



The WORD

March 2026

Dear St. Timothy's Family,

I have been enjoying our Lenten Sunday Adult Forum series these last few weeks. It is the 4th iteration of our "Psychology and Spirituality" series, and this year features a look at St. Paul, our patron's patron.

I have always been drawn to St. Paul—he authored my favorite bit of scripture (1st Corinthians 12.12-27) and he was the patron of my Field Ed Parish in Seminary: "St. Paul's in Alexandria, Virginia." The faintest of documentary evidence even suggests that we at St. Timothy's Herndon were birthed by that St. Paul's—which would at least explain our name (St. Timothy, need I remind you, was one of St. Paul's primary disciples.)



In terms of psychology. I also am fully aware of another reason why I am drawn to St. Paul of Tarsus. In a classic case of counter-transference, I am so much **unlike** St. Paul that I marvel at his writings, his biographical narrative, and his pastoral temperament. In short, Paul could be, and often was, divisive, polemical, and hard to get along with. (I am... I think... the opposite of those things!) So, as we have been going through these SAFs in Henry Hall, I have been acutely reminded of the nature of Paul's witness to the Gospel, and that of mine own.

It has also made me think of another "Saint Paul." As a buildup to this year's Haiti Agape, I have been reading Tracy Kidder's 2003 Pulitzer Prize winning book *Mountain beyond Mountains- The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World*. This *New York Times* best-selling book details Farmer's public health work in Haiti, Peru, and across the world.

Raised a Roman Catholic, Farmer was inspired by liberation theology and Catholic social teaching around God's "preferential option for the poor." He spoke truth to power, challenged the status quo, and reimagined how our global health system could be improved. Farmer, who died tragically in 2022, spent his entire life rethinking medical paradigms by going into difficult contexts and setting up life-saving hospitals and clinics. His example is motivating and daunting and everything in between.

Despite its subject matter of death and disease, the book is an uplifting and inspiring account of a modern-day individual worthy of canonization. A few examples then from the book that link our two "Pauls":

The annals of international health contain many stories of adequately financed projects that failed

*because of 'noncompliant' patients who didn't take all their medicines. Farmer said: 'The only noncompliant people are physicians. If the patient doesn't get better, it's your own fault. Fix it.'*¹

(After Farmer had disagreed with a staff member about a treatment process that would make their lives easier.) *It's a cross we must carry... You can't sympathize with the staff too much, or you risk not sympathizing with the patients.*²

Can you detect the religious zeal of the St. Paul from the New Testament? The man who was so God-smacked on the way to Damascus that he would spend the rest of his life travelling, preaching, writing letters, getting stoned, being put in jail, forming churches, watching those churches stray, and finally meeting his martyrdom for all those actions.

That's the cross that we indeed carry as followers of Christ and as members of St. Timothy's. In our particular context, we work alongside a school in Haiti that desperately needs our support... St. Mathieu's in Chapoteau (located just across the lake from where Farmer founded his clinic in Conge.) After hearing our Seminarian Marie Esther's sermon on Sunday (reprinted in part below), I had a mystical moment in church where I could imagine our congregation linked as members of the Body of Christ with our brothers and sisters in Haiti. I shared it [during our announcements](#)... this idea that the names of our congregants here in the United States had been 'French-Creolized' such that we were somehow ONE with those on the western portion of the island of Hispaniola.

God makes those sort of relationships and connections possible. The saints among us, the 'Pauls', and the members of our Haiti Ministry, the Haiti Partnership Program, the folks in the Haiti Advisory Ministry, they do that as well. They make our shared communion with our fellow congregants real by having formed and maintained this relationship with this school. This school that is a world away from us but also is right here in our hearts.

As we wind down the official part of our 2026 Haiti Agape, I humbly ask you to join with me in supporting our school in St. Mathieu's Chapoteau. You can do so by donating to the church: by writing a check to "St. Timothy's" (and putting "Haiti School Fund" in the memo line) or by giving online via our [website's giving portal](#) (selecting the "Haiti School Fund Donation" tile.)

God Bless,

Charles +

¹ Kidder, Tracy. 2003. *Mountains beyond Mountains- The Quest of Dr. Paul Famer, A Man Who Would Cure The World*. New York: Random House, 36.

² Ibid. 25

SERMON by Marie Esther Duvert
1st Sunday in Lent
February 23, 2026

As most of you know, I was born and raised in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. I have family members currently living in Haiti and I continuously pray for them because I fear for their safety due to the ongoing civil unrest. The last time I traveled to Haiti was in 2018. My mom and I planned the trip, we met there and stayed with her side of the family. We promised them that we'll come back to spend more time with them not knowing that things were about to go from bad to worse.

Haiti is a different world! A beautiful country but a place of suffering due to dire poverty. Quite often, I would hear people who have visited Haiti tell me how it was a life changing experience for them because it made them realize just how blessed they are to have been raised under different circumstances.

I was fortunate enough to have access to education, but it is not always the case for Haitian children. This is why I am very touched by the work this church has done in building St Matthieu's school for the children of Chapoteau. One of the many things that the countryside of Haiti lacks is schools. Education changes one's life and this work will impact many lives in a positive manner. In my native tongue, I would like to say "Mèsi tout moun" meaning "Thank you all" for supporting this cause.

Marie Esther Sermon.

From the Service Ministry

Thank you to everyone who donated food to the January LINK food drive. We had another successful drive and donations have been delivered to LINK clients.

Food insecurity continues to be a major issue for many of our friends and neighbors. LINK delivers food to families 5 days a week. In addition, LINK has 2 mobile food drives a month which provide a substantial quantity of food to over 400 families in the Herndon/Sterling area. If you are interested in volunteering to help LINK please contact Tom Bosworth or the Service Ministry (service@saint-timothys.org) and we can tell you about volunteering opportunities.

Stay tuned for information and dates for our Spring LINK food drive in April. Remember at any time you can place food items in the LINK basket located in the hallway to Henry Hall.

We also thank the teams who prepared and delivered dinners to the Hypothermia Shelter on February 21st and 28th: Shon and Bob Beury, Ron Boggio, Carol Fleming, Lydia Gough, Julie Gray-Roller, Carolyn Hamm, Rob Huizar, Jay and Maria LaWalt, and Steve Roque. Cornerstones Hypothermia Shelter runs from December 1st through March 31st. Clients are provided with a warm and dry place to spend the night and a hot, nutritious meal.

A huge shout out to the newly formed Women of St. Timothy's (formerly Community Engagement Ministry) for so thoughtfully preparing Blessings Bags for delivery to Cornerstones Embry Rucker Community Shelter.

Thank you St. Timothy's for Putting Your Faith to Work for our Neighbors



*Bob Beury and Julie Gray-Roller
deliver a hot meal to the Hypothermia Shelter*



Blessings Bags

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Hamm



Service Ministry Lenten Outreach 2026

This year, St. Timothy's Lenten Outreach is partnering up with “**She Believes in Me**”, a non-profit started in 2018 and based in Herndon. The mission's purpose is to inspire and empower our community by providing life skills, emotional support, and resources to vulnerable children and their families in Herndon and the surrounding areas.

Please join us **March 29th, at 11:30 am, in Henry Hall** to help assemble 50 Easter baskets for children in need in our community. We will also be looking for donations of the treats and toys to fill the baskets. This sign up sheet for these donations will be located in Henry Hall starting the weekend of March 7th. For questions please email service@saint-timothys.org.

Once again, thanks to St. Timothy's for *putting your faith to work* to serve our neighbors.



News from the Social Justice Ministry

As you know, Charles installed the members of the SJM in January of this year. Since then, we have broken into subgroups and been meeting to set priorities for this year in a variety of areas. We are focusing on assembling a database of marginalized populations that includes what their needs are, who might be providing for those needs, and those needs that may still be unserved. Our hope for this database is that the parish staff and others can use it to refer individuals seeking assistance to appropriate institutions and facilities. Additionally, by deciding what needs are still unmet in these populations, we can begin to narrow down those groups for whom we might successfully advocate.

Another priority has been to become involved, in conjunction with Cornerstones, in the movement to secure more affordable housing for our neighbors here in Northern Virginia. To that end, we sponsored an opportunity for parishioners to contact members of the General Assembly to inform them of the importance of prioritizing budgetary items that will help the unhoused and those in need of supportive housing. We will also be looking for other resources to provide parishioners



who may wish to contact both state and national legislators about policy decisions that can be informed by the values we hold as Episcopalians.

Finally, we have decided to move prayerfully into the area of advocacy on behalf of those detained in ICE facilities here in Northern Virginia. Our first undertaking in that regard has been a Prayer Vigil at noon on the Saturdays of Lent.

We began this as a small group experience with members of the

ministry, Charles, and members of the vestry. Since then, we have extended an invitation to take part to all St. Timothy's parishioners as well as to our sister Episcopal churches in the northern Virginia region. Lent is one of the times during the liturgical year when the church calls us to deepen our spirituality and reflect on how we might better live in accord with the gospel. These prayer vigils are an effort to do just that, and we hope over time to discern if these vigils might move beyond Lent and incorporate interfaith elements. Lastly, it is important to point out that these are not protests. There will be no signs and no speeches. Just prayer and hymns, and time to come together in support of our immigrant brothers and sisters who are currently experiencing significant cruelty and hardship.

Respectfully submitted by Ron Boggio

For further information, please contact socialjustice@saint-timothys.org

Pre-School Corner

Preschool Mission Creep

Friday, February 20 there was a small building problem: an inch or more of standing water in the hallway by the door to the courtyard (nothing new, unfortunately), and water steadily flowing down the wall from the ceiling tiles and wall (this is new). Water was spreading to the stairwell, to the Narthex and the mechanical room that houses the hot water heater and air handler for one of the HVAC units. What's a preschool to do?

We quickly contacted our church "building emergency" team (Charles, Andy, and Deke), cancelled class for the day, and asked the teachers to come to work to help with salvaging our wet things that are stored in that hallway. The teachers showed up with beach towels, shop vac, and directional fan. Within minutes we had our things (mostly paper products stored on the floor, sadly) moved out of the way, placed rolled towels to slow further spread of the puddle, and started the cleanup while the church team figured out the cause and worked on a patch and a plan for a fix. Some of the teachers then got to work with shop vac, towels, and fans and got rid of the water. Others did salvage and disposal work. By noon, cleanup was complete and the downstairs was ready for students to return.

I want to recognize the preschool staff for working well outside of their job descriptions to take care of the building. As one teacher put it, "The wonderful thing about St. Timothy's is that we are truly a family! We all pitch in when we need to! I love that!"

Respectfully submitted by Allyson Showalter

Vestry 2026



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Service Times		
Saturday:	7 pm	Spanish Service/Rite II
Sunday:	8 am	Rite I (English)
Sunday:	10 am	<i>Rite I in Lent</i> (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 April 2026 issue of The Word is Tuesday, March 24th

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.

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Reflection for the Season of Lent

While it's true that desert hermits and monastics had lives far removed from what we experience in a typical day, the human vulnerabilities that plagued them plague us too. The real test of spiritual maturity isn't whether it works on an isolated mountaintop cabin or a refreshing retreat center; it's whether we have been transformed so that our maturity plays out in regular life. Untold numbers of Christians, most of whom remain forgotten by history, found stillness and peace right in the middle of the stress and chaos of ordinary life, and many still do. They are the innumerable and unnamed ordinary saints—a grand cloud of witnesses who also cheer us on from just beyond the veil....

All the desert abbas and ammas show us that one-off special insights are not what bring us spiritual maturity or peace. Through the layering of situations, struggles, and seasons, we grow more devoted, mature, and wise. The inheritance in the kingdom of heaven means possessing Christlikeness; this inheritance comes in slow disbursements that take diligence and attention to learn and receive. We accomplish this not over weeks or months but over decades—over our lifetime and even into and throughout generations. The place is slow. Let's get accustomed to that and settle in for the long haul.

**Adapted from Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation for 02/20/26*

[A Living Tradition — Center for Action and Contemplation](#)