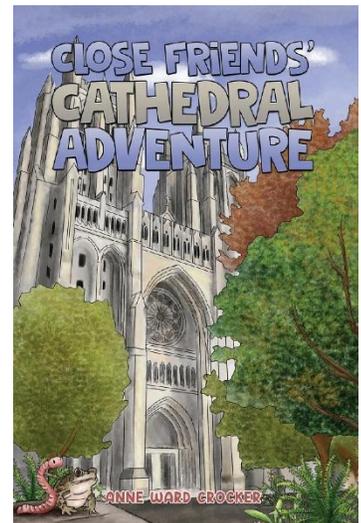


¹ [Home - Richard III Society American Branch](#)

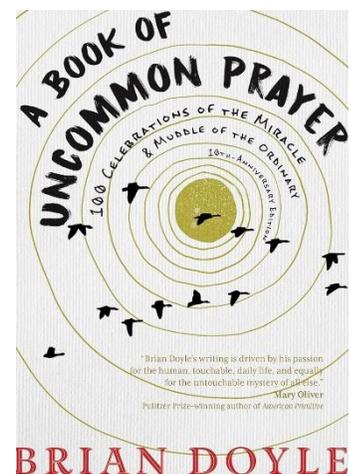
2) Back in the Spring, Bill Bate met with me about a church matter but came carrying a book entitled *Cross Purposes—Christianity's Broken Bargains with Democracy* by Jonathan Rauch. Rauch is a (self-proclaimed) atheistic Jew who writes about politics, culture and religion. This was a fascinating and timely read, particularly as our country grows more divided politically. As 2025 has progressed, I have found the book's observations and conclusions even more helpful. It is also the type of book that gets mentioned in clergy circles—so many thanks to Bill for clueing me into it for that reason alone! This book would be perfect for a reading group at St. Timothy's or as the subject of a Sunday Adult Forum. (As with all my books, please feel free to borrow my copies!)



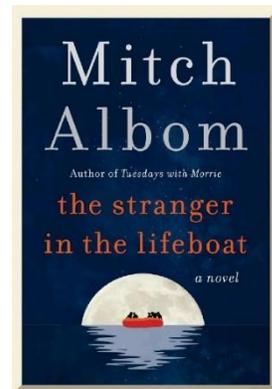
3) Lighter fare comes from Anne Crocker, the author of not only our [Parish History](#) but now also a new children's book: *Close Friends' Cathedral*. You might have seen a Facebook post that the Church had around the time of this book's publication or remember the service in which I gave it as a gift to two of St. Timothy's children who were headed overseas. I told them: "The woman who wrote this book is 94 years old! She wrote this book and a book about St. Tim's history. You are a part of that history now, and you can use this book to remember that." Anne's book is dedicated to our Altar Guild and the dedication page reads as a veritable "Who's Who" of the St. Timothy's of yore. The book follows a little toad as he goes on an adventure with animal friends throughout the Washington National Cathedral. This is a perfect book for children or grandchildren and, again, I have a few copies in my office to give.



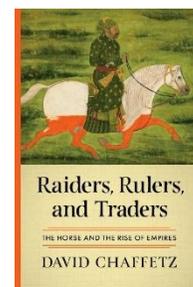
4) Carol Mclean has given me a number of books—which are both somehow varied and somehow related in genre. Pictured to the right is the late Brian Doyle's *A Book of Uncommon Prayer—10 Celebrations of the Miracle & Muddle of the Ordinary*. Despite the title, Doyle was a Roman Catholic author who penned this and other reflections on God and humanity and everything in between. Carol described this collection of prayers as a "wee bit of Irish Catholic theology"—there is an entry, for example, with the title "Prayer in Celebration of Brief Things, for Example, Church Services." I so appreciate this book and Carol's sense of humor—she also gave me Dave Barry's *The Shepherd, the Angel, and Walter the Christmas Miracle Dog* which I hopefully will get to come December.



As you have hopefully noticed, 'my cup runneth over' with these books. It is one of the absolute perks of my job. Unfortunately, I cannot even remember who lent me Mitch Albom's *the stranger in the lifeboat*. As my wife can attest, I almost never read fiction, particularly popular fiction, but this was a delight. If the giver might identify themselves to me, I will sheepishly offer thanks for expanding my horizons! Albom's book is religious in nature as was a book that Jonathan Nichols (another newcomer.... what is up with them?) gave me: *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction—Discipleship in an Instant Society* by the late Eugene H. Peterson. I have mentioned Peterson before in my sermons and this book focuses on Psalms 120-134 so you might be hearing about it again from the pulpit.

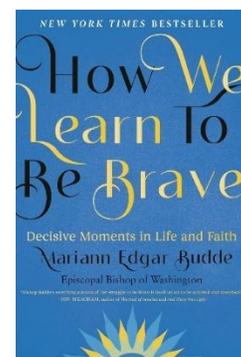


Olga Marinenko is one of the most well-read individuals that I have ever met and thus it should come as no surprise that she gave me (what looks like) a fascinating history on the history of ... the horse. David Chaffetz's *Raiders, Rulers, and Traders—The Horse and the Rise of Empires*. Knowing Olga, this will be a really interesting perspective on world history from an unexpected angle.



Cindy Holland also anticipated what a former History teacher might enjoy and gave me *500 Little-Known Facts in U.S. History* by George W. Givens. Judging from the back cover, the author is correct, it pains to admit that there is so much about our past that I did not know.

Carolyn Hamm, meanwhile, gave me *On Hallowed Ground—The Story of Arlington National Cemetery* by Robert M. Poole. I received this one with keen interest because, of course, my brother is buried at ANC and I had already read Poole's *Section 60: Arlington National Cemetery- Where War Comes Home*. My family and I were there on Memorial Day visiting my brother's grave and the graves of so many who gave their lives for our country. I thought also about all of St. Timothy's loved ones who are also buried there. We should plan a visit by the congregation at some point.



Last but not least, Sharon Nachman gave me *How We Learn to Be Brave—Decisive Moments in Life and Faith* by Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde of the Diocese of Washington. This is another one that is "making the rounds" in church circles. Budde is a well-known leader in the Episcopal Church who wrote this book *before* she delivered her homily at the January 2025 interfaith prayer service following Donald Trump's second presidential inauguration. This text could also serve as the focus of a small book discussion in the parish. I am eager to read it.

There you have it. Writing this makes me want to read more! Thanks for indulging my passion and you can find me at <https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/15462021-charles-cowherd> and become my "Friend."

More importantly, what are YOU reading this summer 2025? What has caught your eye or do you think others would enjoy reading?

I hope and pray for rest and relaxation this summer, and in particular for the gift of reading during these months.

Yours in Christ,

CHARLES+

P.S. I love this reflection from C.S. Lewis on the subject of reading and faith. It's from his autobiography of conversion: *Surprised by Joy: the Shape of my Early Life*. Lewis, a fervent atheist in his younger days, writes about reading certain authors as a young man:

I did not know what I was letting myself in for. A young man who wishes to remain a sound Atheist cannot be too careful of his reading. There are traps everywhere—

Bibles laid open, millions of surprises,

as (poet George) Herbert says

fine nets and stratagems

God is, if I may say it, very unscrupulous.²

PENTECOST 2025

St. Timothy's is still reverberating from our Pentecost (Eve) celebration on June 7th, 2025. The Bishop came and confirmed/received/reaffirmed 40+ individuals in our church family. The music, the food, the fellowship... and the Holy Spirit... were all alive and well here in Herndon!

In an earlier issue of the WORD ([August 2023](#)), I had shared some historical data about Confirmation at St. Timothy's. These statistics tell a story (although only a part of the story) about the more than 150 years of worship and community in this parish. I will share a portion of the updated statistics here.

Register #7 (the latest Parish Register of the seven in existence for St. Tim's) lists the Bishop and the episcopal rites of confirmation, reception and reaffirmation performed over the last ten years or so:

2013: Bishop Shannon Johnston (18)

2014: Bishop Ted Gulick (5)

2015: Bishop Susan Goff (7)

2016: Bishop Ted Gulick (16)

2018: Bishop Bob Ihloff (2)

2021: Bishop Porter Taylor (11)

2023: Bishop Dabney Smith (9)

2025: Bishop Mark Bourlakas (47)³

Of that 47 in 2025, 31 were confirmations.

12 of those were baptized at St. Timothy's (3 by Brad Rundlett, 3 by Leslie Chadwick, 2 by Philene Ware Dunn, 1 by Adolfo Moranto, 1 by Pedro Cuevas, and 1 by Natividad Menjivar.)

5 were baptized elsewhere in the Episcopal Church

6 were baptized in the Roman Catholic Church

3 were baptized in the Baptist Church

3 were baptized in the Methodist Church

1 was baptized in the Church of Christ

1 was baptized in the Presbyterian Church

1 was baptized in the Lutheran Church

Of that 47, 9 were Received, all from the Roman Catholic Church.

Of that 47, 7 were Reaffirmed, all necessarily from the Episcopal Church but also all from our Spanish-speaking members, all of whom originally were from the Roman Catholic Church in El Salvador.

² Lewis, C. S. *Surprised by Joy*. 1955. London: Collins. 191.

³ This number includes those members of St. Timothy's who were confirmed a week prior at St. David's Episcopal Church in Ashburn, VA.



Summer Hymn Sing Returns August 10!

What's your favorite hymn? Write down your requests and be ready to call them out - we are having a hymn sing. On Sunday, August 10, in place of the sermon at the 8:00 and 10:00 services, you will get to sing your favorite hymns. Try to stump the organist with a request from our blue hymnal (1982) or the green supplement (*Wonder, Love, and Praise*). Have your choices ready - any season, any theme, any time! If you have a hymn you're dying to sing that's not in our Episcopal repertoire, please email Todd at music@saint-timothys.org and he'll try to make your wish come true.

News from the Service Ministry

LINK Summer Food Drive in July

The Service Ministry is hosting a Summer food drive for LINK. St. Timothy's has been a member of LINK and has been helping our neighbors in need for over 40 years. LINK delivers food and other supplies to over 200 families per month in the Herndon and Sterling area. The demand is higher than ever, and LINK needs our support! Once again, we will be focusing on fresh produce — potatoes, onions, apples and clementines.

The drive will start on July 13th when members of the Service Ministry will be in the Narthex to hand out cloth bags for you to fill with items for LINK. Attached to the bag will be a list of items that are in high demand. We will collect the food on the following two weekends (July 20th and July 27th). Service Ministry

members will be in the Narthex before and after each service. We will be glad to help unload items directly from your car if you would like assistance.

You can also pick up a bag at the church office during business hours. Items can also be dropped off anytime at the LINK basket in the hallway between the office and the Narthex. We are grateful for anything you can contribute to help with hunger in our community.

The Service Ministry thanks you for putting your faith to work to serve our neighbors.

Backpack and School Supply Drive for Cornerstones – Help Students Start off the Year Right

You can make a difference for children in our community by donating backpacks and school supplies to students in need. Unlike other years when we only collected backpacks, this year the Service Ministry has adopted 33 second grade students who need help getting supplies to start the new school year.



This drive will also work a little differently than in previous years with two options for purchasing items:

- A Wish List will be set up on St. Timothy's Amazon Prime Account called **St. Timothy's, Herndon, 2025 Back to School Drive**. You will be able to access the list through this link <https://a.co/dqnG6iv>, which will go live on July 4th. Simply select the item(s) you wish to purchase, pay for them, and they will be shipped directly to the church. Updates will be included in the weekly eNews.
- For those who like to shop the old-fashioned way, we will have a list in Henry Hall where you can sign up to purchase items from stores (Walmart and Target are good sources) and bring them to the church.

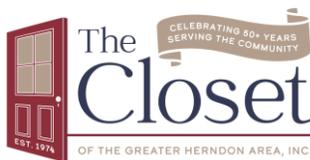
The drive will kick off **July 4th and conclude on July 21st**. We will fill the backpacks with supplies and deliver them to Cornerstones the week of July 28th.

Over 36% of the students in our region qualify for free lunches and the cost of school supplies has increased 25% since 2020. The Service Ministry appreciates the good people of St. Timothy's who *put their faith to work* for those in need in our community!

Special Project for Vacation Bible School Campers

Vacation Bible School campers will be putting their faith to work this summer by assembling kids' snack packs for the family housing shelter. The Service Ministry will provide the snacks and the children will place them into zip lock bags, assembly line style. We hope this will help our youngest parishioners learn about the importance of community and sharing our abundance with those in need.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Bosworth and Carolyn Hamm



News from The Closet

July 19 – mark your calendar for “Kids Day at The Closet” – a special day of fun and games for the whole family.

September 6 – The Closet Fashion Event at Moose Lodge

September 19-20 – Everything Christmas sale (much earlier this year!) at Moose Lodge

Note that in celebration of July 4, The Closet will be closed that day.

Welcome to two new St. Timothy Closet Board members: Betsy Bosworth and Maria LaWalt.

The Closet volunteer day is July 16 (Wednesday). Come any time between 10:00 a.m and 4:00 p.m. to join other volunteers at The Closet. If you have not volunteered before, we will ‘show you the ropes.’ Hope to see you there.

Respectfully submitted by Holly Hartge

Vestry 2025



Rick Wilson (2027) – *Senior Warden*
rwilson20@verizon.net
703-629-4972



Vilma Iveth Lemus Magano (2026)
lemusvilma3@gmail.com
240-299-5522



Wanda Rixon (2028)
SQueenofE@aol.com
703-209-7661



Midori Yanagihara (2026)
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703-709-0860



Varun Lal (Alternate)
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Varun.p.lal@gmail.com



Matt Schumann (2027)
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703-843-5465



Rob Huizar (2027) – *Junior Warden*
(713) 391-5214
rhuziar@gmail.com



John McGrath (2028)
jdksmcgrath@verizon.net
(703) 376-1176



Johnny Ellis (2028)
Jellis.ems@gmail.com
845-926-7673



Emily Litz (2026)
Emhas001@goucher.edu
201-887-2173



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

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www.saint-timothys.org

Service Times

Saturday:	7 pm	Spanish Service/Rite II
Sunday:	8 am	Rite I (English)
Sunday:	10 am	Rite II (English)

Also available via Zoom
(Livestream on
YouTube/
Facebook/Website)

Please check the website for up-to-date information about opportunities to worship

Welcome New Members

To transfer your membership to St. Timothy's or to find out if you are a registered member, contact the church office (office@saint-timothys.org) or fill out the Parishioner Information Form.

Editor of The Word

Ron Boggio

wordeditor@saint-timothys.org

Submission deadline for the

August 2025 issue:

Friday, July 25th

If we do not have an email address for you and your family, or if your email has changed, send the information to office@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.

Rector

The Rev. Charles R. Cowherd

priest@saint-timothys.org

703-437-3790 x12



Organist/Choirmaster

Mr. Todd Grivetti

music@saint-timothys.org

703-437-3790 x16



Parish Administrator

Ms. Deb Stolar

office@saint-timothys.org

703-437-3790



Bookkeeper

Ms. Deb Angerman

bookkeeper@saint-timothys.org

703-437-3790 x13

St. Timothy's Pre-School Director

Ms. Allyson Showalter

sttimothyspreschool432@gmail.com

703-437-4767



Duane Hartge – Treasurer
treasurer@saint-timothys.org

Rose Berberich - Registrar

Prayer for the Season of Pentecost

Spirit of God

Spirit of God, be for us joy, healing gift of love, creating a new heart. Longing to be spirit alive: very life of God, be rooted within us.

Voice which calls us beyond scattered dreams, barren days to receive and give of God's love.

May you kindle our hope in the morning of life; may you bring us peace with day's end.

'Though exalted our hopes no less real shall they be; in compassion faithfulness thrives.

Spirit of God, be for us joy, healing gift of love, creating a new heart, healing gift of love creating a new heart.

- The Monks of Weston Priory

