

The Angler

Faith Fellowship Service

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Creve Coeur, MO

January, 2016



Dear Good People of St. Timothy's,

In the year of our Lord 2015 St. Timothy's Episcopal Church has been especially blessed with babies: Nolan Edward Wischnowsky, Sneijder Manueles Hernandez, Flynn Marshall Smith, Clark Randolph Loechner, Sonia Anna Vishal, Caitlin Amanda Hotra, Bryan Nordmeyer. There have been and we hope that there will continue to be a lot of extra baptismal days and we will have a few of those services that are a little longer.

Baptisms are among my favorite duties as a priest. This is one of the main reasons that after many years of working in the hospital setting where I saw people passing through some their most difficult experiences, I returned to work in pastoral ministry. I love to be with families at every stage of their lives and I love to bear witness to the wonderful story of God's love, especially at the time of baptism.

The power of the Christmas story to attract us, I think is found in the magic of a baby. I don't think that there is such a thing as an ordinary baby. I remember as a very young man, laughing at a comedian who said, "What do people mean when they say, "What a beautiful baby? All babies look like Eisenhower." Bald, big eyed and drooling.

Now my mind has changed. I am the one who never sees a baby that isn't beautiful. The wonder of innocence and the power of the infant to present to us the perfect image of human potential and promise, their first smiles,

the imponderable knowingness of their solemn looks. A baby will glance at the most stony hearted old coot and melt him down into a cooing old fool into an instant.

But why is this baby is important? The baby who came at the wrong time, in the wrong place, to the wrong people. A young, unwed mother. A virgin, the traditions say. He was born away from home, unwelcomed, in an obscure corner of the world. He was born to an enslaved people, who were being occupied by the greatest military power in the world at the time. The circumstances of his birth were not auspicious by the world's standards. He was born among the powerless. If you think about it, it was the perfect stage for God to perform his most wonderful work.

I think we are so amazed and captivated by the baby Jesus because this child was not just their child, to those parents, to his nation, to his time. He is every child. He is our child. His birth is the wondrous rebirth of all. His birth marks with power and clarity the fact that God is ever near us. As my old professor, Jack Stanton, used to say: "Nearer than our hands and our feet." The birth of Jesus is the birth of hope and light. His birth is the incarnation of God.

These theological words are hard for us, because they tell us that two things which seem to be mutually exclusive are both true. He is born of a woman, a virgin, a real woman. He is human. Really human. He is also the one of whom the angels sing. He is the Son of God. God from God. In-carnation - in the flesh.

From the Rector, cont'd.

As I was giving Christmas communion to one of our older ladies who is known for speaking her mind, I spoke about this mystery. "He is both man in form of this tiny and helpless baby and he is:

true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

She said, "That's a pretty neat trick." And it is. It is the central mystery of this great cycle of fast and feast which we call the incarnation. So the ordinary is extraordinary, the human is divine, sinful is made righteous, the mortal given immortality, the mortal is now immortal.

And if God is in the person of this bald, big eyed drooling baby, if God can

overturn all worldly pretensions in his humble birth, if God can cast down the mighty from their thrones with a baby's smile, if God can be born, then we can live, overcome, be forgiven and transcend all our fears and limitations. The God who is our God has come to dwell in the frail tent of our flesh and has also in the cross broken the power of sin and mortality. This one born so vulnerable, whose body was later torn upon the cross, has shown us the power of love and is the occasion for our greatest joy.

"You [Christ] have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love. Caress us with your tiny hands, embrace us with your tiny arms, and pierce us with your soft sweet cries." We put our life in your hands and pray to be yours for ever. Amen. (Bernard of Clairvaux.)

Marvin+

Christmas Eve Pageant Note

All children, including your relatives, neighbors, friends, and visitors children, are invited to join us in proclaiming the Christmas Eve gospel at the 5:00 service.

We are doing a "pick-up pageant." Starting at 4:15, as the children arrive, they will be invited to the parish hall, where they will join the preparation. The nursery will be available for our youngest children at 4:30. We'll have cookies and hot chocolate while everyone gets settled-in to a costume and a role, and do a couple of walk-throughs before lining up at 4:50. (There are only 4 speaking/reading parts, and those have been pre-assigned just so they can practice.)

All children will be invited to come forward and sit on the floor closer to the story that evening, whether they are in costume or come early, or not. Please join us. If you have any questions about this, please contact Heidi Carter Clark, Lay Associate for Ministry.

MUSIC NOTES

Sitting in my office typing this note, it is really challenging to imagine that soon we will gather to celebrate Jesus' birth. My personal holiday preparations are, well, somewhat behind, however the Choir is very well along in polishing their part of the Christmastide festivities. As noted elsewhere in this issue of *The Angler*, our late service this year will begin at 10.00 with Carols and Anthems of the season commencing at 9.30. A featured work will be a fresh setting of the text *Go, tell it on the mountain* by a classmate of mine, John Abdenour, Organist and Choirmaster at St. Paul's Church, Fairfield, Connecticut.

In looking ahead, special mention must be made that Sunday 31 January at all services we will be observing our Patronal Feast – the Feast of Saints Timothy, Titus, and Silas, Companions of Saint Paul. Evensong will also be sung that afternoon at 5.00. Our Choir will be joined by the Choir from Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church and their Director, David Erwin. Herbert Sumsion's *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis* in A, and the very beautiful anthem *Jesu, lover of my soul* by Philip W.J. Stopford will be sung. As always, a lovely reception will follow in the Gathering Place.

Very warmest wishes from all of the musicians of this Parish to our St. Tim's family and friends for a blessed and safe Christmastide and a very prosperous New Year.

Pax,

Mark

Mark R. Scholtz
Director of Music

This Sunday, December 20, will be the last session of Sunday school for 2015. Classes will resume on January 10 (not January 3). We intend to hold classes on January 17, MLK weekend, but there will be no Sunday school on January 24, Annual Meeting Sunday.

Have a Merry Christmas and happy holidays!

Robert W. Phillips
Sunday School Coordinator



Advent Event Recap

On the morning of Sunday November 29th, around 75 children, parents, and grandparents ate cookies, listened to Christmas music, and made amazing crafts at the Advent Event. This program has been held annually for over 20 years by a crafty group of St. Tim's ladies led by Anne Teymouri.

More goes into this seemingly effortless program than you might think. Anne, Val Michael and Madeline Zwickelmaier started meeting the middle of October and came up with some amazing crafts focusing on the specific skills of all ages of children, independently or with minimal help by an adult. Some of the crafts this year included; making wreaths from beads or buttons, decorating ornaments and candles, making an open bible from chocolate. Each year there are new and interesting craft options, but clearly the most popular table this year was making the Shepard's Trail Mix.

Since children don't have money to buy gifts, this event gives children a chance to make something to give their teachers, friends and family. It is one of the many opportunities to invite guests and extended family into our church. This celebration is both a casual and welcoming time, bringing together the generations to mark the beginning of the Christmas season.

To be involved in next year's Advent Event, keep an eye out for holiday craft ideas for kids and look for announcements of the planning meetings early next October.

Many thanks to all who made this year's event so successful.



St Timothy's Kiva Team



Kiva allows lenders to make a loan to people in more than 80 countries, so they can start or improve a business, go to school, or otherwise improve their lives. This non-profit organization has a mission to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. Kiva works with microfinance institutions on five continents to provide loans to people without access to traditional banking systems. Leveraging the internet and a worldwide network of microfinance institutions, Kiva lets individuals lend as little as \$25 to help create opportunity around the world. Since Kiva was founded in 2005, over 1.35 million lenders have made loans exceeding \$777 million in 83 different countries, with a repayment rate of 98.46%.

In December 2015, St. Timothy's made 20 additional Kiva loans, totaling \$1,875. These loans were made to individuals or small groups in 14 countries where we had not previously made loans: Albania, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Kosovo, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, and Tanzania. Since 2011, St. Timothy's has used original donations of \$3,627.17 to provide 173 loans totaling \$16,450 to individuals or small groups across 55 countries, in these 11 different sectors: Agriculture, Arts, Clothing, Construction, Education, Food, Health, Housing, Personal Use, Retail, and Services. Loan repayments are used to fund more loans. Of the 173 loans made so far: 110 were paid in full, 21 were paid with minor losses due to currency exchange rates, 1 defaulted, 22 are in payback status, 1 was just fully funded and 18 are still in fundraising status. Learn more about Kiva loans made by St. Timothy's on our lender page: <http://www.kiva.org/lender/saint3913>.



Mitten Tree

Several bags of scarves, mittens, and hats were delivered to Grace Hill Settlement House. Grace Hill works toward ensuring that every child, every family, and every community has the opportunity to succeed. Children get the opportunity to pick the items we donate for holiday gifts for family members. <http://gracehillsettlement.org>.

Many thanks to all who contributed. Many items were handmade.



Why do we gather as Christians?

What do we want to do as followers of Christ?

Where do we want to go as a congregation at St. Timothy's?

Fantastic questions, exciting questions, engaging questions . . . and we need your help to find OUR answers! We all want to be part of a parish that we personally feel is doing God's work, both within our parish family and in our greater community. And to do that we need your help discerning where we need to go!

So, mark your calendars for the first of our monthly "First Wednesday" sessions. The working title is "Dinner and Discussion: What's Next for St. Tim's." We're kicking everything off on **January 6 in the Parish Hall at 6:00 p.m. Childcare available. No potluck . . . just bring yourself.**

In our first session we'll focus on St. Tim's overall mission and vision and begin to identify what is important to our congregation. In later sessions, we'll then take deeper looks into specific areas of church life like Fellowship, Pastoral Care, Worship, Communication, and Outreach.

So, please join us for our first "First Wednesday," January 6 at 6:00 p.m.. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex or online. We need to hear from you!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to the "design team" that Father Marvin brought together to structure this incredibly important church-wide conversation: Kathy Dyer, Gina Frey, Jon Hotra, Adrian Moore, Rob Muschany, Rick Sharp, Mike Wyland, and Kurt Zwickelmaier.

WHY ENVELOPES ???

About this time of year, we all get a box of pledge envelopes for the coming year. Why bother? Whose idea was this anyway? Some people use them every Sunday without fail, others set them on a shelf, put them in a drawer, or otherwise forget about them. It is so easy to just write the check or toss a twenty in the basket. After all it all goes in the same place, right? To St. Tim's. But how does it get there? Several steps are involved.

- 1- Two people collect the plates at the end of every service and after the final service of the weekend they begin to sort it all out.
- 2- The envelopes go in numeric order and the amount is entered on a form, but we must make sure the amount on the check matches what it says on the front of the envelope. What you didn't put the amount there? Then we do, so that the total on the envelopes matches the total on the form, and that matches the amount on the check itself. Then total all. 1, 2, 3 and done.
3. What about the loose checks? Aha, they go to the "other" form, which is a lined sheet where the date, env.# (if on the check), name, memo and amount are hand recorded (5 entries instead of 1). That is fine for all donations not pledge, such as food pantry, flowers, memorials etc. But... Someone has to then record these in the books so you may get your quarterly statement, and we know you want it to be accurate.
- 4- Every week you don't use the envelope, someone is doing two or three times the work for you.
- 5-For those among you fully digital and sending your pledge by automated checks from your bank, a tip that makes that recording easier. Please put your envelope number in the account title such as Pledge #107 or on a memo line if available.

We do appreciate every dollar we receive for St. Timothy's support and outreach but for the sake of the hours expended by our volunteers, let's try to make it as efficient as possible. Know that most Sunday afternoons someone is giving their time for all of us.

Thank you, from all the counters

Important Information From Our Treasurers

Here are some important tips for parishioners who wish to donate stock to St. timothy's:

1. Your broker will need to know our broker's name, DTC number, and account number. To get the information, email us at treasurer.at.saint.tims@gmail.com or call Rick Sharp or Alice Fritsch.
1. Be sure to email us or tell us you are donating "x" shares of (stock name) and what calendar year it's for. Also tell us its purpose—to pay your pledge, as a memorial, for example.

This is VERY important as our broker cannot tell us who the donor is without spending time in research. We must match the donation to your email or letter.

Thank you for your support of St. Timothy's.

Rick Sharp

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Vestry Nominations

Four new Vestry members will be elected at the Annual Meeting of the parish on **January 24**. Please plan to attend this very important meeting. The following have been nominated to serve on Vestry - Jim Clark, Jon Hotra, Rob Muschany, Nancy Setzer, Ginni Campbell, Judy Maloney, and Andrea Johnson. Watch for bios and pictures to be posted in the Gathering Space.

At the Adult Forum on January 17th, you can meet the Candidates for Vestry and Endowment.

Christmas Services

Dec 24th

Christmas Eve 5:00 • Pageant & Holy Eucharist
Christmas Eve 9:30 • Anthems & Carols of the Season
Christmas Eve 10:00 • Holy Eucharist



Dec 25th

Christmas Day 10:00 am • Holy Eucharist

Blessings at Thanksgiving - 29 parishoners and their guests gathered at St. Timothy's to celebrate this wonderful day together. A very long table was set in the hallway outside the fellowship hall with candles, flowers, and music as the backdrop for all our blessings. From appetizers to pecan pie, we had a delicious meal with everyone contributing their favorite dish. A thank you to Caroline Kelsey and Nancy Setzer for organizing this special dinner. It has become a tradition!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Sue Ann McAvoy | 14 Gwen Muzik | Keith Boyd |
| 7 Matthew Palmer | Aidan Phillips | 24 Blaire Holmes |
| 9 Kellie Aldrich | 15 Sneijder Hernandez | 29 Amy Conard |
| Lorna Peirce | 16 Joe Yokota | Ron Fleck |
| Diane Brost | Miranda Robert | Blair Porter |
| 10 Madeline Zwikelmaier | Gary Shreiner | 30 Jennifer Wischnowsky |
| Bitsy Hastings | Charlotte Bukowski | 31 Norma Rayfield |
| 12 Kathryn Setzer | 21 Nancy Davidson | |
| | Irene Cummins | |

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|----|--|
| 3 | Mary Robert and David Hawley |
| 12 | Madeline and Kurt Zwikelmaier |
| 21 | Karen and Toby Hafeli Michelle and Larry Holmes |

The sympathy of the parish is extended to the family of Dr. Vincent Perna who died on October 28 and to the family of Philip Muzik who died on December 11.

Around St. Tim's

Worship Bags The worship bags are now off of the floor! These contain puzzles, paper, markers, and other items to busy hands while they worship. Adults use them too! Thanks Mitzi Uyemura for arranging for this nicely organized and welcoming presentation of the Worship Bags. If you would like to help us refresh the supplies in these, please let Mitzi rmuyemura@att.net or Ms. Heidi know.

Worship Bulletin Artwork We are pleased to feature children's art on our 9:00 Family Worship bulletins. If your child would like to submit a drawing, painting, a photograph of something they made with legos or clay, or something they take care of, like a plant, animal, or younger sibling - please send an image to Ms. Heidi and we'll get them published.

Sunday School Teachers During this holiday season, please take a moment to say thank you to your child's Sunday school teacher. These wonderful men and women give so much time to our youngest parishioners every Sunday here at St. Timothy's. They are helping us build faithful, knowledgeable Christians who are already learning to be in service to others.

Financial Snapshot for November 2015, the first 11 months of the year

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|---|-----|
| Target revenues and expenses (Budget %) | 92% |
| Actual plate receipts | 88% |
| Actual pledge receipts | 93% |
| Actual expenses | 87% |

Year to date revenues continue to outpace expenses in by \$21,926 but we did have a \$5,157 surplus in November. The Finance Committee is at work this month finalizing the budget for 2016.

Thanks for your support!

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