



The WORD

July 2026

Dear St. Timothy's Family,

Every November, we hear the powerful collect that describes the Anglican method of Biblical interpretation.

*Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning
Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them...¹*

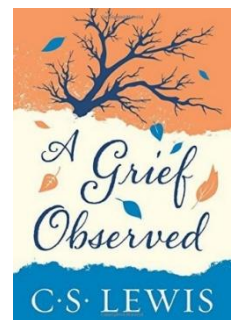


This four-fold method of experiencing Scripture can, I believe, also be applied to secular texts. I thank God for the gift of reading, for writers, for cheap paperbacks and great ponderous tomes. C.S. Lewis said it best:

I am the product of long corridors, empty sunlit rooms, upstairs indoor silences, attics explored in solitude, distant noises of gurgling cisterns and pipes, and the noises of wind under the tiles. Also of endless books. My father bought all the books he read and never got rid of them. There were books in the study, books in the drawing room, books in the cloakroom, books (two deep) in the great bookcase on the landing, Books in a bedroom, books piled as high as my shoulder in the cistern attic, books of all kinds reflecting every transient stage of my parents' interest, books readable and unreadable, books suitable for a child and books most emphatically not.²

This month is indeed my yearly WORD article about books, about reading, and about rest. Previous versions can be found [here](#) (2025) and [here](#) (2024). For the uninitiated, this is my slightly self-indulgent, annual update on what I have been reading. I write to spur a larger conversation about books and reading during what is, hopefully, a time of rest for us all.

This year, I read a few books *alongside* parishioners. C.S. Lewis again featured in this effort: *A Grief Observed* (1961) is his recounting of the time after Lewis's beloved wife Joy Davidman died. I read it with a parishioner who had recently lost their spouse. It was a moving and powerful examination of the grief process (their relationship is also depicted in the 1993 film *Shadowlands*.) Currently, I am reading Rowan Williams' *Anglican Identities* with one of our newcomers to St. Timothy's. This book, by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, traces the history of Anglican theology through a series of individuals crucial to our denomination. I usually share somewhat lighter fare with those exploring the Episcopal Church, but the reader's theological background lent itself to a "graduate" course on the subject. Still, it's a somewhat daunting read and I have been having to return to my seminary days to recall certain figures and movements from church history!



¹ *Book of Common Prayer*, pg. 236

² Lewis, C. S. 1955. *Surprised by Joy: the Shape of my Early Life*. London: Collins. 10.

The Semiquincentennial (250th) anniversary of our country and my Adult Forum series on the intersection between our country's history and faith has led me, predictably, to a focus on American history. I have shared many of those books in the monthly talks that will continue through the rest of the year. The best so far has been Serena Zabin's *The Boston Massacre: A Family History* (2020) which tells the story of the famous 1770 incident—a flashpoint in Boston that would lead, eventually, to the American Revolution. Tragically, I was struck by the parallels between the British imperial occupation of a major city in the 18th century, and the policing of our own American cities in the 21st. The violence that erupted, then and now, over the interaction between local and distant governments—and the common people caught in between—was incredibly poignant.

I also read many a book on the American Civil War—as this life-long fascination with our “American *Iliad*” simply will not go away. Further afield, I read a book by my dear friend (and occasional visitor to St. Tim's) the Reverend Pete Nunnally: *Catching Hope- The Hidden Spiritual Wisdom of Fishing*. Likewise, I finally got around to reading a book by my mentor, the Reverend Oran Warders: *Rebuilding Zion: William Holland Wilmer and the Rebirth of the Episcopal Church in Virginia, 1782–1827*. Wilmer was one of the leading lights of the resurrection of the Episcopal Church after the American Revolution, serving as Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal in Alexandria and founder of the Virginia Theological Seminary. Oran is retiring from the same St. Paul's after a quarter century as their rector. Perhaps we can bring both Pete+ and Oran+ to St. Timothy's for a book signing in the near future.

Wilmer's was not the only biography that I read. Martha Washington, Earl Weaver, Lou Gehrig, Cat Stevens, and Robert E. Lee were all the subjects of wonderful life studies that I read this year. The book about musician Cat Stevens (who changed his name to Yusuf Islam when he became a Muslim) was actually an *autobiography*, entitled *Cat: On the Road to Find Out* and it details his faith journey in a beautiful and illuminating way.

Interestingly, my “favorite” (the vaunted 5 stars on my Goodreads³) did not come from my usual stack of religious/ historical books. George P. Pelecanos' *The Sweet Forever* (1998) and Richard Price's *Lush Life* (2008) were superb crime novels that I simply could not put down... perhaps you have more recommendations from that particular genre!

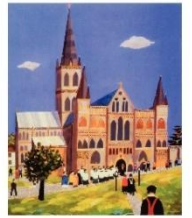
Finally, the best book that I read over the past year was Yiyun Li's *Things in Nature Merely Grow* (2025). Li, an author and teacher at Princeton, has herself survived two suicide attempts and later lost both of her sons to suicide. Her younger son, James, is the subject of this slim but remarkable book on grief. I hesitate to share anything more about the book because it is that profound and its subject matter is so devastating. My notes, though, on it read, in part:

*Areligious, almost nihilistic view of the subject but
SO WISE and BEAUTIFULLY written*

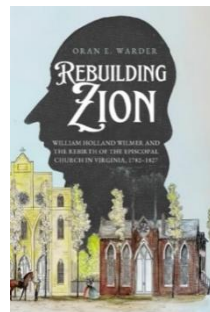
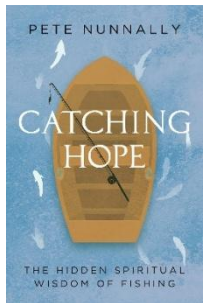
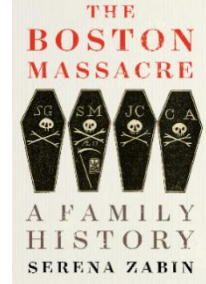
Recalling this book, and so many of the others, makes me think back to the Collect that I opened with, this reminder from Thomas Cranmer, of the need to reflect and contemplate, to share and to reflect some more. Some of Li's words might indeed dovetail nicely with ancient prayer:

I don't want an end point to my sorrow. The death of a child is not a heat wave or a snowstorm, nor an

ROWAN
WILLIAMS



American Identities



³ Find me and become my “friend” at <https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/15462021-charles-cowherd>

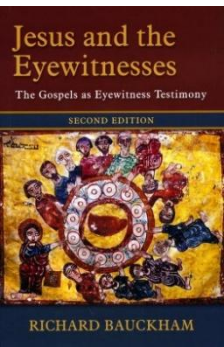
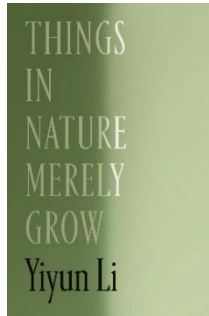
*obstacle race to rush through and win, nor an acute or chronic illness to recover from. What is grief but a word, a shortcut, a simplification of something much larger than that word... There is no real salvation from one's own life; books, however, offer the approximation of it.*⁴

"Bibliotherapy" is the technical, reductive term for this... So, what has caught your eye or do you think others would enjoy reading? What has seen you through the joys and sorrows of this life?

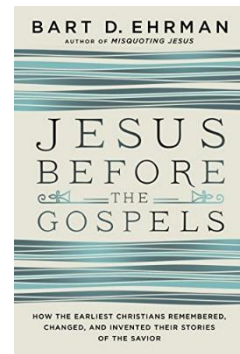
Please do share, and I hope and pray for rest and relaxation this summer, and in particular for the gift of reading during these months.

Yours in Christ,

CHARLES+

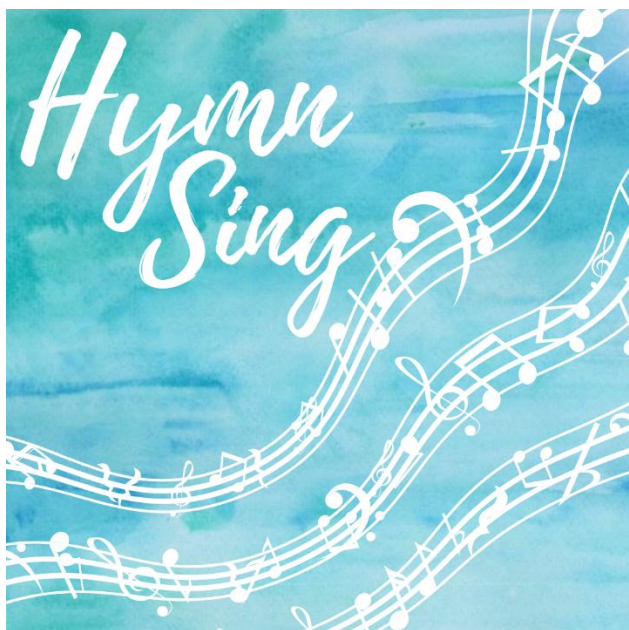


P.S.: Unfortunately, I must continue my respectful moratorium receiving books. I called for that a year ago, and the pace has down, but I still receive some (in fact, Linda Cook gave me my listed above!) In addition, the irrepressible Olga Marinenko hefty book of exegesis pictured to the left while Deke Smith, quips perhaps about engineers and Virginia Tech, dropped one Biblical studies gad-fly Bart Ehrman (to the right.) should I make of this trend of two?



on
trickled
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⁴ Li, Yiyun. 2025. *Things in Nature Merely Grow*. NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.



Summer Hymn Sing Returns July 26!

What's your favorite hymn? Find it and be ready to call it out - we are having a hymn sing! On Sunday, July 26, in place of the sermon at the 8:00 and 10:00 services, we are going to sing St. Timothy's 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 choice ready - any season, any theme, any time! If you found your request is in our blue hymnal or green supplement, you've already done your homework and there's nothing more you need to do. 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 will make it happen.

Haiti Ministry

St. Timothy's remains committed to helping Haitian children, with a specific focus on the children from the little town of Chapoteau. In the catastrophic earthquake there in 2010, our seminarian at the time (Pere Wisnel) lost several family members and our church took up the mission to help his hometown. We now support Chapoteau's church school on the side of a hill across a lake. Each year we raise money to fund the teachers' salaries and pay for backpacks and books. This commitment has helped over 250 schoolchildren get education each year.

Since conditions have prevented our visiting Chapoteau in recent years, the team will focus on strengthening and deepening our relationships with the Haitian Priest in Charge - Pere Kesner, as well as with the School Director, the teachers, and our students. We anticipate sharing Zoom calls and videos with our kids this year. We also expect to hold fundraising activities that support the interaction of our two Christian communities as we make history together. We hope someday to return to the little village of Chapoteau to celebrate our steadfast bond with this community and its children.

Below are the kind words Pere Kesner shared with us on the impact of our annual giving commitment. If you are interested in joining the team or learning more, please contact haitiministry@saint-timothys.org or John Druitt at druitt@aol.com.

FROM PERE KESNER:

It is with deep emotion and immense gratitude that I take the time today to write these few words to you. Above all, I want to say thank you. Thank you sincerely for all that you have been, for all that you have done, and for all that you represent to me, to the Saint Matthew Mission in Chapoteau, and to so many people who have benefited from your love, kindness, and faithful commitment.

I still remember with great affection our first meeting in Virginia, at the time when Brad was the priest in charge at St. Timothy's. You welcomed me with such warmth, simplicity, and respect. We shared a meal together at the church, a moment that may have seemed simple, yet was profoundly human and fraternal. I have never forgotten that day, because from that very moment, I sensed in you an authentic, generous person, deeply filled with the spirit of the Gospel.

Since that day, you have remained faithful to this noble mission of love. With patience, compassion, and sincerity, you have contributed in a remarkable way to the development of the Saint Matthew Mission in Chapoteau. Your support, your listening ear, your trust, and your commitment have been for us a true source of encouragement and hope. So many things became possible because of your open heart and your faithfulness. Some people accomplish tasks; others touch and transform lives. You are among those we can never forget.

Thank you for your sincerity.

Thank you for your trust.

Thank you for your respect.

Thank you for your friendship.

Thank you for the love with which you served the most vulnerable.

I was truly proud, happy, and honored to work alongside you in this mission. Your human and Christian witness will always remain for me an inspiration and an example of humble and genuine service.

As you have always done for me and for our mission, I promise to keep you constantly in my prayers. May the Lord bless you abundantly, grant you peace, health, joy, and comfort, and continue to guide your path with His grace and love.

With all my fraternal affection, gratitude, and blessings,

Père Kesner

Respectfully submitted by John Druitt

News from the Service Ministry

As you will see, the Service Ministry will have a busy Summer! We understand it is due to your help and generosity that our upcoming events will be successful. Thank you very much for all your help!

LINK Summer Food Drive

It's that time again! The Service Ministry is hosting a Summer food drive for LINK. 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. In addition, breakfast cereals and toilet paper are in short supply.

The drive will begin on Sunday July 12th when members of the Service Ministry will be handing out the blue LINK bags. We will be collecting food during the next two Sunday's (July 19th and July 26th).

Look for more news in upcoming editions of the E-News. You have been so supportive of this effort in the past and we look forward to another successful food drive to help our neighbors who need food assistance.

Backpack and School Supply Drive for Cornerstones

Help students start off the year right by participating in the Service Ministry's back-to-school drive! This year we will be collecting backpacks suitable for high school students (the most in demand). Stores like Costco, BJ's, Target and Walmart usually have these items in good supply. Items may be brought to the church on Sunday's or during weekday office hours and will be delivered to Cornerstones in late July. Here's what we need and when:

- Fifty brand new backpacks (without wheels) measuring 17-19" in height.
- Bring your backpacks to St. Timothy's on Sundays **starting July 5th and concluding July 26th**. You may also drop backpacks off during St. Tim's office hours. We will have a large bin in the Narthex for collection.
- If you have an Amazon Prime account or Amazon account, you may also purchase backpacks online and have them shipped directly to St. Tim's @ 432 VanBuren Street, Herndon, VA 20170. Here is an example of a backpack suitable for a high school student: <https://a.co/d/0fVdgL6P>
- If it's easier, we will be happy to shop for you using the church's tax-free Amazon account. Simply make out a check to St. Timothy's with Service Ministry on the memo line and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. You may also donate through the church's secure credit card portal at the following link: [Service Ministry Fund](#)

The Service Ministry appreciates the good people of St. Timothy's who put their faith to work for those in need in our community! Questions? Write to service@saint-timothys.org or speak with a member of the Service Ministry.

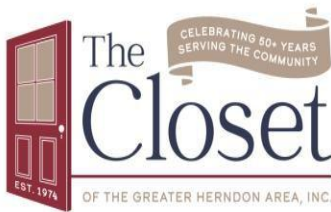
Special Project for Vacation Bible School Campers

Last year was such a success, we are doing it again. The Service Ministry will work with St. Timothy's Vacation Bible School. The Service Ministry will provide the snacks and beverages and VBS campers will put them into zip lock bags and assemble bedtime snack for adult men housed in the local community center. The snack packs will be delivered to the Cornerstones Embry Rucker Community Shelter. Thank you to the VBS organizers and campers for supporting this project and providing an opportunity to help our campers put their faith to work.

Eyeglasses Recycling

Thank you St. Timothy's for all the eyeglasses you have been donating. So far in 2026, we have collected 13 sunglasses and 57 regular glasses. The Reston Lions Club gathers all donated glasses and takes them to the Annandale Recycling Center. At that center, the glasses are read, cleaned and separated and will be shipped both domestically and internationally to people in need of glasses. If you have any glasses at your home, please drop them off at the box (near the LINK basket) and we will make sure the glasses are donated to those who need them. The need is great, thank you for putting your faith to work for the gift of sight.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Bosworth



News from The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area, Inc.

July 18 – save the date! Kids Day at The Closet. Bins and bins of our donated toys that have been in storage are now priced and will be available throughout The Closet on July 18 from 10-5. Come join the fun – and spread the word.

Other dates on The Closet calendar:

August 7-9 - Tax free shopping on the first weekend in August.

September 5 - Third Annual Closet Fashion Show

October 16-17 - Everything Christmas Sale at Moose Lodge

In May The Closet distributed \$60,000 in scholarship money to six area high schools: Herndon High School, Park View High School, South Lakes High School, Mountainview Alternative High School, Westfields High School and Dominion High School.

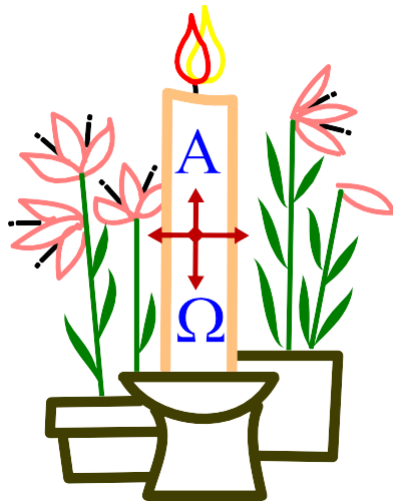
A member of St. Timothy's, Gwen Bator, passed away recently. In 1973, Gwen and Janet Shanks, another St. Timothy member proposed to the area churches that they come together and find one location for a thrift shop for those in need. Gwen was responsible for finding a site – she and her small committee visited 24

sites in the Herndon Area and recommended that The Closet rent the upstairs at Herndon Farm and Garden, located at 37 Elden Street. Rent was \$100 a month. The Closet has moved three times since and ultimately purchased the current location at 845 Station Street. The vision of Gwen and Janet grew into an organization supported by 19 congregations in the Greater Herndon Area and annually distributes over \$150,000 in grants to area non-profits. It also donated scholarship money to six high schools. From The Closet's inception, one of its goals was to assist those in need with free merchandise. The current voucher program distributes over \$150,000 in clothing and household items to clients referred by non-profit agencies. The Close has 19 paid staff; however, the main support is from volunteers from the congregations in the area, including St. Timothy, and community volunteers – including students. That small store that Gwen and Janet envisioned has become a major support of the Greater Herndon community.

If you have not visited The Closet thrift shop at 845 Station Street, please check it out – bargains every day. New items are in the store daily – clothing, kitchen, toys, books, craft items, linens and stationery.

Donation hours: 8-12 noon M, T, W, F, S – no donations on Thursday. Store closed Sundays.
Store hours: Monday and Thursday 10-8:00; T, W, F, S 10-5:00.

Betsy Bosworth	Holly Hartge	Maria LaWalt
kbkc@verizon.net	mhhvirginia@verizon.net	mjlawalt@verizon.net



News from the Social Justice Ministry

On June 13, as was mentioned in recent editions of the E-News, members of the Social Justice Ministry (SJM) met for a half-day planning retreat. We began by sharing how the work of social justice was affecting us in these difficult times, where we were experiencing frustration and where we were experiencing joy. It will be no surprise that the feelings shared ran the gamut from sadness and pain to vulnerability and a sense of accomplishment. But through it all, a sense of hope prevailed, nourished by our reliance on the Gospel and on one another. In that hope we then decided to focus on three issues for the remainder of the year: Immigration, Gender Affirmation and Hunger. More information about these foci will be forthcoming. Recently I read a meditation from Richard Rohr's Center for Action and Contemplation that captured the

hope that inspires our work. Part of it is paraphrased below:

Hope's home is at the innermost point in us, and in all things. It is a quality of aliveness. It does not come at the end, as the feeling that results from a happy outcome. Rather, it lies at the beginning, as a pulse of truth that sends us forth. When our innermost being is attuned to this pulse it will send us forth in hope, regardless of the physical circumstances of our lives. Hope fills us with the strength to stay present, to abide in the flow of the Mercy no matter what outer storms assail us. It is entered always and only through surrender; that is, through the willingness to let go of everything we are presently clinging to. And yet when we enter it, it enters *us* and fills us with its own life—a quiet strength beyond anything we have ever known.

And since that strength is, in fact, a piece of God's purposefulness coursing like sap through our own being, it will lead us in the right way. It sweeps us along in the greater flow of divine life as God moves ... toward the fulfillment of divine purpose, which is the deeper, more intense, more subtle, more intimate revelation of the heart of God and God's love for all his creation.*

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

Respectfully submitted by Ron Boggio

*<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/mercy-and-mystical-hope/>

VESTRY 2026



Rob Huizar (2027) – *Senior Warden*
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(713) 391-5214



Wanda Rixon (2028) – *Junior Warden*
SQueenofE@aol.com
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Varun Lal (2029) – *Christian Ed/ Pre-School*
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703-244-1544



Johnny Ellis (2028) – *Finance/ Social Justice*
Jellis.ems@gmail.com
845-926-7673



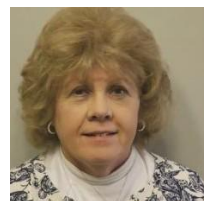
Gene Mechling (2029) – *Service*
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John McGrath (2028) – *Latino Ministry*
jdksmcgrath@verizon.net
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Sharon Nachman (2027) – *Women of St Tim's*
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703-598-6478



Christine Cozza (2029) – *Hospitality*
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703-568-4780



Terry Dominiak (Alternate) – *Shrine Mont*
tdominiak@bardicvoice.com
414-383-8700



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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 2026 issue of The
 Word is Monday, July 27th**

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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 703-437-3790 x12



Organist/Choirmaster

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 703-437-3790 x16



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 703-437-3790

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 703-437-3790 x13

St. Timothy's Pre-School Director

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PSdirector@saint-timothys.org
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Duane Hartge – Treasurer
treasurer@saint-timothys.org

Rose Berberich - Registrar

