



The WORD

Dear St. Timothy's Family,

October 2026

Soon you will receive a letter in the mail from the Church with a pledge card. Yes, it is Stewardship season! As the calendar turns to Fall, we start to do the important work of understanding our shared gifts of "Time, Talent and Treasure" as a Parish.

That Stewardship Letter promised a reprint of the Reverend Brad Rundlett's "Vision" for St. Timothy's that he first wrote in 1994, shortly after becoming the rector here. Space would not allow it in the mailed letter but it is absolutely worth sharing in full here. I am struck by how prophetic Brad+ was in describing what the church (that he would go on to lead for the next 20 years) would indeed become. You and he made that "Vision" true, and we continue to build on that work in the present and into the future.

That having been said, and as I state in my Stewardship letter (and as Brad was quick to stress as well below), that "Vision" is not really "his." Nor is it "mine" or even "ours." That Vision is God's, and we are always living into God's dream for all of us and we must listen carefully for that. We come together to pray and worship to discern that Vision every time that we gather. The hymn that we will use as our Stewardship theme "**Be Thou My Vision**" states it much better:



488-Be Thou My Vision

$E\flat$ $A\flat$ Cm $B\flat/D$ $E\flat$

 Be thou my vi - sion O Lord of my heart;
 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 High King of hea - ven, when vic' - ty is won,

$B\flat$ $B\flat/D$ $E\flat$ $E\flat/G$ $A\flat$ $B\flat(omit5)$

 all else be nought to me, save that thou art
 I e - ver with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 May I reach hea - ven's joy, bright hea - ven's Sun!

$A\flat$ $A\flat/E\flat$ $E\flat$ $E\flat/D$ $E\flat^5/C$ $Gm/B\flat$ $A\flat$ $B\flat/A\flat$

 Thou my best thought by day or by night,
 Thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
 Heart of my heart, what - ev - er be - fall

We will sing “Be Thou My Vision” as the Presentation Hymn each Sunday at the 10 am to remind ourselves to keep laser-focused on God as the endpoint of our collective vision for this church. I invite you to read and reflect upon the hymn text and, indeed, to allow the hymn to enter into your soul as you consider your pledge for 2027.

God Bless,

CHARLES+

From the Rector and Congregation: 20 Years of Vision¹

Below is a Vision written in June of 1994 by Brad Rundlett upon first accepting the call to St. Timothy's. We have asked Brad as well as other members of the congregation to respond to this vision for St. Tim's, and their insight is published at the end of this article

What follows is a description of my dream for the Church, my vision. At the urging of various people, I offer it to you for your prayer and consideration. I realize that I think in “ideals;” much of the stuff that constitutes my hopes and dreams simply can't happen in this life; sin sees to that. But this doesn't stop me from hoping, dreaming, and devoting my life to these compelling “glimpses of the Kingdom of God.” As long as God determines that I should be here, this is what I will be praying and laboring to bring to life. I humbly ask your prayers, and your thoughtful responses.

Worship is the central activity, the heartbeat of the Church. I would like to see a more extensive music ministry here. I'd like Sue and John employed more hours to develop more choirs, a larger adult choir, a hand-bell choir, and more instrumentalists. I'd like worship that brings us face to face with our terrible need for God, for salvation that reminds us and presents us with His grace, and then raises the roof with our resounding praises, everyone singing, everyone praying, everyone passionately worshipping. Our prayers should be audible praise, thanksgiving, confession, petition, intercession, and the offering of ourselves to the One who has given all for us. Our sanctuary should be a place where people can openly and honestly pour out their grief and their joy, a place of healing and transformation. We would be a people with a profound understanding of the Sacraments as the gifts and presence of God, and we would be people going out into all the world with the Good News of God in Christ and in the Holy Spirit. With regard to our worship, I would like St. Timothy's to be so filled, so overflowing with the grace of God that newcomers would declare that they have been to the very gates of Heaven.

Christians are called to serve the world and I would certainly like St. Timothy's to be exemplary in serving this community and the world. We should be people known and well-spoken of all around town; St. Timothy's should be proclaimed by all kinds of people, by our neighbors, as a Church that is visible and involved wherever there is need. I want others to know that here they can get the support they need for their lives and ministries. And each person who comes here should leave knowing that he or she is a missionary in the world. We could, without fear and without delusion, confront the difficult issues of our times: poverty, discrimination and hatred, crime, moral disintegration, lack of faith, homelessness, and diseases like Aids/ HIV and addiction. I would like to shape Ordained ministry also by continuing to serve as a field site for men and women in Seminary, showing them the Church in a way they have never seen it before, as servant to a world held in bondage to suffering and sin, yet giving love and hope. I would like each person at this Church to understand himself and herself to be sent by God to serve others.

As we serve, we also show people Jesus Christ. In this we cannot afford to make distinctions; St. Timothy's should be a place of such racial and socio-economic diversity as to preview the Kingdom of God that John describes in his revelation, “from every nation, of all tribes, peoples, and languages”. Knowing that all life is sacred, that each person is created in the image of God, we should be understanding and accepting rather than judging and excluding. We should recruit for the Body of Christ the people from our neighborhoods, from the places where we work and the places where we play, where we shop, and even in the neighborhoods of folks not like us. The Church must be a safe and hospitable place for children, for the elderly, for people with special physical and mental limits, for everyone. Each member of St. Timothy's should make it a matter of utmost personal concern to invite and welcome other people into this Church.

And once people come, they must know that they are cared for. Each person should have some training to help them-

¹ Father Brad originally wrote his “Vision” in June 1994. It was reprinted in the June 2014 WORD with responses from parishioners Carolyn Hamm, Rebecca Page and Alex Schumann as well as from Brad himself.

selves and others face the various trials that come into our lives; we should be a church of pastors, shepherds, ministers. Ideally there would be groups already gathered to support anyone experiencing divorce, marriage, being single, death, chronic illness, disability, the birth of a child, loss of a job or chronic joblessness, addiction, anger and abusiveness, aging, being a teenager, etc. I want St. Timothy's to be a place where people can disagree with each other and remain devoted to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, where people can be different, have different experiences, yet also feel and believe ourselves to be deeply and everlastingly related through the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Remembering that Christ called upon his followers to love one another as he loves them, we must love and care for each other.

Ideally, we would have educational programs for everyone in the Church, and even for people who aren't ready to make the commitment to being part of the Body of Christ. I want programs to help individuals discern their gifts and put them to use for the love of God. I would like very much to see ordinary members of the congregation preparing others for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, and Burial. We should all have a much better knowledge of Scripture, not just chapter and verse, but the very heart and spirit of the God who has inspired the stories, the people, the wisdom, the commandments, the Gospels and epistles. And to the light of our faith we should bring the questions and struggles of our lives, reflecting, praying, seeking the wisdom of God. Jesus said, "seek first the Kingdom of God, and all else will be given to you." We should have educational offerings for everyone, and everyone should be eager to learn and grow in faith.

For all of this to happen I imagine administration that works like a healthy human body: strong, resilient, flexible, well-coordinated. There would have to be participation in administration by various people, paid and volunteer. We would know how to affirm and support one another, there would be implicit trust for each person would know what he or she can do and would do it well. There would be sabbath time, recreational time, and work time. Our facilities would be well suited for our ministries, well cared for, nice but not luxurious. We would have a balanced budget with the larger portion of our common resources given away where the needs are greatest in our community and in the larger world. Good stewardship of people, time, money, abilities, and of our facilities would be obvious in all we do. There would be no burn-out, no breakdowns. St. Timothy's would operate like a well-toned athlete, well trained and well-conditioned for the work that must be done. Each person would do his or her part to build up the Body of Christ.

There are probably some things I have omitted, pieces of the dream I have inadvertently left out of this description. But the essence is here. And it could all be summarized in such words as Holy, Blessed, Radiant, a preview of the Kingdom. That's my vision of the Church, what I hope for, long for, and work for. It's what I sometimes see in you, and pray that you may see in me. And I offer it to you for the love of God, and for the sake of the world Christ came to save.

Carolynn Hamm - Senior Warden

St Timothy's has a lot to be proud of. Over the past twenty years we made good progress toward Father Brad's Vision:

- We have a robust music program (with a hand bell choir!) and just hired a full time Music Director. Talented parishioners contribute to the music program by conducting, playing instruments and singing as soloists and in groups.
- We are a community church hosting nearly 30 organizations each week, ranging from Boy Scouts and Nurturing Parents programs to groups focusing on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. We help our neighbors who are cold, hungry and homeless. We provide backpacks to school children and Christmas gifts to those who don't have much.
- We send mission teams to Haiti, the Pine Ridge Reservation in North Dakota, and the Dungannon, Virginia. Twenty-five children in a rural village in Haiti are receiving an education because of our generous support. We hope to build a kitchen for their school.
- We have a paid Director of Christian Education and Youth Programs who developed a curriculum leading to a dramatic increase in Sunday School attendance. Our Youth Group does amazing things, including a pilgrimage to New York City.

There is no doubt that St. Timothy's is a special place. As the Senior Warden my dream is to develop an infrastructure that will sustain what we've built together and allow us to grow our mission and ministry. I want us to think strategically and plan for the future in a more structured way. Over the next weeks I hope to establish a standing committee of parishioners willing to work on a strategic plan that will help us grow our faith, maintain and improve our building and property, and continue our long tradition of giving to those who need us the most.

Rebecca Page

As I read the vision for St Timothy's by Father Brad from 20 years ago, many thoughts and reflections came to mind. I am amazed at what has been accomplished so far. A few stand out: Music! In my time here we have been richly blessed with music, enabling us to feel reverence and joy to expand our worship. It has drawn me in, sustained me, taken me to the depth and breadth of wonder, beauty, joy as well as a release for sorrow and pain. We will be beginning a new journey in music soon, but we have a solid foundation and a magical hand-bell choir as well as being on our way to funding a new organ that will provide magnificent music for generations to come - a legacy.

Learning to live as one in the Body of Christ: Father Brad's vision of education and discernment and working to bring the church open to all has come so far. I have been deeply moved by seeing the different seminarians that have come through here on their journey to Ordination. I was not here 20 years ago, but in my time here I have seen many of these visions come to fruition. We can never just say we are done, though. It is a living, breathing, intentional, sacred trust that is given to us to be in the Body of Christ. The passion of the people at St. Timothy's makes it alive. I have seen and been involved with many of the richly varied ministries, missions and educational offerings here. The addition of Godly Play and the programs for our "budding" youth on their journey to adulthood. What has amazed me is the willingness of people to grow and adapt to needs of the parish, the community and the world at large. People are busy, active, engaged and inspired. We support each other. We share our highs and lows, our joys and sadness. Have we had growing pains? Yes. All living things experience them. We do not always agree, but we "come to the table" and strive to discern the greater good and wrestling with the demons that are perhaps our own will or agenda. We are human with our human frailties, but know we are striving to do the work the God has given us to do. It is in prayerful discernment and in our relationships that we fulfill the love of Christ. Be involved, find your passion, know you are here to give love and to be loved. For that is where we begin and never end. As one of my "go to" saints said: "Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." Thanks be to God and thank you Father Brad for your visions.

Alex Schumann

The first day we showed up at St. Timothy's in September 2010, we had 1 month old Cooper and were, of course, late. We walked in the front door, and as it slammed behind us, we looked up to see the bell choir performing and a man in vestments immediately came walking towards us to welcome us to church. We learned two things that day: 1. Nobody uses the front door and 2. "Welcoming" doesn't even begin to describe the rector and the church we now call home. In reflecting on Fr. Brad's vision, we're amazed at how much he and St. Tim's congregation really try to live up to it. Initially, we were drawn in by the worship, the congregation. Our noisy baby received smiles, not sneers. And as Fr. Brad dreamed, we have seen - even in the few years that we have been at Tim's - the sanctuary fill more and more each Sunday. Others have clearly felt the same warmth and desire to return each week, as seats at the 9:30 service are getting harder and harder to find! The underlying commitment to service and engagement with each other is what keeps us coming back and yearning for more. We feel so utterly cared for by our St. Tim's family that we know it's our turn to start caring for others in new ways; ways that will stretch our comfort zone and challenge our faith, and ways that will continue to make St. Tim's a sanctuary for all who enter.

The Rev. Brad Rundlett Rector

I have always resisted stating my vision for the Church because it is not "my" Church. The Church belongs to God and the people of God. Thus, vision comes from God and the people of God. So, every morning I ask God to tell me if I am to stay, or serve some other place. And every evening I ask God to care for the people I didn't visit, tend to the work I didn't finish, and turn my failures into victories. God is faithful.

Together we have enlarged and improved our music programs. We serve people in this community, Dungannon (Appalachia), Pine Ridge, and Haiti. We host twenty-five Recovery groups every week and a Nurturing Parent program once a week. We give seminarians practical experience. We really do welcome everyone into God's house. We now have two services in Spanish every week. Our facilities are larger and better. And all of the support comes from the very best professional staff and multi-talented volunteers.

But we still need to work on keeping every child safe and secure, recognizing our gifts and using them, establishing more educational and support programs for adults, and inviting more people to worship and serve with us.

The vision always extends ahead and beyond us. It will be complete when we enter the Kingdom of God.

Twenty years; it hardly seems possible. Whatever comes next, it is the greatest honor of my life to worship and serve with you. ~ Fr. Brad, 2014 +

News from the Service Ministry

October is Harvest Season

For many farmers and gardeners, October is harvest time. The pumpkin patches are open and corn mazes are everywhere. Following up on our article about Hunger Action Month in September, the Service Ministry reminds us that the number of individuals in our area dealing with food insecurity and hunger continues to rise. And this is in spite of the fact that we live in one of the most affluent areas in the United States.

Here's what we can do about it:

- Continue to support organizations like **LINK** and **Cornerstones**. Our fourth quarter food drive for **LINK kicks off October 11th**, so be sure to pick up a blue bag (or two), fill them up, and bring them back to the church on October 18th or 25th.
- Tour the Cornerstones Free from Hunger Center (also referred to as the Food Hub) on October 15th or November 10th and learn how items are collected from large food banks, grocery stores, restaurants, etc. and redistributed to smaller area food banks. [Signup Here](#)
- Talk to your family, especially if you have children in school. Many of the schools in our area collect food during the weeks up to Thanksgiving. Everyone can help. Another good lesson for our children is not to waste food!
- We love the fact that the St. Timothy's Preschool families participate in our food drives.

On September 15th the Capital Area Food Bank released its 2026 Hunger Report and two findings underscore the urgency of situation:

- Food insecurity is at a five-year high, with current estimates surpassing levels seen near the height of the pandemic.
- New legislation is expected to reduce SNAP benefits by billions of dollars over the next 10 years. When fewer people can rely on SNAP, community food pantries/providers will increasingly be called upon as a first line of defense.

Stay tuned for more opportunities to learn about ways to solve hunger in our community including how the food donated through our LINK food drives gets to its clients. If you want more information or wish to help, please contact Tom Bosworth, Carolyn Hamm or any member of the Service Ministry.

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

Respectfully submitted by Carolynn Hamm



The Closet's Everything Christmas event is coming up!

Christmas may be three months away, but The Closet's Everything Christmas event is just four weeks away! The annual sale, featuring thousands of items donated to The Closet since last Christmas, will be 3-7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16, and 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 17, upstairs at the Herndon Moose Lodge, 779 Center Street, Herndon. Please support The Closet's grants and scholarship programs by shopping and by volunteering!

Click on this link to volunteer during the week leading up to the sale

dates: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45ABA62BA6F4C61-57817780-theclosets#/>

We have special assignments for high school students. Students should register through a posting of volunteer opportunities shared by their school guidance/career office.

Questions about Everything Christmas - contact Holly Hartge (mhhvirginia@verizon.net)



PRESENTS

Everything Christmas

Your first stop for Christmas and seasonal items
for holiday décor, gifts, entertaining, and toys.

Friday, October 16 ✕ 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 17 ✕ 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Moose Lodge, 779 Center Street, Herndon, VA
Proceeds are returned to the community as grants and scholarships!



The Walk in Love Initiative
to Promote Community Visibility and Connection in Herndon
PRESS RELEASE | Sep 22, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
HERNDON, VA

- St. Timothy's Episcopal Church is launching the **Walk in Love Initiative**, a community-centered project of its Social Justice Ministry designed to promote visibility, connection, and understanding in the Alabama Drive neighborhood.
- **Beginning Wednesday, October 7, and continuing each Wednesday through November 18**, members and supporters of St. Timothy's will walk **from the church (432 Van Buren St.) starting at 4 pm** through the Alabama Drive neighborhood to the 7-Eleven on Elden Street and back. The walks will take place during the after-school pickup window.
- The initiative seeks to provide witness to and broaden the visibility of community members who live, work, and gather in the area. It also aims to help demystify the neighborhood for those who may not live there and may hold inaccurate or preconceived notions about its safety and character.

"Walking together is a simple way to provide witness, build relationships, be present, and recognize the strength of a vibrant, family-filled community," said Nia Ravenstahl, a member of the Social Justice Ministry at St. Timothy's. "We hope to reflect the values of Jesus shared in Ephesians 5:2: 'Walk in love, as Christ has loved us, and has given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God.' Our hope is that these walks will encourage connection and challenge assumptions by allowing people to experience the neighborhood and allow for a sense of community and security."

The **Walk in Love Initiative** reflects St. Timothy's commitment to social justice, community engagement, and the belief that all of God's children belong in our community, and that meaningful change begins with presence, listening, and relationship-building.

Community members are welcome to participate.

For more information, please contact Ron Boggio, Ministry Chair of the Social Justice Ministry at socialjustice@saint-timothys.org or the Reverend Charles Cowherd, Rector of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church at priest@saint-timothys.org or 703-437-3790.

JOIN US!

The Town of Herndon Town Council Candidate Forum

Hosted by Cornerstones and St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

- Meet the candidates
- Hear their views on key issues
- Get informed before you vote!

**Event will be live-streamed
and recorded*

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
432 Van Buren Street
Herndon, VA 20170

Thursday, October 15, 2026
7:00PM - 9:00PM

Brought to you in partnership with:



Scan the
QR code
to register

Visit cornerstonesva.org/candidate-forum for
more information on candidates and program.

VESTRY 2026



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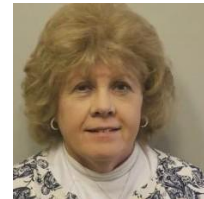
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Service Times

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
 November 2026 issue of The
 WORD is Monday October
 26th**

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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