

ST. TIMOTHY

It is not known why the founders of Herndon's first Episcopal church decided on the name "St. Timothy's", but the New Testament and church tradition provide a rich array of information about our patron saint.

Timothy was a native of Lystra (modern-day Turkey), and the son of a Jewish woman, Eunice, and an unnamed Greek father. He converted to Christianity during Paul's 1st Missionary Journey and then served as a key disciple on Paul's ministry team. The frequency with which Timothy's name is reported as a co-sender of letters reveals a special collaborative relationship with Paul. It's been said, in fact, that Timothy was the son that Paul never had.

Timothy is later sent by Paul to Corinth with a letter to serve as an apostolic reminder. It seems that Paul is apprehensive about how Timothy would be received. Did Paul have doubts about Timothy as a leader? Because of these references, Timothy is sometimes characterized as being young and lacking self-confidence.

The Pastoral Letters of 1st and 2nd Timothy are addressed to Paul's protégé and give further indication of their close relationship. Later tradition states that Timothy became the first Bishop of Ephesus, meeting his martyrdom trying to stop a pagan festival near the end of the 1st century.

St. Timothy is the patron saint of stomach ailments and young people. His Feast Day, on January 26th in the Episcopal Church calendar, is celebrated every year alongside our annual meeting. We are the only so-named church in the Diocese of Virginia, and only one of about 70 "St. Timothy's" in the Episcopal Church.

As a church, we hold as *charisms* (spiritual gifts) three aspects of our patron:

- 1) An ability to reach across ethnic and racial boundaries to serve God.**
- 2) A love and reverence for children and their unique spiritual capacity**
- 3) A willingness to try and fail in our efforts to follow Christ's teaching**