



The WORD

Dear St. Timothy's Family,

September 2026

I can recall a conversation back at Seminary between a group of students and Dr. Lisa Kimball, the now-retired guru of all things Christian education.¹ The words from Dr. Kimball that stuck with me went something like this: "If you have a youth group or Sunday School that works for you at your church, that's great. If not, *kill it*... and put your time and effort and money in *immersive experiences*—camps, retreats, weekends, and similar events."

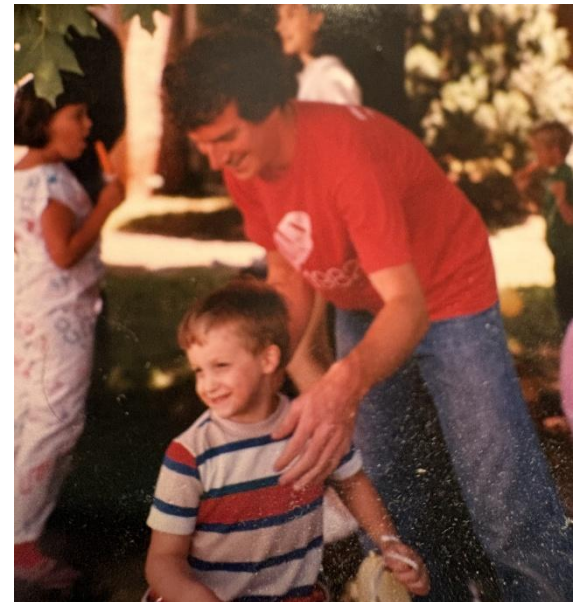


At St. Timothy's, we are incredibly fortunate to have a remarkable Godly Play program that indeed "works" for us.² Led by Pat Smith and Varun Lal and Emily Litz, our children (ages about 3 to 3rd grade) attend a Montessori-stye class every Sunday in the downstairs of our building. Throughout the year, we average about 10 children that meet as a group and grow and learn as a Christian community.

I am so thankful for that program, as a parent and as your Rector. It's not going anywhere! In fact, we are looking for a volunteer to help with the older kids who are aging out of Godly Play. (This was the age group that Matt and Alex Schumann taught before their departure overseas.)

The point, however, made by Dr. Kimball still stands and I want to talk in this edition of the WORD about immersive experiences and the importance of them for our young people. Pictured below is yours truly at Vacation Bible School in 1985 (St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Culpeper, Virginia.) I remember fondly VBS growing up and, while I also attended Sunday School (and tolerated it), the "immersion" of programs like VBS made the difference. By "immersion," I mean not only the concentrated time together but the type of wide-ranging activities, the outside-the-box thinking, the holistic formation that occurs there and is distinct from didactic instruction/ classroom education.

Thus, I have likened Vacation Bible and, even more so, overnight Camping experiences as a sort of "Steroid Shot" of faith. Those prolonged experiences are simply capable of 'moving the needle' in a young person's life in a way that can be very difficult in the week-to-week Sunday experience. At the risk of making the point too strongly, the young man in the red shirt in the picture served as a counselor at that VBS. His name is William "Yogi" Browning and I knew him growing up at St. Stephen's and have maintained a relationship with him my entire life. Most importantly, he served as a counselor at Shrine Mont Camps for many years where my siblings and I attended. Today, he works as the Associate Development Director at Woodbery Forest School but, to me growing up, he might as well have been all four Beatles combined with Michael Jordan... his presence was that Spirit-filled charismatic and kind



¹ [Forma announces Lisa Kimball as recipient of its 2026 Amelia J. Dyer Award – Episcopal News Service](#)

² [Godly Play and Christian Ed - Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church](#)

and inspirational.³

After my brother died in 2004, I was lucky, by that point in my life, to have a number of mentors from church and from camp that I looked up to. Yogi was one of them and one of the people I depended upon as I navigated such enormous grief. I still have the letter that Yogi wrote me during that time, where he invoked the Body Passage (1st Corinthians 12:12-27—the camp theme at St. George’s Camp and Shrine Mont) that provided precious comfort to me in my time of need. I asked Yogi to read the Body Passage at Leonard’s funeral at St. Stephen’s and he of course agreed. I can still hear him echoing St. Paul in his delivery: “when one part of the Body suffers, the whole Body suffers.”

I wish that that data point of one could “guarantee” somehow the long-range effects of immersive experiences. That my positive time in them could somehow translate over into every attendee that we have at our Vacation Bible School and to every kid that we send to Summer Camp. I cannot do that, of course, but I *can* quote from Lisa Kimball again talking about the importance of faith formation writ large for our young people:

The rain is coming, start building the Ark now!

And I can guarantee that we have a loving and caring VBS every year. And I can pledge to promote and financially support any child who wants to attend VBS or Summer Camp. I can invite everyone to attend our Annual Parish Retreat (another immersive experience... for adults also 😊.) I can share this picture of Todd Grivetti, our organist and choirmaster who attended VBS as well in the 1980’s and can tell you about *his* experiences there. I can share more pictures from St. Tim’s youth and children at Shrine Mont Camps over the summer (after this article). And I can invite you into conversation about how you, regardless of your age, can support those programs in the future.

God Bless,

CHARLES+

P.S. One more of me and my siblings at VBS—this time 1983 at Grace Episcopal in Kilmarnock, VA (on the Northern Neck)



³ <https://www.woodberry.org/support/alumni-and-development-team>



Isabelle and Olivia at All Saints



Dariel in the Shrine

The Schumans and Lemus Family alongside Director Brooke Nunnally





Dael and Mark and Families



Charlie, August and Dariel at St. George's



Mark and Edith in the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration



Brooke and Charles w/ St. G's Counselors

News from the Service Ministry

September is Hunger Action Month

Hunger Action Month is a nationwide awareness campaign to shed light on the reality of food insecurity and encourage individuals, communities and businesses to take concrete steps towards solutions. The Service Ministry thinks this is a good time to remind ourselves about food insecurity and hunger in our area and to highlight the good work that St. Timothy's is doing to address food insecurity and ways to help more families in need in the future. We live in one of the most affluent areas in the country. Loudon County is the richest county in America, and Fairfax County is the 5th richest county. And yet, our neighbors still experience food insecurity. Here are some facts:

- 27% of Fairfax County households experience food insecurity each year. This is up 3% since last year.
- 34% of Fairfax County students qualify for free or reduced meals.

How can this be in such an affluent area?

- Our area has some of the highest housing costs in the country.
- The costs of groceries are up 25% since 2020.
- Nearly one in four local households live paycheck-to-paycheck or cut their family food budgets.
- The number of federal government and contractor jobs has decreased.
- Federal assistance such as SNAP has been reduced. In addition, many families make too much money to qualify for SNAP benefits even when they can't afford to buy groceries.

What is St. Timothy's doing to address this issue? For decades, St. Timothy's has actively supported LINK and Cornerstones in their work to address hunger and food insecurity.

LINK services the Herndon and Sterling areas. Each month over 600 families receive food through home delivery and two mobile food pantries. In addition, the Holiday Program provides a large box of food to over 1000 families. LINK has expanded their efforts and in 2026 LINK has been able to assist 50% more families than last year! You know St. Timothy's relationship with LINK mostly through our quarterly food drives. The fall food drive starts on October 11th and runs for three weeks. Many St. Tim's parishioners volunteer for LINK by transporting food to the pantry, packing bags, delivering food, supporting the mobile food pantry and the Holiday Program.

The second organization that St. Timothy's supports is Cornerstones. For more than 55 years, Cornerstones has been changing lives and strengthening families in our community. St. Timothy's has supported Cornerstones for over 25 years. While Cornerstones is involved in a number of fronts helping our community, one of those areas is food insecurity. Cornerstones recently opened the Free from Hunger Center (the Food Hub), a large warehouse dedicated to collecting and distributing food to smaller local pantries. Through donations and partnerships with local businesses, the Food Hub has distributed more than 1 million pounds of food to local food pantries. St. Tim's supports Cornerstones through Board membership, an annual financial donation as well as by supporting the Embury Rucker Community Shelter with snack packs and meals during the hypothermia season (December through March), our summer backpack drive and the holiday Gifts for Kids Program.

If you want to learn more about St. Timothy's efforts to provide food for our community, please contact Carolyn Hamm or Tom Bosworth or any member of the Service Ministry. This fall Cornerstones is sponsoring The Abundant Harvest Season, a three-month community-wide-effort to ensure food security through education, food collection, volunteerism and philanthropy. If you would like to learn more about food needs in our community, sign up to attend the Cornerstones sponsored Food Security Forum on September 15th. The event is free however registration is required.

<https://www.cornerstonesva.org/food-security-forum>

Stay tuned for more opportunities to learn about hunger in our community including how the food donated through our LINK food drives (think of the Blue Bags) gets to clients.

As always, we thank you for putting your faith to work for our neighbors outside the walls of St. Timothy's.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Bosworth and Carolyn Hamm

VESTRY 2026



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Johnny Ellis (2028) – *Finance/ Social Justice*
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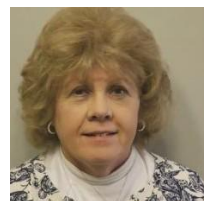
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Service Times

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
October 2026 issue of The
Word is Friday, September
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.

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Rose Berberich - Registrar

