

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

HE IS NOT HERE HE IS RISEN

AS HE SAID

From the Rector



Children at St. Timothy's

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." - Matthew 19:14

We strive to welcome children and families to St. Timothy's by offering to them a place to *belong* as well as a place to become. There are several ways (new and old!) that we are doing that. Given that we are entering into the Easter Season – a season of new life—I thought I would take the opportunity to outline just a **few** of the ways we are including children in our communion.

Activity Shelf: Located in the Narthex, there is a book shelf with children's Bibles, books, coloring sheets, finger labyrinths, and other activities. These are appropriate for any age child that would like to grab a few things to work with in their pews. Remember, just because children are engaged in the materials, it doesn't mean that they

aren't listening! Children are always absorbing more than we imagine they are. (Just ask my two-year-old who loves to punctuate every moment with a hearty AMEN!)

Our 9 a.m. Service: The liturgy of the 9 a.m. Sunday service has been tweaked to make sure that our worship is made accessible to all ages and understandings. This service is a welcoming place for wiggles and squeaks and even tears. The shortened service caters to shorter attention spans while the homily strives to speak to all ages. The rhythmic

music invites movement and dance. Children are invited forward during the Eucharist to come close to the elements and the moment of "epiclesis" (when the Holy Spirit comes down!) That moment embodies our understanding that Jesus is inviting children to come to Him.

Wednesday Programming: Our Wednesday evening Advent and Lenten programming has been such a gift and such a joy! In an attempt to include all ages in our most sacred stories and seasons, we have been putting on intentional, prayerful intergenerational events on Wednesday evenings. These events include dinner, a story or project, and prayer. Sometimes these events take the form of a service or liturgy (like Ash Wednesday) and sometimes they take the form of service (like making blessing bags) but they always stress the importance and inclusion of different generations in our church family.

(NEW) The "Prayground:" Recognizing that children are often more engaged when they can see and hear what is going on around them, we are creating a dedicated space for our smaller children to engage

> with the service. In this area, toddlers and young children will have access to quiet materials to play with during church. Of course, we know that it is not "just play" that they are doing. Play is the work of the child, the learning of the child. In this space, we hope that our youngest members will absorb the language and rhythm of our rich tradition.

Parents are invited to sit close or with their children in this space, as it is not "staffed," so to speak. Parents are encouraged to model appropriate behavior in this space for their littles, while also recognizing that kids will be kids! Sometimes things will inevitably get too spirited. We expect and welcome the interruption of tiny voices.

Please turn to page 5 for further description of the Prayground concept (and photos!) written by Rev. Erin!

Meghan +



Holy Week & Easter at St. Timothy's

C3 THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY &

2 April Holy Eucharist – 9.00 & 10.45 AM

C3HOLY TUESDAY№4 AprilStations of the Cross – 7.00 PM

 C3
 Holy Wednesday
 &>

5 April Family Worship and Supper – 5.30 PM

O3 MAUNDY THURSDAY &

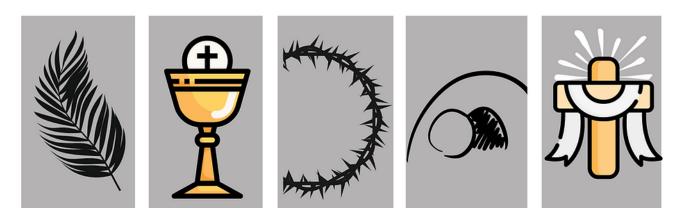
6 April Holy Eucharist & Foot Washing – 7.00 PM Overnight Vigil – 8.00 PM through 8.00 AM

ී **GOOD FRIDAY** හ 7 April Liturgy for Good Friday – Noon & 7.00 PM

8 April 7.30 PM in the Prayer Garden

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9 April Holy Eucharist – 9.00 & 10.45 AM Easter Egg Hunt – 10.00 AM



A New Deacon for St. Timothy's!

St. Timothy's Rector, The Rev. Meghan Ryan, announces good news:

"We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Deacon Dayna Jewson to the staff of St. Timothy's beginning in May. When you see Deacon Dayna, please give her a warm and hearty welcome!"



Hello St. Timothy's!

My name is Dayna Jewson and I'm your new deacon. Bishop Deon has assigned me to work alongside Meghan, your rector and Erin, your associate. Some of you might know me, and some of you knew my dear husband, Al, who died last November. I know he supplied here many times and loved it. I was ordained nineteen years ago in the Diocese of West Missouri, where I served parishes in Kansas City and Warrensburg. While in Warrensburg, I initiated a grief ministry known as Bittersweet Place, where I led groups (mainly children) dealing with loss of a loved one.

Al and I moved to St. Louis in 2012 to be closer to our children and grandchildren. In the Diocese of Missouri, I've served three parishes as well as Deaconess Anne House. In addition to being a deacon, I am a registered nurse, having worked most recently in hospice care. As a deacon, my passion is bringing the Church to the world, whether that means by outreach or pastoral care. I look forward to working alongside you, exchanging ideas, sharing dreams, and serving our Lord together.

Peace, Dayna

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

St. Tim's is Getting a Prayground!

By The Rev. Erin Pickersgill

Having a Prayground in our worship space is exactly the kind of extravagant, hospitable and loving invitation young families are looking for when they come to church.



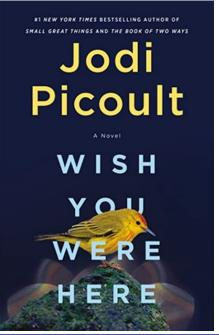
A Prayground is a way to honor children in our times together by giving them a place near the front where they can quietly participate in worship by playing with soft toys and blankets, mimic and mirror the liturgy (baptism, the eucharist, gospel reading), read books, and be together in a safe and comfortable setting. Parents and carers can look on from their nearby pews and feel like they also can bring their whole selves to God because their child/ren have a place just for themselves. Resources and books can be swapped in and out in sync with liturgical seasons and colors. All objects will be soft and will not be able to produce noise or distraction, as much as can be controlled! It is also less distracting to have children gathered in the front rather than in the back; when children are in the back, the noise tends to float over the congregation!

What a joy a Prayground will be in St. Timothy's! What a way to visually proclaim how much we desire families and children to be the heartbeat of our growing community.

Look out for this new space during the Easter season!



St. Timothy's Women's Book Group to meet April 18



The current "read" for St. Timothy's Women's Book Group is Jodi Picoult's 2021 novel, *Wish You Were Here*. We will meet on **Tuesday, April 18 at 6 p.m.** in the Gathering Space at St. Tim's. Even if you haven't finished it, you are welcome to join us as we navigate all the twists and turns of this exciting story! And even if you haven't started it, it is a fast read. <u>The Bibliophile.com</u> gives this synopsis:

It opens on March 13, 2020, when cases of COVID-19 had just started being reported in the United States. The main character of Diana is an ambitious and driven New Yorker who...has planned a vacation to the Galápagos Islands with her boyfriend Finn, but he's a doctor at New York-Presbyterian who ends up having to stay to care for COVID patients. Instead, Diana goes alone, gets stranded there, and in the process deeply reflects on her life and relationships... In *Wish You Were Here*, Jodi Picoult seems to be trying to capture what was going on that year and tapping into the collective self-reflection that many people went during the pandemic.

Please contact Mitzi Uyemura with any questions. Hope to see you there!

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's Easter Message



(From The Episcopal Church website, 3-30-2023)

"We are here in a world struggling to find its soul, but the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not, cannot, and will not overcome it," Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael B. Curry said in his Easter 2023 message. "Jesus lives. He has been raised from the dead. That is the message of Easter, and that is the good news of great tidings."

The festive day of Easter is Sunday, April 9.

The following is the full text of the presiding bishop's Easter 2023 message, lightly edited for clarity:

This is a different Easter message. I've shared Easter messages from Jerusalem some years ago, and I have shared Easter and Christmas messages from a variety of locations. Last year for Christmas, we were in San Diego. Today I'm in Paris, part of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe. We just finished a revival—over 50 young people and some 300-400 people from all over Europe who came for this revival service. It was a remarkable thing to behold and be part of.

The Convocation here in Europe is engaged in incredible ministries, with some joining together with Episcopal Relief & Development to make it possible for resettlement of those who are refugees from war and famine, particularly those who are refugees from Ukraine.

Thinking about it—I realize not only with this view—but with the reality of Easter looming on our horizon, John's Gospel opens: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Then there is a point in which it says, of Christ coming into the world, "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it."

On that early Easter morning, John says in his 20th chapter, that early in the morning while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene and some of the other women went to the tomb. They went to the tomb after the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. They went to the tomb of their world having fallen apart. They went to the tomb of all their hopes and dreams having collapsed.

But they got up and they went anyway. They went to perform the rites of burial, to do for a loved one what you would want to do for them. They went, following the liturgies of their religion and their tradition, and, lo and behold, when they went, they discovered that, even in the darkness, the light of God's love, the light of Jesus Christ—the light of Christ, as we say in the Great Vigil—in fact, was shining in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Jesus had been raised from the dead. He was alive, and darkness and evil and selfishness could not stop him. Love—as the old song says—love lifted him up.

We are here in Paris, this wonderful city. While there are protests going on in the city—garbage has not been collected, and it's all over the city—we are here in Paris, in Europe, with refugees streaming into this continent from all over the world, impacted by changes in weather pattern, impacted by war and famine. We are here in a world struggling to find its soul, but the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not, cannot, and will not overcome it. Jesus lives. He has been raised from the dead. That is the message of Easter, and that is the good news of great tidings. From Paris, I'm Michael Curry. God love you. God bless you, and the light shines in the darkness, wherever there is darkness. This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. Amen.

To listen to Bishop Curry's message, click on the link below:

https://www.episcopalchurch.org/publicaffairs/presidingbishop-michael-curry-easter-2023-message/

The Painful Cry of Jesus Felt By Many

By Rev. Prof. Dr. Jerry Pillay General Secretary World Council of Churches 3-28-2023

Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani? that is, `My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

The above verse from Matthew 27:46 is the cry of Jesus Christ on the cross moments before his brutal death. As a quotation from Psalm 22: 1, it could be Jesus declaring the Old Testament prophecy, or crying out in absolute anguish, or both. The point to consider here is that Jesus

expresses the pain and suffering of his impending death.

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" is the painful cry for many in the world today as they face a variety of sufferings in sickness, poverty, hunger, disasters, injustices, abuse and death. This is the cry of displaced people, refugees on the move, abused women and children, indigenous people, people with disabilities, the neglected, oppressed and downtrodden. Their plights are so unbearable that they often think that governments, friends, family and even God has abandoned them. In private and in public, in silence and aloud, they cry for help!



conflict and the feeling of being forsaken. Gifts that remind us that darkness, despair and death are not the end. Light, hope and life are within reach because the Risen Lord overcomes all things. The Apostle Paul tells us this most powerfully in Romans 8: 37-39 where he declares, "in all things we are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us", therefore nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Thus, when we are tempted in the midst of brokenness, pain, suffering, wars and death to ask why God has forsaken us, let us stop and be assured that in Christ, the Father

> makes all things new! In the midst of trials, turmoil and tribulations, let us be reminded that in the power of the resurrection God is present with us in all things, through all things and at all times.

This assurance then must, instead of making us feel forsaken, stir and steer us into becoming agents and instruments of hope and light to the world. It should give us the energy and desire to continue to work toward God`s justice, peace, reconciliation and unity, enabling a better world for all creation!

Whenever we are tempted to cry, "My God, my God, why

have you forsaken me?" let us know Emmanuel – God is with us forever!

Have a blessed and hope-filling Easter!

https://www.oikoumene.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/ Easter%20greetings%202023-EN.pdf

The world is in such a mess today as we reflect on the violence, conflicts, wars, corruption, political turmoil, economic injustices, climate emergency, and the list goes on. In such a context, some are prone to ask, "Where is God?" The thoughts of abandonment and despair are not far from our minds and hearts, even if it makes us uncomfortable to think like this.

Jesus gave up his last breath and died, but he rose again from the dead. In Christ is our hope and life. Our hope is not centred in some sentimental experience but in the deep realisation that hope, like faith and love, are eschatological gifts. Gifts that God gives us to overcome the present and to see the future in the midst of chaos,

By Tina Warhover

As many of you know, ministering to children in St. Louis City and County Detention Centers is exclusively led by the Episcopal church.

One of the ways we work with Episcopal City Mission (ECM) is to host a birthday party. Each area Episcopal church hosts a party each month. All children attend the party, and we provide a special gift for those children celebrating their birthdays that month.

St. Timothy's is hosting the County's next birthday party on Friday, May 12 at 5:30 p.m. We need both volunteers and contributors.

Here's how you can help:

- Join us at the Clayton Courthouse to help host the party. This is a happy event in a large party room where you help serve the kids pizza, soda, cake, and ice cream, and play Bingo with them.
 - If you'd like to join, you need to have your volunteer paperwork already in process.
 Contact Tina with questions.
- Pick up Ted Drewes on May 12 Ted Drewes donates 50 custard cups for the party at no cost
- Buy a \$20-\$25 gift or make a monetary donation for party supplies by May 1.
- Boy Gifts Cardinals, Blues, or NBA shirts or hats, AXE Body boxed gift sets
- Girl Gifts Lotion or manicure/nail polish gift sets
- Unisex Gifts Earbuds, phone chargers (iPhone & Android)



Other supplies needed that you can purchase or donate money for us to purchase by May 1^{2}

Treat Bags – 40 Individual bags of candy or treats.

- Popular items are: Kit Kat, M&Ms, Starburst, Skittles, Chips, Hostess, & Little Debbie Treats. No peanuts, please!
- Soda 5 two-liter bottles of soda or punch. They love root beer, orange, and fruit punch.
- Birthday Plates & Napkins 30 (Dollar Store-type is perfect)
- Large Red Plastic Cups 30

Ways to donate:

- Reach out to Tina Warhover for porch pickup
- Drop off donations at St. Timothy's

Monetary donations:

- Check Mail to St. Timothy's (with "ECM Birthday Party" on the memo line)
- Online Giving Designate "ECM Donations" and write "ECM Birthday Party" in private message area

Questions? Reach out to Tina Warhover, tinawarhover@gmail.com, cell: 314-750-7009.

Spring Garden Clean-up



Many thanks to the hardy group of garden volunteers for their hard work on Saturday, March 25. They came in and cleaned up our Prayer Garden and entry garden to get them ready for Palm Sunday and Easter. The volunteers were Alice Fritsch, Anne Teymouri, Kirk Fritsch, Rob Roberson, Steve Crock, Mitzi Uyemura, and Caroline Kelsey. Extra thanks to Caroline, St. Tim's "Garden Guru" who leads the team that keeps our garden spaces beautiful! Contact Caroline if you'd like to help.

Sharing Our Abundance: Trinity Food Ministry

St. Timothy's Food Ministry alternates its collection of food and other items between two food pantries: Circle of Concern, located in West County serving the Parkway, Rockwood, and Valley Park school districts; and the Trinity Food Ministry at Trinity Episcopal Church in the Central West End. The Rev. Barbi Click is the Trinity Food Ministry Manager and has been a tireless advocate for those in need for many years. Deacon Barbi is the face of the Food Ministry, greeting its clients, listening to their stories, and helping as much as she can. She provides an unvarnished view of the struggles these clients face on a daily basis and writes about them in Trinity's weekly e-newsletters. Her impassioned and eloquent words help us understand what "food insecurity" really means. Two of her recent letters are below.

3/15/2023

I heard Leonard Cohen's song "Anthem" earlier this week. It continues to ring in my head.

Ring the bells that still can ring. Forget your perfect offering. There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in.

Every Pantry, every Hot Lunch, I see people who are cracked wide open. I know because I see the light shine through them. Regardless of their affliction, their trial, or their sorrow, they shine.

We are all broken or cracked in one way or another. Life does that to us. We do not need to be fixed. We only need to learn to let the Light shine through us. Like the two beautiful women who bring flowers to me. Like the sweet young man who was so excited Tuesday because someone had dropped off a box of toys and he was going to take them to his son. Like the lady who always wants to pray with me, calling on our "benevolent and beneficent God". Like the volunteers who come seeking that Balm in Gilead to sooth their own wounded hearts. So much brokenness! Yet so much Love. It is no wonder that there is a bright glowing in that SPH!

TFM is a food ministry and that is what we do – offer food. Yet, I understand that food is not our primary goal; rather, it is simply a means to an end. The end, or the goal, is to be part of a whole.

There is a world in which people live that many of us cannot, would never recognize. Since we do not understand it, we assign reasons for what we see. What we assign, what we allow our eyes to see is not the reality. We are looking at the brokenness yet do not see the light shining through the cracks. We are unable to hear the bells ringing. We are looking for a perfect offering, one WE believe is perfect. That isn't what God wants. God wants us to see the Light shining through the cracks, to see that in spite of all other things, there is joy and love.

We are all broken in one way or another. See the Light shining through others. Let God's Light shine through you.

3/22/2023

If you indulge in social media and have not yet found <u>@Trini-tyFoodMinistry</u> on Facebook, I encourage you to follow that page. I post articles that deal with food insecurity, such as a most recent one – an article about the "hunger cliff" that many are in the process of falling off as SNAP/Food Stamps are dramatically cut or eliminated. The understanding that even with this supplemental nutrition program people still needed to supplement the supplement by coming to the pantry should tell us that it was not enough. Now, with the cuts, people are in serious danger of truly falling off of a cliff.

The Pantry is seeing more and more families and singles who are affected by this cut. Again and again, I talk about abundance vs. scarcity. Yet 65 people walking through the pantry on a Tuesday and Thursday can erase the desire to live into our abundance because the scarcity is so obvious.

Sixty-five households = 162.5 individuals. That is the average number of people we have served per week during the past three months. And this number is growing each week.

So, what do we do? Should we go backwards, returning to the way it was? Should we cut back on how often we allow people to come to pantry? Should we cut back on the number of eggs we give (one dozen per household)?

While I will listen to anyone who has a thought on this, I will give you a hint that I firmly believe the answer to any of the questions posed is a resounding NO. However, can we continue to keep up with this need? That answer is that we cannot do so alone. So, I ask you to pray as if your own family is so hungry, yet you have no idea from where the food will come.

This is a perfect opportunity to advocate for those who are hungry. Hunger is a factor in crime. Hungry people do desperate things. Hunger is a curable problem. People should not have to choose between rent and food.

Love always, radically love. Deacon Barbi



Report from the Treasurer February 2023



The good news continues on the expense side. Total expenses for the month of February were \$49,400 which gave us a surplus of \$10,200 for the month. For the year we now are showing a \$16,000 surplus.

Unusual expenses for February included a \$9,000 quarterly charge for our property insurance premium. Most of the other major expense categories are pretty much in line with our budget. Our cash position remains strong with \$302,000 available for operations.

A big **THANK YOU** to all our parishioners who have been so faithful and generous with their support for St. Tim's.

If you would like to view the detailed financial statements for February 2023, please click <u>HERE</u> and <u>HERE</u>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact treasurers at treasurer.at.saint.tims@gmail.com

Kurt Zwikelmaier, Treasurer



In their 2023 series of Lenten Meditations, Episcopal Relief and Development offered dozens of wonderful, thought-provoking passages for us to

A Lenten Meditation for All Year

The Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

consider. This is one of them:

Samuel himself was only a child when God called him to be a prophet. But perhaps by this point in his life, he has forgotten that God sees and calls people so much more than they thought was possible. Here among Jesse's sons, God has sent him to anoint a new king. But not the handsome, tall and strong sons; it is the child again whom God calls. David the ruddy youth, who will act with love, mercy and courage, who will love God with wild abandon, and who will also commit adultery and murder. Yet God never gives up on David, seeing his heart, his potential, calling him back when he strays.

It seems like God has a soft spot for underdogs and hopeless cases. Lost sheep, sinners, tax collectors, outcasts, the broken and rejected; these are whom God draws close, and sends out to share the Good News. It is in the broken places of our own hearts that we are reminded how much we need God after all. God is not waiting for some future theoretical time when we get ourselves sorted out, make all the right decisions, have conquered all our negative tendencies, are strong and healthy in body, mind and soul. If we are tempted to think that, we need to look no further than David, or really any number of bible characters. God takes us as we are, today. Not when we are ready or perfect, but just as we are.

Are you ready to say yes to God when the opportunity presents itself? Are you willing to pray that God puts opportunities in front of you today, to love and to serve, to make a difference in the lives of others? Are you ready to pray for eyes to see the opportunities that are already there?

https://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent/march-19-25/

Dates to Remember

Marc Vanacht

Will Bolden

Russel Nemer

Anesu Mazhou

Anopa Mazhou

Julia Amies Tony Corey

Wini Crock

Declan Fowler

Georgia O'Brien

Jeff Johnson

Mark Schuerman

18

19

20

21

24

25

26

27

29

April Birthdays

- Alice Fritsch
 Linda Wilson
 Joan Coots
 Rita Podolsky
 Amelia Shirley
 Ray Burch
 - Mora Collins Robert Roberson
- 12 Jacob Conard
- 14 Brian Rouse
- 16 Amelia Pooley
- 17 Joyce Helton Colette Schuh
 - Genevieve Wischnowsky

- April Anniversaries
 - 18 Anne & Mike Teymouri
 - 19 Sharon Givan & Doug Detloff
 - 21 Janine & Bud Bosanquet LaVerne & Willard Moseley

May Birthdays

- 1 Nathaniel Pyron
- 2 Aaron Hummert
- 3 Rick Sharp
- Jan O'Neil
 Mary Saggau
- 6 Tyler Saliski
- Grant Schuerman
- 10 Sheila Morse
- 11 Brendan Johnson

- 13 Rob Muschany16 Alonzo Collins
 - Jared McAvoy
- 17 Julia Holland
- 21 Liam Denkler
- 22 Tedlin Schuering

May Anniversaries

- 1 Laura & Jeff Catalano
- 9 Louann & Craig Boyd
- 11 Joan & Robert Coots
- 14 Becky & Blair Porter
- 29 Stephanie & Marshall Smith
- 31 Jane & Cletus Coughlin

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

April Food Pantry Donations

April food pantry donations will be given to Trinity Episcopal Food Ministry in the Central West End. Their requests are:

- Canned Chili
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Chicken
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly/Jam
- Ramen Noodles
- Cooking Oil
- Kitchen staples: Full size packages of Sugar, Flour, Salt, Spices
- Hand, Bath, or Beach Towels

Check Tim's Times each week for updates to the request list. The Circle of Concern will receive our food donations in May. Thank you for giving generously to those in need!

Please read about the Trinity Food Ministry and the amazing work it does on page 9.

Give us openness of soul and courageous, willing hearts to be with our sisters and brothers who are hungry and in pain. We ask for your intercession on behalf of every person hungry for earthly food and hungry for the taste of the Spirit of God. We give thanks that we can be part of that intercession. Amen.

from "Sharing Abundance" found on ERD's website.

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church 808 North Mason Road Creve Coeur, MO 63141-6306

Address Service Requested

The Rev. Meghan C. Ryan, Rector Church Office: (314) 434-5906 Fax: (314) 434-4103 Web Site: http://www.saint-tims.org

The Rev. Erin Pickersgill, Director of Children's and Youth Formation Mark R. Scholtz, Director of Music & Organist Kathy Tate, Administrative Assistant Mitzi Uyemura, Angler Editor

Dated Church Material Prompt Delivery Appreciated

Save the Date!

Sunday, May 28 will be Mother Erin's last Sunday with us.



We will have a going away reception for her after each service.

Please plan to attend and wish Erin well.

Look for more details in May's Tim's Times.

