

The **Angler**

Faith Fellowship Service



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Creve Coeur, MO

Mid-December, 2011

Christmas

2011





Stirrings...



"I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God bestowed when my hands were laid on you. The spirit God has given us is no timid spirit, but rather one that makes us strong, loving and wise."

2 Timothy 1 6:7

It was the year 1939. Some children from the larger English cities were being evacuated to the English countryside because of the threat of the Luftwaffe bombing.

A professor of literature at Oxford, known to his friends as Jack Lewis, to us, C.S. Lewis welcomed four children from London to his home, the Kilns, in Oxford. Now, consider these ingredients: a wartime struggle between the evil of Nazi Germany and an England resolved to resist Hitler; a nearby forest filled with animal life; finally, a child who had discovered a wardrobe in an upstairs bedroom, and who believed that wardrobe to be magical. Mix those ingredients and you have the beginnings of a wonderful story! Lewis called the stories—seven all told—*The Chronicles of Narnia*; we'll consider for a moment just one of them, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

While a summer student at Oxford a few years ago, I met some delightful people who had been friends of C.S. Lewis, who had died on November 22, 1963, the same day President John Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. I was invited to go with them to visit Lewis' house, which had been empty for some years ... it was adjacent to a large wooded area, with many old trees and twisting paths, which my friends called Narnia, of course. It was in these woods, and in a local pub that Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien would meet and talk about their stories, Narnia and *The Lord of the Rings*. And in an upstairs bedroom there was ... that wardrobe ... so, you know the story? The Lion? The Witch? Tumnus the Faun? The children's names? Who was Rumblebuffin?

Linked to the Narnia stories, Christmas 2011 continues to tell a story about good and evil. About love. About love never ending. No mighty lions, just a few old sheep and maybe a cow and a donkey ... the animals of ordinary working folk. And a baby ... a newborn infant ... a mother, a teen mother, bringing her child into a world of strife, violence, oppression; in a country occupied by a foreign army. A world where women and children were mistreated, where some people were slaves. And, what do you think is the meaning of the story? Unlike Narnia, these were all real people, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and shepherds. All real people in a real place. It really happened. And the ultimate truth of the story is grounded in the existence of a God who, once hidden from humanity, and revealed in mere glimpses through the beauty of the created universe, and the occasional prophet or poet, once hidden is now revealed, is now seen in the eyes of a newly born little boy.

Consider for a moment the eyes of infants, aren't they fascinating? Inquiring, seeking, reaching out, absorbing everyone and everything, reaching out, trusting. You know the story about the child who draws a picture of God, and the teacher says no one knows what God looks like, and the child says, "they will now." Now we know what God looks like ... the eyes of a newborn Jewish child born in a stable ... these are truly the eyes of God ... taking us all in ... welcoming us into the realms of the divine, of the holy, of the forever. Come to teach us about love, about trust, about, yes, the forever struggle between what is godly, what is good, and that which is not godly, not good.

Continued on page 3

Stirrings, cont'd.

And our place in this story? As an infant awaits the response of its mother and father to its open, trusting, wide-eyed trust, so does God in Jesus the Christ await our response.

For a child has been born for us ... and he is named Wonderful Counselor, mighty God,

Prince of Peace ... and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. All Christmas peace and joy be yours this holy season, this splendid Christmas 2011

Jack +

Building Addition Update



The Facilities Needs Committee is doing one last review of the construction documents for the new addition. Hopefully, the drawings will be going out to bid by the time this newsletter "goes to print." Although people don't work as hard over the holidays, the contractors bidding our project are hungry to put together competitive bids for us. We are now looking at receiving bids in 4-6 weeks.

There are still some smaller issues being resolved, including determining the water pressure available to our site. We need adequate pressure to supply the new fire sprinkler system in the new parish hall. Another issue is documenting the best way to fix the chronic leak under the stairway near the Columbarium. We are also planning to remedy the leaks over

the education building by replacing the roof and adding new, sloping insulation to ensure good, positive drainage.

Since the last drawing review, drainage, landscaping, slate pavers and a curved wall expanding the columbarium's capacity have been added in the courtyard. A 38-foot diameter concrete slab has also been added, which we will eventually surface in a way to create a labyrinth. This will provide an opportunity for people to walk in contemplative prayer among the serenity of our courtyard. If you haven't seen a labyrinth try researching them on line.

Caryl Fox



A Smarter Way of Giving: Appreciated Stock

It's a good idea to give **appreciated stock** rather than cash because it allows you to enjoy the full tax deduction while avoiding capital gain taxes. This is particularly helpful in paying down large pledges. Funds in a 401k or IRA do not qualify. Funds must in a standard after-tax portfolio. If you would like details on exactly how this is done, contact Alice Fritsch or Norm Moenkhaus.

Music for January 2012

January 1 – Sunday

The St. Timothy Choir

January 7 – Saturday

Five PM – Solemn Festival Evensong
for The Feast of the Epiphany
The St. Timothy Choir
The St. Timothy Recorder Consort

January 8 – Sunday

The St. Timothy Choir
The St. Timothy Youth Ensemble
Bob Bell, Bass Soloist

January 14 – Saturday

Matt Bear, Guest Organist
Mary Robert, Soprano Soloist and
Cantor

January 15 – Sunday

Matt Bear, Guest Organist
The St. Timothy Choir
Pat Evans, Flute and Steve Crock,
Guitar

January 21 – Saturday

John Hexem, Pianist and Cantor

January 22 – Sunday

The St. Timothy Choir
The St. Timothy Bell Choir

January 28 – Saturday

Alice Fritsch, Soprano Soloist and
Cantor

January 29 – Sunday

The St. Timothy Choir
The St. Timothy Recorder Consort

Latest Joplin Update: On Dec 8, Roy Moore, Tina Heuer and Ginni Campbell made a one-day pilgrimage to Joplin to meet with the new Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA), the current and past Presidents and the Church secretary. We also viewed the site of the former church – now a remaining parking lot and the slab foundation. It was an emotional experience as we looked at the 'footprint' of the sanctuary, collected small bits of broken glass from the stained glass windows, and walked across the brick walkway to the 'entrance' of the Church. As you may remember from previous articles, Peace Lutheran was being served by an Interim Pastor at the time of the tornado and was in the final stages of selecting a new Pastor. The Rev. Kathy Redpath joined them on Aug.1 as the new Pastor. In addition to losing their entire building and welcoming their new Pastor, they are facing the uncertainty of the city's master plan for rebuilding the tornado's three-fourths by six- mile path of total devastation – will their street be zoned totally commercial, will they have visible access to the church parking, will they want to be located in the middle of a multi-block strip

center. With all of this and a new Pastor, they are facing a major discernment process of who they are and where they want to go.

They are all very positive, upbeat people and were a delight to visit. Our discussion served more as a brainstorming session for how St. Tim's might help them as they moved forward rather than any concrete ideas or plans at this point. There are some strong possibilities but it will be up to them to determine their needs and how we can assist them as they move forward in daunting but exciting possibilities. We will continue our communication and idea sharing and hope to come up with some specific ideas after the first of the year. Stay tuned!

Watch the Bulletin Board for photos and a surprise from our expedition!

Ginni Campbell, Outreach Chair

Many Voices CDs Make Meaningful, Treasured Christmas Gifts

The phone rings and a voice asks, "How'd you like to make a CD?" Hmm...mow the lawn, grocery shop, balance the checkbook, OR make a CD!

We gathered a few weeks later, water bottles in hand, confident we could record one or two psalms in a few minutes and have the rest of the afternoon free. Several hours later, grocery shopping was beginning to look attractive. Excellent readers were stumbling over simple phrases; Missouri accents were creeping into Hebrew literature: "Yes, I know it's pronounced 'fore,' let me record it again." Then we adults watched as a five-year-old and her four-year-old brother breezed in and out in one take.

But it was well worth it and the resulting "Many Voices" CD has debuted to rave reviews. This recording of psalms is not meant to compete with English choir boys chanting in Canterbury Cathedral. Rather, it reflects the ordinary lives of all who have prayed to God for thousands of years, using these words.

The readers and musicians who recorded these affirmations of hope, cries for help, and acclamations of praise include our own St. Timothy's parishioners: Ron Batty, Bob Bell, Steve Crock, John Hexem, and Karen Sharp. They are joined by Rabbi James Stone Goodman of Congregation Neve Shalom and Central Reform Congregation, Katelyn and Nathan Wilkerson (ages 5 and 4, respectively), Kaley Plaisted (age 10 and avid reader of the Harry Potter series), Julia Richardson who recorded her sessions between trips to Russia, Matt Seilback (husband, father and film maker), and Steven Madjarac whose son, Petar, traveled home so he could read with his dad.

They all generously gave of their time and talents because 100% of the profit from sales goes to local area food banks to give voice to those who need to be heard. A November 21, 2011 interview with St. Louis Area Food Bank director Matt Dace includes this exchange:

Dace: *"If things continue as they have over the last quarter being able to keep up with demand from the 500 agencies we serve who collectively serve 261,000 people is going to be a chore that we're not able to complete."*

Lloyd: *"What happens if you don't have the food?"*

Dace: *"People just don't eat."*

Feeding the hungry is no longer an abstract concept – the hungry live in our neighborhoods, work beside us, and join us in our places of worship. If, in future, your phone rings and someone asks, "How'd you like to make a CD?" ... say "yes." It's a life-changing experience for everyone.

If you would like to purchase "Many Voices" as a gift, or for someone who can no longer read, to listen to in the car on the way to work, or to give praise to God, please contact me at

bolwell@sbcglobal.net

Agnes Bolwell

Deacon Jan Meets Our Presiding Bishop

Call it the luck of the Irish: I had the opportunity to pick up our Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori, from Lambert airport when she arrived to spend November 19 and 20 at the Diocesan Convention held at Christ Church Cathedral. I will not soon forget this unexpected treat. She arrived from Atlanta a few minutes before her husband Richard landed from LaGuardia. I wore my clerical collar, hoping to help Bishop Katharine recognize me; but no need, she was wearing her collar with a purple shirt, and having seen her picture many times I had no trouble spotting her as she exited the "A" concourse. I hold a delightful memory of how much she wanted to know about our outreach ministries at St. Timothy's. She asked many more questions about us than I could possibly ask her. She showed particular interest in our creating a relationship with Sigel, a city school; starting a community garden; developing support for Joplin in our sister diocese; and our investment in third world countries through Kiva. Our projects clearly start literally in our own back yard and stretch around the world.

After this fruitful conversation and pointing out the area in north St. Louis where our Bishop Wayne plans to plant a neighborhood ministry, I was able to deliver our guests without a hitch to their downtown hotel, because, truthfully, I had made a trial run.

Katharine met with all clergy on Friday morning before the formal convening of the convention. I was impressed with her pastoral gifts as she led a meditation based on gospel accounts of Jesus' baptism, with God's voice saying: you are my beloved and in you I am well pleased. What an important message for clergy; what an important reminder for you and me...we are God's beloved! Never defensive, Bishop Katharine answered easy and tough questions from the clergy. I am proud that a woman of such depth and breadth is serving as our Presiding Bishop.

Deacon Jan O'Neil

SEEKING COMPUTER GURUS

Are you technically savvy? Are you looking to use those skills in God's service? Are you available on a weekday? Are you interested in joining a small group of like-minded St. Tim's people who do a technical ministry at Sigel School (the inner-city school that St. Tim's has partnered with)?

We are looking for people to join us in servicing the computers in Sigel School's computer lab, as well as classroom computers. It involves about 3 days a year – in late August, in November, & in March/April.

If you're interested, please contact Sue Eastes at sueeastes@gmail.com, or at 636-779-2807.

From the
**Director of Christian
Education**

**Peggy
Huesemann**

December. Try as I might to make our family Christmas a simple one, December is filled with "stuff" that attempts to deter me from my goal. I found myself driving yesterday repeating:

"What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be."

It is from my favorite prayer:

*Lord,
it is night.*

The night is for stillness.

Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.

*What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done;
let it be.*

The night is dark.

*Let our fears of the darkness of the world
and of our own lives rest in you.*

The night is quiet.

*Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.*

The night heralds the dawn.

*Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.*

In your name we pray.

Amen.

The New Zealand Prayer Book, Night Prayer, page 184

I wish you and your families a joyous Christmas.

*Let us look expectantly to a new "year"
new joys; new possibilities.*

Blessings,
Peggy

After the Family Worship Service which is at 9:00 on December 18th, there will be a **Birthday Party for Jesus** - a celebration including snacks, activities, cake and singing during the regular Sunday School hour for Weavers. The teens will meet in their classes.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 - Sue Ann McAvoy | 14-Gwen Muzik | 21-Nancy Davidson |
| 3 - Ron Kirkpatrick | Aidan Phillips | Irene Cummins |
| 6 - Stan Viglione | 16-Joe Yokota | Keith Boyd |
| 7 - Matthew Palmer | Miranda Robert | 29-Amy Conard |
| 9 - Kellie Aldrich | Gary Shreiner | Ron Fleck |
| Dean Bye | 18-Bob Critchell | Blair Porter |
| Lorna Peirce | 19-Cynthia Fox | 31-Norma Rayfield |
| Diane Brost | Amanda Ives | |
| 10- Madeline Zwikelmaier | 20-Chet Kozicki | |
| Bitsy Hastings | | |
| 12- Kat Setzer | | |



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 - Tricia and Jack Fleming | 21-Karen and Toby Hafeli |
| 3 - Holly and Howie Wilson | 22-Betty and Ed Harris |
| 4 - Pat and Andy Arras | 26-Kathy and Charlie Holland |
| 12-Madeline and Kurt Zwikelmaier | |

Save the Date: January 29 - One service at 9:00 followed by the Annual Meeting of the parish.

Please Join Us
Wednesday, January 11 6:00 PM
St. Timothy's Spirituality Group

We will begin with Evening Prayer, followed by a "bring-it-yourself" brown bag dinner. Then we will discuss "The Spirit of Kahlil Gibran," the Lebanese-American philosophical essayist, novelist, mystical poet, and artist.

Among his best-known works is *The Prophet*, a book of 26 poetic essays. The Prophet, who has lived in a foreign city 12 years, is about to board a ship that will take him home. He is stopped by a group of people, to whom he teaches the mysteries of life.

It is well to give when asked but it is better to give unasked, through understanding.

Kahlil Gibran, 'On Giving,' *The Prophet*, 1923

Financial Snapshot November 2011

Target revenues and expenses for 11 months (Budget %)	91.67%
Actual pledge and plate receipts for 11 months	88.64%
Actual expenses for 11 months	88.08%

Our finances continue to be very strong through November of 2011. We show a surplus at this point of \$27k and anticipate attaining our budgeted surplus by year's end.

Please be sure to pay any outstanding pledge in December so that we can continue on a firm financial footing this year.

The Finance Committee

St. Timothy's Mission Statement

Inspired by the Spirit of Christ, we glorify God by being a welcoming Christian community with meaningful and joyous worship, challenging education and care and respect for all God's creation, while proclaiming the Gospel and reaching out to the world.

Saint Timothy's Calendar

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Prompt Delivery Appreciated

