



SAINT TIMOTHY'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
CREVE COEUR, MO



August -  
September  
**2021**

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Creve Coeur, MO

**“Although  
the world  
is full of  
suffering,  
it is full  
also of the  
overcoming  
of it.”**



-Helen Keller

# From the Interim Rector



## Interim Expectations and Reflections:

Interim work is always a challenge, balancing the need for normalcy, but also the need to explore deeply entrenched systems that may no longer be working for a parish. There is a prescribed curriculum, a process to undertake, and there are usually pretty predictable outcomes and discoveries. But, add a global pandemic to that, an election year, a divided country, and a seismic shift in the economy – and all bets are off. Ordinarily, there is a prescribed timeline for study and reflection and investigation into the life of a parish, but that timeline has been thrown out the window.

For my first 10 months here, most of us could not worship God together in person. The familiarity of coffee hour, potlucks and conversations were essentially off the table. And just as things began to turn around, something called the “delta variant” came knocking. Masks on? Masks off? Singing? Rally Day? Huh? But here’s what I DO know. God is in this process with us – and Jesus has not abandoned the ship. Having said all that, having acknowledged the disruptions of life in general, I offer you these few observations.

I see a parish with great faith and with a solid core. The “solid core” far outnumbers the game players and the pot stirrers – which is a good thing. What is most indicative of the health of a parish is its behavior during times of stress and change. What I have noted here is that your identities are intertwined with the mission and vision of this place. You love this parish and you love one another, and that is very Good News and predictive of a very viable future.

The biggest challenge I see for St. Timothy’s revolves around what I call the 20/80 maxim: 20% of the people do 80% of the work. The challenge for us is to move the needle, because when we move from the 20/80 maxim to the 30/70 point, we ensure future growth and expansion of both the Gospel and St. Timothy’s in this little part of God’s Kingdom. It forces us to seek new opportunities to share what it is we love about this place with those who currently live outside of this place.

Planning for the next step in the congregation’s future takes prayer, wisdom, and buy-in from all stakeholders. We need all voices. We need people willing to find God in liminal space. Predictably and unfortunately, transitional times are also a time where some people sense an opportunity to exit. They may act out, hoping people will notice, or they may quietly disappear, hoping no one will notice. This is nobody’s fault; they are simply wrestling, as Jacob did, with God and with their faith. All we can do is love them and leave the doors open – and keep going on.

The key for any church in times of transition is to **emphasize transformation and renewal** rather than continuity. The biblical role model for this approach is John the Baptist, who God called to prepare the way for the one who would follow him. We aren’t just sitting and waiting. We seek to offer new opportunities for community service, for faith formation, and for pursuing justice while maintaining our penchant for relevant and beautiful worship. The entirety of those components is our proclamation of the Gospel.

The future is bright, but it depends on each one of us. The time is now, not when the new rector arrives. Now. Christ is counting on you!

In Christ,

*Liz +*

# Neighbors Feeding Neighbors: Our Mission in Action

By Nancy Setzer

St. Timothy's once again collected food and supplies through its "Neighbors Feeding Neighbors" program. Begun last fall by the Invite Welcome Connect ministry, the items collected then went to the Trinity Episcopal Church Food Pantry in the Central West End. This summer's collection was organized by Reaching Out Ministries, with the items going to the Parkway School District Food Pantry.



## At St. Timothy's:

189 reusable Neighbors Feeding Neighbors bags were taken home by St. Tim's parishioners to distribute to people in their neighborhoods, and 156 filled bags were returned. It was calculated that each bag held about 15 items, for a total of 2,340 items collected. Everything was transferred to paper bags, loaded up, and delivered to the Parkway School District Food Pantry at Northeast Middle School.

## At the Parkway Food Pantry:

St. Tim's volunteers unloaded the bags from 4 vehicles and took them into the Parkway Food Pantry. The photo below shows (R to L) Amy and Peter Conard, Nancy Setzer, and Mitzi Uyemura standing behind the 156 bags donated by our St. Tim's Neighbors!

The program was started by 2 Parkway School District social workers, designed for use by Parkway students and employees. Food is picked up on the third Tuesday of every month from 12 - 2 p.m. Families without transportation can have food delivered to them. Bags are packed for family size and the availability of items, while honoring allergies, religious restrictions, and checking for expiration dates.



A core group of Parkway Food Pantry volunteer mothers organize and shelve all the food and help with distribution. The actual packing of bags is done 3 days before the recipients arrive at the pantry. The St. Louis Food Bank delivers 8 - 10 pallets of fresh produce every month to include in the bags. In June 2021, 212 families were served, but the average during the school year is 250 families.

One of the Reaching Out Ministry's goals is to coordinate with local organizations, working to live its mission: **We empower St. Timothy's congregation to radiate Christ's presence by reaching out through service, giving and advocacy.**

**Our Mission in Action!**

# What is a Deacon? And who is Jeff Goldone?

By The Rev. Jeff Goldone

Jesus told his followers that when we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and care for the sick, we are caring for him. Service and ministry to the poor and oppressed was a central part of Jesus' preaching and his active ministry. And from the earliest days of Christianity, servant ministry has been considered an essential part of being a follower of Christ.

Early deacons were special servants of the bishop and were to identify those in need to the bishop and the church. They were to bring alms to the poor, and they encouraged the baptized to help in that ministry to those in need. Deacons were the eyes and ears of the bishop in the community.

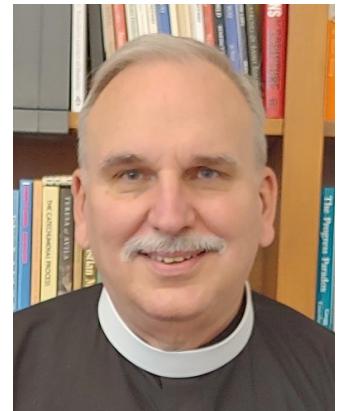
I was ordained as a transitional deacon on June 19, 2021. This time as a transitional deacon is a preliminary step toward ordination as a priest and a required practice of the canons of the church. On that day, Bishop Deon Johnson said to me, "God now calls you to a special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely. You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns and hopes of the world. You are to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacrament. At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself."

I see my role as bringing to the St. Timothy's congregation the needs I see in our community and our world, and to continually remind the congregation of our baptismal covenant that in serving others we are serving Christ. In the first half of the Sunday service, the Liturgy of the Word, I assume a role of an angel, a messenger, and a bearer of good news when I proclaim the Gospel. I invite the congregation to pray for those in need during the prayers of the people, and I preach from time to time.

During the second part of the service, Holy Communion, I assume the role of a "waiter," preparing the eucharistic table, receiving, preparing, and placing the bread and wine on the altar. As a deacon, I am also a "wine steward," elevating the chalice as the congregation is invited to receive Hoy Communion. My 45-plus years in food service management certainly helped prepare me for this role. And I even get to clear the table and perform dishwashing duties when all have been fed!

The dismissal at the end of the service is also a part of the deacon's angelic role by sending the congregation out to love and serve the Lord.

There are a few roles of the church that a deacon is not permitted to perform, namely the A, B, C's. A deacon cannot Absolve, Bless, or Consecrate. Only a priest or bishop is allowed to perform those functions. Nor can a deacon be in charge of a congregation. And while a deacon may have a voice at a vestry meeting, s/he does not have voting privileges.



In my former life, I graduated in 1980 with a degree in Foods and Nutrition from Dominican University in River Forest, IL. My career took me to many parts of the country, generally working with not-for-profit senior living communities and hospitals. I worked for Lutheran Senior Services here in the St. Louis area for 27 years as the administrator of dining services, overseeing dining at nine senior living communities that served 2.5 million meals annually. In 2014 I left the organization and started a small consulting company, which COVID helped to fizzle out. I have been an instructor at Fontbonne University for the past eight years.

I was raised Roman Catholic and was active in the church until 2012 when I decided the Episcopal Church was a better fit for my spirituality and for who Jesus wanted me to be. I believe I was called to the priesthood at the age of eight or nine but didn't pursue ordination for a multitude of reasons. Fortunately, God and I are both patient and persistent, and here we are today. I studied three years at the Episcopal School of Ministry, sponsored by the Diocese of Missouri. I have also completed several Anglican Study courses at Eden Seminary. And I am relieved to say I completed my General Ordination Exams (GOE's) this past January.

Christ Church Cathedral has been my home parish since 2012. I immediately began a very active role in the life of the congregation with a focus toward outreach ministry (Winter Outreach Shelter Ministry, Miss Carol's Saturday Morning Breakfast Ministry, and Cathedral Housing Ministry). I served on the Chapter of the Cathedral (the Chapter is what the Vestry is called in a Cathedral) as a member for

one year, Junior Warden for one year, and Senior Warden for two years. I was a lector, Eucharistic Minister, adult formation teacher, and preacher at the Cathedral during my time there.

The COVID pandemic has curtailed many of my service ministry activities, which I greatly miss, especially serving the unhoused neighbors of the Cathedral. I had taught anger management classes to formerly incarcerated folks for more than five years with Criminal Justice Ministry, which I had to stop due to the virus. I hope to get back into service soon once the health risks are curtailed.

I currently work as a chaplain with the SSM Health System, at St. Louis University Hospital and Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital. This ministry allows me to safely visit the sick (one of the Corporal Works of Mercy) and their families, and to bring Christ's love and healing presence to all. I feel spiritually fulfilled by the work God has called me to

do. Since 1999 I've lived in a historic home in the Shaw neighborhood of St. Louis, and I have the most beautiful yellow lab, Clare, who is seven and my pride and joy. I enjoy cooking and gardening and traveling.

Bishop Johnson has assigned me to St. Timothy's until my priestly ordination on December 19 of this year. After that time, God has not yet revealed the plan. I learned long ago not to worry about these things. It's always going to be God's way and in God's time. I just need to be open to the spirit. During my six months at St. Tim's, I plan to assist in the ministry of the Pastoral Care Committee, conduct some adult formation programs, and learn how to become the best priest I possibly can. I am grateful for the opportunity to be with the St. Tim's family, allowing me to serve you and your community, and for being such a welcoming and affirming congregation to me. I look forward with great anticipation and joy as we walk our faith journey together.

## Q & A with Deacon Jeff

**Angler:** Is the Episcopal School of Ministry a seminary?

**Jeff:** The Episcopal School of Ministry provided a three-year program of academic study, sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri. It provides formation for future priests, deacons, and lay individuals who want to grow in their faith and service to the church, but aren't able to attend a regular seminary, or are answering a call later in life like myself. Classes were held at Eden Seminary on one Friday evening and an all day Saturday once each month. I completed the nine courses that were offered. Right now the program is going through some transition. In addition to ESM, I also completed three Anglican Studies courses through Eden Seminary.

**Angler:** What was your favorite part of this training?

**Jeff:** Being raised Catholic, I did not get a lot of Bible Study, so studying the Old Testament and New Testament was very valuable to me. The theology courses were challenging, but helped solidify my thoughts, feelings, and beliefs.

**Angler:** You said you believe you were called to the priesthood at the age of 8 or 9. What do you mean?

**Jeff:** By 8 or 9, I was already an altar boy in my Catholic church, and really admired the priest; I wanted to be a priest. My Aunt Julia bought me a child's vestment set, and my grandfather built me an altar set, and I played with that for years, using Necco Wafers and Kool-Aid for the bread and wine! I knew there was something there for me.

**Angler:** What were some of the reasons you didn't pursue the priesthood earlier in your life?

**Jeff:** As a teenager I was unsure of my sexuality. I felt I was different and I knew the Church would not be accepting of my homosexuality. If I pursued the priesthood I would

either have to lie to the Church or to God, and I was not willing to do either. I had to be true to myself and who God created me to be. So becoming a priest was all pushed to the back burner. I would prefer not going into detail, but in 2010 I was able to personally experience first hand the hurtfulness that discrimination can cause. I grew from that painful experience, including an opportunity for my faith to grow stronger. After seeing discrimination happen to other gay and lesbian men and women by the Catholic Church, I made the difficult decision to leave the Church in 2012 and was warmly welcomed and received into the Episcopal Church by Bishop Wayne Smith in 2013. And the Holy Spirit took over from there, as I actively began my discernment toward ordination.

**Angler:** What was it that drew you to the Episcopal Church?

**Jeff:** Its diversity and acceptance of all people, loving everyone, and the richness and tradition of the liturgy.

**Angler:** Did your career bring you to St. Louis?

**Jeff:** Yes, in 1986, I received a job transfer from Roanoke, Virginia. I anticipated being here three years. Well, 35 years later, I'm still here.

**Angler:** You worked for a long time in food service for senior living communities. What kept you in that business?

**Jeff:** I started my foodservice career at the age of 16 working in the local hospital in my town. After obtaining my B.A. degree in Foods and Nutrition from Dominican University in 1980, I moved through the varied career levels of dining management. As Administrator of Dining Services for Lutheran Senior Services for 27 years, I saw my position as a vocation, not a job. I believe I played a vital role in the nutritional health and well being of all the residents I served.

**Let's wear our name tags so Deacon Jeff can learn our names!**

# The Search for St. Timothy's New Rector



## St. Timothy's Discernment Team Covenant

We, the Discernment Team of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Creve Coeur, Missouri, believe that we have been called into being for a dedicated purpose: to discern the movement and work of the Holy Spirit which will enable us to call a rector who will faithfully lead St. Timothy's Church.

In pursuing this purpose we believe the following core values are the foundation of our work:

Faithfulness: We will, with God's help, conduct this work of discernment with prayer and listening.

Honesty: We will, with God's help, speak truthfully and with love.

Integrity: We will, with God's help, demonstrate integrity in our words and actions throughout our discernment process.

Communication: We will, with God's help, openly communicate within our team as well as with the congregation when appropriate.

Joy: We will, with God's help, joyfully serve and dedicate ourselves to this purpose.

We covenant with one another to uphold these core values. We commit to praying daily, worshipping regularly, keeping confidentiality, and serving with compassion.

The Discernment Team facilitated 12 sessions of Conversations for Discernment and heard 80 members' comments about St. Timothy's and hopes for the parish's future. We thank everyone who was able to attend one of the meetings or who sent us your responses. The answers to the 4 questions asked at those sessions having the most frequent mentions are given here:

### Question 1: What does a future full of hope look like at St. Tim's?

Here is some of what we heard:

- A vibrant, full church with a growing, diverse community, especially young families
- Expanding into our community beyond our walls and engaging and supporting people beyond our members
- Strong youth programs, hands-on service projects, and large gatherings of our community
- Accepting of ongoing change, full of creativity and innovation
- Openness as well as a safe space to disagree and ask questions.

## Question 2 had two parts: First, **What are St. Tim's strengths?**

You answered:

- Warm and welcoming community that clearly loves and cares about each other.
- Limitless opportunities as shown by adapting in new ways during the pandemic
- Beauty of our sanctuary and spaces as well as financially stable
- Liturgy bringing all to the communion table with traditional as well as family-oriented options
- Engaged, deeply committed members
- Strong ministries of feeding others, music, and Invite Welcome Connect

Then we asked, "**What areas need improvement?**" and you said, "**We need ...**"

- Vibrant youth and young families' programs
- To resolve our weekend services – how many, when, and types
- To understand who we are and who we want to be. Be willing to reinvent.
- To bring together the different "cliques" in our congregation and really get to know each other better and build bridges
- To invite others to our church and quickly connect new members while understanding that while everyone is welcome, not everyone will fit.
- More diversity in our congregation (cultural, ethnic, LGBTQ+)
- To engage more with our surrounding community

## Question 3: **What should we seek in a new Rector?**

Some of what we heard:

- Engaging and deep sermons with intellectual strength
- Intentional about liturgy and passionate about the Episcopal faith
- Has vision of the church for future and is led by the Holy Spirit
- Sense of humor and able to connect with different types of people
- Passionate about being involved in the larger community around St. Timothy's
- A leader who knows how to inflame our passion and engagement, can empower members to take on new responsibilities and roles, and is comfortable dealing with conflict
- Someone younger
- Filled with joy, empathetic, social, open, listens well, authentic, energetic, responsible, trustworthy, and humble

## Question 4: **Describe a time when you were most alive, most involved, spiritually touched or most excited about involvement with St. Timothy's:**

- Whole congregation gatherings like Code for God, parish picnic, concerts, progressive dinners, potlucks, car wash, Concert under the Stars, trivia nights, Trunk or Treat, and Chili Cook-off
- Sunday mornings at church, passing the peace, singing in choir, baptism, funeral, confirmation, Evensong, Easter Vigil, Christmas pageant, Ashes to Go
- Bible studies and praying together
- Teaching Sunday school, Family Camp, Vacation Bible School, youth mission trips and pilgrimages
- Involvement in Creve Coeur Days, Sigel School Tutoring, Yard of Hope, All parish book read ***Small Great Things***
- Finding St. Timothy's



Our next project is creating a robust parish profile, using your feedback, which will be our story to potential candidates. This profile will be published on St. Timothy's website: <https://www.saint-tims.org/>

Please keep your discernment team in your prayers as we enter this next phase of the search for our new rector, and please feel free to share your thoughts with any of us.

# Music Notes



It is difficult to imagine that a certain group of dedicated St. Timothians accustomed to meeting two and sometimes three times each week for forty weeks of the liturgical year, has been on hiatus for almost 19 months.

Well, that is about to end!

The Choir of St Timothy's will resume its music-leadership role with rehearsal Thursday evening 9 September at 7.30 in the Choir Room, and our first service Sunday morning, 12 September (Rally Day) with 9.15 rehearsal for the 10.00 service.

No doubt there will be a certain amount of "rebuilding" necessitated by the pandemic; a time of re-tuning ears

and voices that have, mostly, been musically inactive for this extended period; and a time for becoming reacquainted with each other and our mutual love of singing and the liturgical goodness of our Church. Rehearsal protocols are ever-evolving, but, rest assured that the safety of our singers is the priority.

So, if you've contemplated the possibility of participating in the Choir, now is the ideal opportunity to take the plunge and join our merry band of singers. Contact the Choirmaster ([music.at.saint.tims@gmail.com](mailto:music.at.saint.tims@gmail.com)) for more details and an outline of the upcoming choral season at St Tim's.

Pax,

*Mark*

Mark R. Scholtz  
Director of Music



**Friends,  
Families  
& Faves**

**30 years of  
St. Tim's concerts!**

**7:00 - 9:00 pm  
Saturday, September 25  
Outside under the stars**





## Sunday School is BACK!

For too long, the Sunday School hallway has been quiet. We miss the cacophony of voices, laughter, and delight as our students learned about God and spent time together, creating, thinking, and growing.

Kids will be welcomed back to church and to Sunday School on Rally Day, September 12. After the **one service at 10:00 AM**, parents and their children will register with their Sunday School teachers and enjoy crafts, an ice cream truck, and a potluck lunch in the parish hall! There will be fun for everyone!

As happy as we are to opening our classrooms once again, we will be doing so as safely as possible. Following diocesan and St. Louis County guidelines, we will likely ask that students be masked while in the classrooms, until vaccines are available to younger children and the majority of kids are vaccinated. Those specifics will be given to parents closer to Rally Day.

**Please plan to attend Rally Day on September 12 to celebrate our return to Sunday School!**



**Coming soon . . .**



## Support St. Timothy's as We Join #TogetherToFightSuicide

On Sunday, September 26 at noon, a team from St. Timothy's will participate in this year's Out of the Darkness Community Walk. We have joined a community of people from hundreds of cities across the country in support of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's mission to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide.

Even if you don't know anyone who has died by suicide, you know someone who knows someone. This affects everyone, and suicide prevention is a cause close to the hearts of many of St. Timothy's members. Please help us reach our fundraising goal by becoming a team member or donating to support the St. Timothy's team. Our team needs more people and help to reach our fundraising goal of \$2,500!

All donations are 100% tax deductible and will help bring AFSP one step closer to achieving their bold goal to reduce the suicide rate 20% by 2025.

Get involved at <https://supporting.afsp.org/team/270117>. If you have any questions, please contact Mother Camie at the church office or send her an email at [revcamdeweley@gmail.com](mailto:revcamdeweley@gmail.com). Thank you!



American  
Foundation  
for Suicide  
Prevention



The Fall Adult Forum schedule will be available very soon! Check Tim's Times for all the information.



**Stewardship 2022**

# Report from the Treasurer, June 2021



	2021 Budget	As of June 30 <sup>th</sup>	% of Budget
<b>Income</b>	\$676,500	\$364,248	54%
<b>Expenses</b>	\$672,678	\$296,160	44%
<b>Net Income</b>		\$68,088	

St. Timothy's has done well so far this year despite the obvious headwinds from the pandemic. But there are several unusual circumstances.

With 50% of the year elapsed, our income has been slightly ahead of budget, with 54% of the budgeted income received during the first half of the year. It's important to note, however, that approximately \$60,000 of that is from a government PPP loan we received last year. It was recorded as income when the loan was forgiven this year but does not represent new cash.

It's also important to know that our pledges this year were about \$58,600 less than the actual pledges we received in 2019. Our 2021 budget is balanced only because of the PPP funds and some additional "one time" donations.

Expenses have been well controlled, with most discretionary expenses below budget. As our full program returns in the fall our expenses will increase, but I see no reason why they would exceed our budget as of now.

The coming summer months are always a little more difficult financially as income often drops off and utility expenses increase substantially.

As we pass Rally Day, with live Sunday School back in session and our full program in progress, we will, hopefully, be on the rebound. The goal is not only to balance the budget for the year, but to have enough of a surplus to cover our coming Rector search process.

Rick Sharp, Treasurer  
[treasurer.at.saint.tims@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.at.saint.tims@gmail.com)

“Courage is what it takes  
 to stand up and speak.

Courage is also what it takes  
 to sit down and listen.”

-Winston Churchill

Invite Welcome  
 Connect

REMINDER

# Dates to Remember

## August Birthdays

1	Tina Heuer	10	Nancy Helmer
2	Peggy Boyd	11	Grace Holland
	Laurel Leigh Dunworth	12	Nash Morgan
	Sean Fowler		Noah Wangler
	Jack Jones	13	Jim Clark
	William Pooley	16	Donald Mazhou
	Ken Warhover	18	Bridget Evers
4	Cathie Muschany		David Neise
5	Brad Barnes	20	Rhett Schwent
	Eric Buckley	24	Samuel Snyder
	Richard Buckman	25	Will Knight
6	Keith Pennel		Robert Falk
	George Podolsky	26	Jeremy Gibbs
7	Oliver Buckley	27	Cindy Kozak
	Marj Gold	28	Brooks Hawkins
9	Gary Stansbury		Ashley Snyder
			Craig Boyd
			Laura Catalano
			Susan Moenhaus
			Dick Sinise

## August Anniversaries

1	Kim & Pat Dressel
3	Susie & Lance Kramer
11	Norma & Stewart Rayfield
14	Tina & Ray Heuer
20	Jan & Mike O'Neil
	Joy & Bob Rouse
22	Marlene Gruber Clark & Jim Clark
23	Gina Frey & Bill Buhro
	Judy & Donald Flacke
26	Alice & Kirk Fritsch
30	Patricia Feeney & Rhett Schwent
31	Sandra & Nathaniel Murdock

## September Birthdays

2	Becky Porter	15	Adam Barnes
4	Bob Rouse		Marin Moenhaus
5	Jack Danforth		Tina Warhover
6	Jon Hotra	17	Christy Ratliff
7	Connor Smith	20	Teresa McDowell
8	Ken Dobbins	23	Larry Thomas
	James Hinrichs	24	Callan Goff
	Caitlin Hotra		Clark Loechner
9	Lance Kramer	25	Bud Bosanquet
	Dee Dee Stone		Mike Cummins
11	Maxine Sharp	26	Sarah Johnson
13	Lenene Andre	27	Caroline Kelsey
14	Dick Gold		Robin Turner
	Michael Spung	30	Nick Mason

## September Anniversaries

1	Sasha & Tyler Saliski
5	Peggy & Keith Boyd
7	Sally & Jack Danforth
10	Rita & George Podolsky
20	Linda & Larry Lawless
30	Brad & Jennifer Barnes Fran & Mac Connely

## Is It Your Turn?

By Mitzi Uyemura

Ten years ago, Peggy Huesemann, St. Tim's former Director of Christian Formation, asked me if I would be interested in teaching Sunday School. At first, I thought "BOY! Has *she* asked the wrong person!" I never considered myself Sunday School teacher material, and certainly no one would have accused me of being an expert on the Bible.

But my boys were attending the classes, and I appreciated those who were teaching them, so I figured it was a good trade-off. She sealed the deal by pairing me with Madeline Zwickelmaier, who had been teaching Sunday School for many years. Madeline was the master of the Sunday School lesson, having used a variety of curricula. She knew which crafts and games worked with the various age groups, how to distribute snacks strategically, how to keep our age 4 through first grade kids engaged, and much more. We enjoyed working as a team, and she "retired" after two years of us teaching together and 13 years as a teacher.

I've always tried to make the classes fun so the kids weren't aware that they were learning things and so they'd look forward to coming back each week. Things went off the rails occasionally—which happens when you're dealing with 4, 5 and 6 year-olds—but most of the time, we all had fun.

The surprising thing has been how much *I* learned while teaching the kids. To prepare each lesson, I would read the featured Bible passage or story so I knew what we should discuss. This allowed me to read a lot more of the Bible than I'd done before. I also became more knowledgeable of the



liturgical calendar, the seasons of the church year, the reasons behind our Episcopal traditions, and much more.

Yet all of that pales next to a child's face lighting up when s/he understands what God wants us to do. Or when they do well in a game. Or proudly display the craft they made to Mom, Dad, or Grandma after class. Or when they talk about their week at school as they munch on snacks. Or even when they share something painful or upsetting they've been through, and we talk about it, allowing them to share their feelings. It's amazing how much even a young child understands, and it is incredibly rewarding to become a trusted adult in their lives.

During the rector search process, we asked our members what a future full of hope looks like for St. Timothy's. A huge number said some version of "strong children's and youth programs," and the "need to attract young families." The truth is, we won't be able to achieve those goals without a strong Sunday School program, with enough teachers to staff each grade level.

We have lost quite a few of our long-time teachers for a variety of reasons, and we need more people to step up to teach Sunday School this year. You don't have to be a Biblical scholar. All that's required is to want to serve God, and to enjoy being around kids. You can learn the rest—I did. If you don't want to be the primary teacher, you can be an assistant—having another adult in the classroom is very important. Please prayerfully consider this call to action and help us be the church we want to be.

### *Is it your turn?*

Please contact Mother Camie for more information:  
[revcamdewey@gmail.com](mailto:revcamdewey@gmail.com)

Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church  
808 North Mason Road  
Creve Coeur, Mo 63141-6306

### Address Service Requested

**The Rev. Elizabeth Gordon Meade, Interim Rector**  
Church Office: (314) 434-5906  
Fax: (314) 434-4103  
Web Site: <http://www.saint-tims.org>

**The Rev. Camie Dewey, Associate Rector**  
Mark R. Scholtz, *Director of Music*  
The Rev. Jeff Goldone, *Deacon*  
Mitzi Uyemura, *Angler Editor*

**Dated Church Material  
Prompt Delivery Appreciated**