



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Creve Coeur, MO

September, 2009

“We Gather
Together...”

Working Hand-in-Hand with God-
Stewardship at St. Timothy's



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 has been a few years since I've sailed our old boat, now departed; an English pocket sloop-alacrity model, named the Brendan, after St. Brendan, the Irish monk who reportedly sailed from the west of Ireland to the northeast coast of North America. Sailing on the Mississippi in the Alton pool was always an adventure, with the current, fast-moving barges, the quickness of summer thunderstorms rising on the river demanding a fair amount of attention. It was always good to stay alert and ready for whatever might happen.

Not a bad model for leaders in any situation. But more to the point of this Stirrings, a good model for our ministry together at St. Tim's.

Paying attention to where we are and where we are going as a parish, and "checking the tell-tales on the mast " to see from what direction the prevailing wind is blowing is a good part of pastoral leadership.

Thus these observations about "best practice churches" as we prepare to rally around the beginning of a new church season.

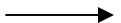
This excerpt is from "Faith, Focus and Leadership" (keys to excellence in six Episcopal churches). Listed here are five keys that marked these parishes as "*successful*" (my italics)

First: The faith is taught from the pulpit. The preaching of short, simple sermons, which come out of the scripture and apply to the daily lives of the people of the parish is central to the success of these parishes...without this essential component of parish life, the community will not thrive.

Second. The whole parish strives to live out the reality of being the community of faith. This comes out in the high levels of mutual support given one another in times of crisis, in high levels of interpersonal sharing in both formal and informal settings, and in the maturity with which people deal with each other. People hold remaining in relationship with each other as a highest value, and the result is that they can truly struggle with questions of what it means to be faithful, knowing that a strong difference of opinion on this matter will not result in a conflict which will divide and possibly harm the parish. This enables these communities to take calculated risks which in turn enables them to grow and to learn from both their successes and their failures.

Third. Each parish has sought to find a unique and specific focus for its life and ministry.. this focus keeps the parish moving forward...it emerges out of a combination of the parish's unique situation and the mandates of the gospel as perceived by the leadership of the congregation, both lay and ordained. The emergence of this focus is almost organic, and once identified it becomes central to the parish's ministry and identity.

Fourth. The self-differentiated leadership of the clergy is perhaps the most critical and difficult key. The leadership of clergy who both know themselves and their beliefs and who hold remaining in touch with and in service to their



Continued from page 2...

people as a primary aim is central to success.... if one does not truly love the people of one's parish, then the parish will never achieve excellence. At the same time, if one is unable to be a "self" in the face of the demands of the people of the community then one will be unable to lead at all.

Fifth. Self-differentiated lay leadership. Strong clergy are not enough. They must be matched by strong lay leadership. The people are the church and the role of the laity is central. The exact nature of the relationship between strong clergy and strong laity is complex, but working out this relationship in mutual ministry is an essential dimension of thriving parishes.

So much for now...I will continue in the next edition of Stirrings to explore aspects of strong clergy and strong lay leadership as a background for a dialogue about the future of St. Timothy's in the next 2-3 years.

I anticipate that our visioning process will begin later this fall and into next spring.

The Spirit, as the scriptures says, blows where it will. I want us to be in a position to catch that good wind in our sails, and move forward.

Successfully...? More to the point, Faithfully!

Jack +

From the Stewardship Team...

The St. Timothy's community practices year-round stewardship of time, talent, and treasure. In the coming weeks, we will have a number of opportunities to consider our commitments for the coming year. On September 12-13, there will be a combined Ministry Fair and Rally Day. On Saturday evening and Sunday morning representatives of the many ministries of St. Tim's will be available to talk to you about their work and how you can participate. There will be a reception on Saturday evening after the 5:00 service and a continental breakfast on

Sunday morning between the services while you move among the tables. Stewardship packets will be available on Saturday evening, September 19 and Sunday morning, September 20.

You may return your pledge forms at any time, but pledges will be placed on the altar on October 17 and 18 at all services. Please join in these activities with us in the coming weeks.

Your Stewardship Team

Congratulations to Kimi and Andy Becker and big brother A.J. on the birth of Ava Christine on August 10. She weighed 8 lbs and was 23 inches long.

Mary Gaffey's great-grandson, Brayden Scott Johnson, was baptized at St. Timothy's on August 23. His parents are Elaine Komasinski and Scott Johnson.

From the Senior Warden

September brings us all back together with Rally Day, Stewardship kick off and the beginning of another year of Church School, Adult Forum and many other activities. Belonging to a church community like St. Timothy's gives us all opportunities to learn and grow together, give of our time, talent and treasure and even have fun!

I enjoy reading Joan Chittister, who is a well known Benedictine writer, and I would share one of her short sayings about community with you:

"People join groups in order to do together what cannot possibly be done equally as well alone. Choose your communities carefully. They are changing the world. More than that, they change you."

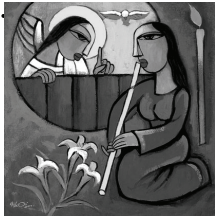
Yours in Christ,
Holly Wilson, Senior Warden

The Women's Study

Group is up and running!

We received an overwhelming number of responses – nearly 50 in all – and I am so glad to be able to offer a six-week study on Women in the Bible. Session I will take place every Wednesday morning from 8:30 until 9:45, from 9/23 until 11/04 (skipping 10/07). I plan to lead a structured discussion requiring minimal reading ahead of time from each participant. Topics will include, but are not limited to:

-The Creation Story: In Genesis, two versions of the Creation story are presented – Gen 1:1-2:3, and Gen 2:4-2:25. Each story has different implications for women, and for our understanding of femininity, gender, and identity. What can we learn about ourselves and about traditional Christian gender norms from these stories?



-Song of Solomon: The Song of Solomon, also known as the Song of Songs, is the only book of the Bible that is written from a first-person female perspective. Who is this woman? What can we learn from this short book, which is nearly ignored by the lectionary?

-Unnamed Women of the Bible: While many women in the Bible are well-known to us (Mary of Nazareth and Deborah the Judge, to name two), some of the most intriguing women remain nameless. Jephthah's Daughter from Judges 11, for example, was sacrificed by her father after a victorious battle. Though she remains unnamed, Jephthah's Daughter has been honored by Jewish women for centuries, especially in Medieval times. What can we learn from the Unnamed Women of the Bible?

Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Space – please indicate whether or not you need child-care. Feel free to email me at emily@saint-tims.org if you have any questions!
Emily+

Music for September 2009

September 5 – Saturday

Matt Bear, Baritone Soloist and Cantor

September 6 – Sunday

Bob Bell, Baritone Soloist and
Piano Soloist

September 12 – Saturday

Sara Vanacht, Piano
Percy Vanacht, Piano

September 13 – Sunday

The Saint Timothy Choir
The Saint Timothy Bell Choir
(Accompaniment)
The Saint Timothy Brass

September 19 – Saturday

Marlene Gruber Clark, Soprano Soloist

September 20 – Sunday

The Saint Timothy Choir
The Saint Timothy Recorder Consort

September 26 – Saturday

Mary Robert, Soprano Soloist
Matt Bear, Guest Organist

September 27 – Sunday

The Saint Timothy Choir
The Saint Timothy Bell Choir
Matt Bear, Guest Organist and
Choir Director

**EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI
COMMISSION ON DISMANTLING RACISM
and
THE MISSOURI HISTORY MUSEUM**

present

TRACES OF THE TRADE: A Story from the Deep North

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKER

KATRINA BROWNE, descendant of the
DeWolf Slave Trading Family of Bristol, Rhode Island

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2009

**FIRST SHOWING AT 2:00 P.M.
SECOND SHOWING AT 7:00 P.M.**

at the

**MISSOURI HISTORY MUSEUM
Lindell & DeBaliviere in Forest Park**

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

COOKIE AND COFFEERECEPTION TO FOLLOW



Health and Hunger Team Plans Health Fair—And You're Invited!

The Health and Hunger team is planning a health fair on September 25-26. The Parkway Area Adult Education morning ESL classes that meet at St. Timothy's and on Parkway's Fern Ridge campus will be invited, along with the parish and local community. The event coincides with and supports Parkway Adult Ed's health literacy pilot project. St. Luke's Hospital plans to send staff members to do some simple health screenings and promote wellness offerings of the hospital, and we are seeking other agencies or individuals with information or screenings to participate as well.

We're looking for people from St. Tim's who'd like to work on putting the event together or who'd like to be present at the fair with information, screenings, chair massages, and so forth.

For general information, please contact Debbie Smith: dlmsmith@gmail.com or 314.489.7386.

If anyone in the congregation works in a health care or related field and would

like to have a presence at the Health Fair on September 25 and 26, please contact Ann Schweiss at annschweiss@aol.com. The Health & Hunger team would love to include members of the parish as exhibitors as well as attendees.

Health Speakers: Also as part of the health literacy pilot project, Health and Hunger is looking for St. Tim's folks with any type of health expertise (or experience) who would be willing to speak to Parkway's adult ESL and GED students during the months of September, October, and November. Personal stories of living with health issues, wellness stories, and information from health professionals about public or individual health issues would be a tremendous addition to the lessons students will be having. Talks can be interactive and don't need to be long. Most opportunities will be Monday-Friday mornings at St. Timothy's, but there may be some afternoon or evening options as well. Again, if you can help with this, contact Debbie Smith: dlmsmith@gmail.com or 314.489.7386.

Parishioners Serve Peace Meal at St. John's

On Saturday, July 25, 9 of us went to St. John's Episcopal by Tower Grove Park to prepare and serve a free lunch to anyone who dropped in. The first shift included Judy Maloney, Carolyn Moore, Diane Brost and Susan Moenkhaus. After we followed the recipes that were provided and created the meal the second shift arrived to serve it—Debbie Smith, Agnes Bolwell, Holly Wilson, and Peggy and Keith Boyd. We enjoyed the opportunity to take part in this program that is supported by the Diocese. The next meal we're participating in is on November 14.

Rachel Kohn's Report on Her Mission Trip to Brazil, Part 1

Hi Everybody!

Thank you again for all of your donations and support for my trip to Brazil! I had a fantastic time!

The first week I went on a boat trip on the Rio Negro. My first day was full of new experiences. For breakfast I had eggs, crackers, butter, and green peel oranges! I slept in a hammock and in the first village I had fire ants crawl in my sneaker! For lunch each day, it was rice with beans, noodles, and a Brazilian food called yucca. Everyone that I met was so nice and caring. A group from Malibu was also with me on the boat. I had fun asking them which celebrities they had seen in Los Angeles and they had a lot fun teaching me a new game called invisible football! I loved talking to the translators and learning new phrases in Portuguese. It was cool when they spoke Portuguese slowly and I tried to understand what they were saying using my Spanish.

We had three doctors and a pharmacist on the boat. Each day, the boat stopped at a different village. I mostly helped with vacation bible school. One reason why VBS was such a great thing to do was because it gave the parents time to visit the medical clinics. I had a

lot of fun singing songs, playing games (like ponto, ponto, goose-duck, duck--goose), participating in bible story skits, and just interacting with the children. I loved being able to connect with them on a personal level. One phrase I used a lot was voce gosto? , which means 'you like...'. Often I would ask "voce gosto el futbol" and their answer of course was "sim, sim!" That leads to another thing I enjoyed--playing soccer in the villages. It was cool that I was able to take part in a game that they loved. A special moment I had during the week was when I gave one of my t-shirts to a girl. I told her, "You can say you have an American shirt!" At one house, a bunch of the kids was eager to show me their puppies! They wanted picture after picture of me with their pets. Each night we held a worship service with the village. Everybody sang songs in English and Portuguese. At the first service of the week I saw a tarantula on the ceiling. It was all good until I looked up and it wasn't in its place anymore..!

Rachel

(Read the next installment of Rachel's most wonderful story in the late September Angler.)

Men's Bible Study to Resume

Men's Bible Study will resume Wednesday morning at 6:45, September 23. The bible study focuses on the lessons for the coming Sunday. After the reading of the texts, a discussion ensues. The study is led by Jack Fleming, our rector.

This weekly study is open to any man in the parish. This past year 12 men participated in the study with lively and thought provoking conversation. You are invited to be part of this group!

From the
Director of
Christian Education

Peggy
Huesemann

It is that time of year when I go to the ophthalmologist. I know exactly what will be said; it has been the same since I was a child, "correction required." The first time I heard that I would be wearing glasses I was excited, believing that they would make me look smarter. A few years later, my mind responded with, "not glasses, contacts." In college, I remember being thankful that I was still covered by my parents' insurance and much later being even more thankful that I had my own insurance. Who knows what will pop into my mind this time.

Responses to Bible lessons work in the same way. While the readings are the same, in a three-year rotation, it is our response that makes such a difference. Remember the first time you heard of Noah's ark, were you thinking about all the animals, I was. Along the way I questioned the ark; pondered if I would have been on the ark or would have perished; reminded myself that it took Noah three attempts and two weeks to gain the knowledge he needed by releasing the dove; and thought about the important roles of the nameless women.

Revisit our Bible stories, alone or with someone you care about. Reflect on them with a wondering mind and a joyous heart. See them through new eyes.

Faithfully,
Peggy



Calling All Teens: Grades 7-12

Mark your calendars for
Sunday, September 20 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Using your ideas for a "Social Event"...

The fun and activities will be outside!

(In case of poor weather we will move indoors.)

RSVP by September 17 to

Emily@saint-tims.org

Humans only—thank you

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 - Sally Hall | 13 - Lenene Andre | 25 - Bud Bosanquet |
| 2 - Becky Porter | 14 - Elise Zwickelmaier | Percy Vanacht |
| 4 - Bob Rouse | 15 - Adam Barnes | Mike Cummins |
| Mary Wrausmann | Marin Moenkhaus | 26 - Nancy Wetzel |
| 5 - Jack Danforth | Sally Sandy | Kathy Rutter |
| 6 - Andy Becker | Tina Warhover | Sarah Johnson |
| 8 - Jim Hinrichs | 16 - Charles Holland | 27 - William Crock |
| Susan Sorsen | 17 - Joan Dewey | Robin Turner |
| Mike Lissner | Jessalyn Kohn | 28 - Jimmy Aldrich |
| 9 - Lance Kramer | Robert Bell | 29 - Peg Luther |
| Dee Dee Stone | 20 - Teresa McDowell | 30 - Nick Mason |
| 11 - Maxine Sharp | 22 - Patrick Fox | Kimi Becker |
| 12 - Linnet Dean | 23 - Larry Thomas | |

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 5 - Peggy and Keith Boyd | 14 - Jane and Michael Wyland |
| 7 - Sally and Jack Danforth | 20 - Nancy and Bob Levitt |
| 10 - Robin and Chuck Turner | 22 - Karma and Bill Crowell |
| Rita and George Podolsky | Rose Marie and Robert Bell |



The sympathy of the parish is extended to Danielle Pennel and her family on the death of her grandfather and to Jane Perna on the death of her brother, Richard Trent.

Women's Evening Study Group to Begin in October

Deacon Jan will lead a book club style discussion group, which will read and discuss selected chapters from Anne Lamott's book, "Traveling Mercies." The book is about faith and parenting in a complex world and is available on Amazon. The sessions will meet every Tuesday evening for 6 weeks, on October 13, 20, 27, November 3, 10, and 17, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Please sign up in the gathering space and indicate whether you will need child care. E-mail Jan at jawoneil@gmail.com if you have questions.



Financial Snapshot July 2009

Target revenues and expenses for 7 months (Budget %) 58.33%

Actual pledge and plate receipts for 7 months 59.49%

Actual expenses for 7 months 59.74%

Income and expenses through July are evenly balanced. This is very good news as the summer months tend to be slow and our income typically falls behind our expenses at this time of the year.

We are projected to end the year on budget.

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.

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Dated Church Material
Prompt Delivery Appreciated