



SAINT TIMOTHY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CREVE COEUR, MO



**August -
September
2022**

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Creve Coeur, MO

*Show me your ways, O Lord,
teach me your paths;
guide me in your truth
and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you
all day long.*

Psalm 25:4-5

From the Interim Rector



My friends in Christ:

It is coming time for us to begin to say goodbye to one another and to prepare for the arrival of your next rector.

First, let me say I have loved St. Louis even more than I thought I would and I have loved being with you at St. Timothy's. Certainly, I had visited before: seen the Arch, visited the Botanical Gardens, the museums, and even Tower Hill, but what I didn't anticipate was the hospitality I received from so many of you. Thank you for the invitations into your homes, and for all the other acts of holy hospitality extended to me: meals, games, concerts, and cultural performances. I came as a stranger among you and you welcomed me. I will be forever grateful for your generous hospitality.

Interim Ministry is a complex mix and it is a uniquely intentional "niche" ministry. We are called to poke around: to disturb the sleeping bears, to review the past, evaluate the efficacy of the present, and assess a given parish's future. It is also a time to prepare the way for the next rector: to investigate fiscal solvency and systems, assess the emotional health of the parish, and discover what is no longer working. It is a time of forensics – and it generally takes an "outsider" to see and name what is not still serving the parish well. Doing all this during a pandemic made this a complicated assignment, but time and again, I marveled at your willingness to reexamine and redefine your ministries. I rarely heard the excuse, "Well, we've always done it this way!"

And then came the surprises! During these liminal times, there is generally a time of pause, a time of

waiting to see what the future might bring, but not so at St. Timothy's! You were willing to do the important reflective work, yes, but you also instituted new ministries: Neighbors Feeding Neighbors, new topical Bible Studies, joining the Chamber of Commerce, worship in the parking lot, supporting the Parkway Food Pantry, and adopting an Afghan refugee family! This is rare, St. Timothy's – and testifies to the strength and faithfulness of this parish. When you also factor in a global pandemic, it feels almost miraculous; heaven sent. Well done, good and faithful servants. You are not stuck in the past, spinning your wheels, and playing old tapes. You are welcoming and embracing the possibilities of a new and different future, thanks be to God.

Thank you for your generous hospitality and faithfulness. I have loved being with you and will long cherish the memories we have made together.

Grace and peace-

Liz+



Music Notes



Have you ever considered what you might be able to “contribute” to St. Tim’s that doesn’t involve money? Well, I’ve a suggestion: How about sharing your voice by joining the Choir!

“Ah,” you might be asking, “but what will be required of me?”

Simple answer: Time and Commitment.

- The Choir sings at almost every 10.45 service from Rally Day (September 11 this year) through to Trinity Sunday in addition to special services throughout the church year.

- We rehearse Thursday evenings from 7.30-9.00 in the Choir Room, and then rendezvous Sunday morning at 10.00 to get organized for the service.

Ours is an enthusiastic and merry band of singers; always eager to welcome new folk to the fold, particularly tenors and basses. So, now is the time to begin thinking about how wonderful it will be for YOU to take your place in the Choir of St. Timothy’s! If you’ve questions, don’t hesitate to speak to any member of the Choir or to yours truly. You’ll be very glad to have taken the plunge!

Pax,

Mark

Mark R. Scholtz
Director of Music



St. Timothy’s Endowment: Supporting Current and Future Needs of the Parish

By Ashley Snyder

Every fall, our parish comes together and we make our pledges for St. Timothy’s budget for the following year. How does the church’s endowment also support the annual budget?

Our endowment is comprised of invested funds that have been donated by St. Timothy’s members. Each year, a percentage of the total investments is allocated to the general operating budget of the parish. This contribution is based on the parish’s Endowment Spending Rate Policy and calculated on the rolling average of the past 12 quarters (3 years) of the market value of the General Fund assets. As of June 30, 2022, \$11,725 has been allocated; this represents half of the annual contribution. The endowment also has a special fund for landscaping created by a generous parishioner; this provided \$3,500 this year to help maintain and improve the church’s green space.



PLANT A SEED
CREATE A
Legacy

*Endowment Fund of
St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church*

Like your IRA or college fund, our endowment will continue to grow over the years. With the generous contributions and pledges of Legacy Society members, our endowment will make a bigger impact on St. Timothy’s budget each year, as long as we continue to support it.

The Endowment Committee is tasked to be stewards of the funds on behalf of the parish. Committee members are Julia Amies, Cletus Coughlin, Brooke Forsyth, Shannon Hagrman, Ashley Snyder, and Larry Thomas. If you would like to learn more about the endowment, we would be pleased to speak with you.

The Map of My Life

By The Rev. Erin Pickersgill

If you think of your life like a landscape, you can know your way around by looking at the topography of your surroundings. You'll know what that mountain over there is, and what it was like to climb; that experience will be a part of you. You will have in-depth information about each river and stream and sense your constant proximity to danger or safety. You might recall with incredible clarity the distance you've moved from this or that trauma, and feel pleased it's now sliding more into your background rather than your foreground.

And yet, something that's been happening to me and my family (and perhaps to you?) is that our landscapes have been changing with a kind of super speed. No longer can we reference ourselves against familiar backdrops. Has everything shifted? Is everything up for grabs? Some things in our family's life have changed against our will during this time and some things have been our choice. But whatever the reason for the changes, we find ourselves navigating some very new land. Some of that is discovering the quickest way to Target; some energy is taken to just find our bearings in this new American culture. Recently, at the end of a day, my husband David and I simply reflected together how much really has happened in the last few months, and gave ourselves some permission to still not feel completely settled yet.

"God does not write nothing on the maps of our lives." I swear I read that somewhere decades ago. written by the author/missionary Amy Carmichael, but I have never been able to find it again. I even like the double-negative. Life is not meant to be a flat, uninteresting piece of paper that we just tip toe through. Thank goodness, because this sentiment testifies to my little life, which has always been on the move. I would say it's Abrahamic, but that might sound too grand, like I have always listened and responded to the Spirit of God whispering "Go to the place I will show you"—and it's not always been so obviously holy. I have not always been so obedient. Sometimes following God has felt almost like an accident.

Moving back to St. Louis has had a strange effect on the map of my life. When I, in my early adulthood, assumed that as I moved, geographically, or even as I made mature spiritual "steps," I was on a kind of linear path, this most recent move has highlighted the cyclical and deeply seasonal way that I navigate my life, or the way I am led by God at all. Even though I am now living a short

mile or two away from where I grew up, so much has happened since then. There are so many things I have known, seen, and experienced, that I'm acutely aware of returning to. It's a familiar land that I'm seeing with fresh eyes, like that well known T.S. Eliot quote, "And the end of all our exploring. Will be to arrive where we started. And know the place for the first time."

I had thought it would be like returning with a backpack full of useful kit I could pull out at any time, in a particular situation, like tools. But it's not quite like that, which is why I haven't simply written a biography today. I could give you my CV if you wanted it! But what's more interesting (?) and certainly more honest, is for me to say that I'm still watching this particular story unfold and lie on top of the story of who I was when I left for the UK 20 years ago. You will hear one day me talk about the events around God's call when I naively and ambitiously headed off to Belfast and the stories explaining why I stayed for so long. But in some ways, that's become a landmark on a map that I need to make sense of again. My story used to be: I left America and I've chosen to live and have a family in England. And now my story is updated to include a new piece; I left England to live and raise my family in America. What will this story look like? I'd be silly to make a guess at this stage.

Do we throw out the map then? Poet and contemplative Joyce Rupp thinks so. She writes a beautiful poem that has reassured me over the last few years called "Old Maps No Longer Work." Because here's the thing; as we follow God as closely as we're able, sometimes we'll find ourselves in the places where we are a stranger to ourselves, to our company, to the land. When that happens we don't despair and we don't decide that life is too hard for us! We cannot claim in those moments that we have been left alone! What Joyce writes is that when we find ourselves in new territory, even though it may be familiar, we have to lay down old maps of understanding how God and the world work. "There was a time before maps," she suggests, "when pilgrims travelled by the stars."



Last January, we moved from a medium size and bustling English town centre to a very small rural village twenty miles down the road. We would run our fingers along our new local map and be amazed at all the green fields around us where our dog, Maple, could run off leash. There were small streams everywhere and a lake nearby where I ended up swimming year round and a hill we named The Magic Hill. But there was one evening very early on, where I was walking through the quiet fields in the dark. Still accustomed to urban lights, for one moment my eyes were confused - why was it so bright?, I remember thinking. I looked up and there above me was the night sky unhindered by a town's streetlights. **Stars! A moon!** I know it sounds ridiculous, but to my utter delight, they literally lit up the path before my feet. And then the path, eventually, led me all the way back home.



Erin and her family on "The Magic Hill" near their former home.

St. Tim's Afghan Family Support Team Update

By Susan Moenkhaus and Karen Luecking

We introduced you to St. Timothy's "A-TEAM" (Afghan family support team) in the last Angler issue. (<https://www.saint-tims.org/angler.html> Page 5) The team continues to assist our Afghan family in their resettlement in St. Louis. The family arrived in St. Louis last November or December but due to low-income housing shortages in St. Louis, they lived in hotels until late March of 2022, when they finally got a house. Our team met them for the first time towards the end of April.

As you read in the previous article, the father and the mother have seven sons, ranging in age from seven months to 17 years. Right now, the five older boys are on summer break, but they will return to school this fall. The father now has a full-time job, and the oldest son will soon have a part-time job at McDonalds. The mom has her hands full taking care of the baby and the very active three-year-old in addition to managing the household.

St. Tim's Reaching Out ministry donated \$500 to the family account using funds from a Diocesan Council grant, and parishioners have donated money, clothes, household items, books, and toys. A television, an electric clothes dryer, and a sewing machine complete with a table to hold it were donated by St. Tim's and A-TEAM members, their families, and friends.

A-TEAM core members, Karen Luecking, Steve Crock, LaVerne Moseley, Joy Rouse, Mary Saggau, and Susan Moenkhaus have made many trips to the family's home on Morgan Ford, delivering all the donations, taking them grocery shopping and to doctors' appointments, riding the Metrobus with the father to acclimate him to the system, helping them understand their financial obligations, and providing twice-weekly

English lessons to the mother. If the dad is home he often joins the lessons, and the three-year-old will parrot words the mom is learning. We have many laughs and give a lot of encouragement when we're together.

In our search for resources, we have discovered some agencies that provide services to refugees and have linked with one in particular. IHELP (Immigrant Home English Learning Program) "empowers foreign-born adults by providing individualized, in-home, English language education and tools for effective navigation or our community." Joy and Susan use their curricula to teach the mom English in her home. IHELP is always looking for volunteers. Check out their website if you think it's something you'd like to explore <https://ihelpstl.org>.

We recently learned about Welcome Neighbor, an agency whose mission is, "to partner with refugee and immigrant families, connecting them with the people and opportunities that will empower them to build and live their best life in their new country." By a fortunate stroke of serendipity, we met them at the house last week, and in further conversation with them we met a man who is rehabbing a home that he will rent to the family for significantly less than what they are paying now. The experiences we have had with the family prove that God does move in mysterious ways; we just need to pay attention and recognize that "God is in this," (thank you Mother Liz). We will work with Welcome Neighbor to ensure we're not overlapping their work with our Afghan family. <https://welcomeneighborstl.org>

We have found working with the International Institute to be somewhat challenging because they are overwhelmed with refugees from different parts of the world who need their services. However, we're grateful to have this opportunity to think creatively, to give our time, talent, and treasure, and to spend time with this courageous family.



New Green Altar and Priest's Vestments

Have you noticed the new green altar and priestly vestments on the altar and worn by our clergy for the last couple of months.? They're NEW!

Our new pieces and some descriptions:

Burse - Two squares of stiff material, hinged or bound together at one end, which contains the linens used at Eucharist. The burse is covered in the liturgical color of the day, and placed on top of the veil.

Veil - A square cloth that covers the paten and chalice until Communion preparations begin. The veil usually matches the vestments and altar hangings in the liturgical color of the season.



Antependium - the cloth that hangs over the front of the ambo, or pulpit, a/k/a the "pulpit hanging."



Chasuble - The sleeveless outer vestment worn by the celebrant at the Eucharist.

Stole - A long scarf of fabric matching the color of the church season. A deacon wears it over his/her left



shoulder, crossing to the right side, where it is tied or fastened, thus being worn diagonally. Priests wear it over both shoulders. (We have 2 stoles.)

The Angler asked Mother Liz to fill us in on how these new items came to be at St. Tim's.

Q: How did you come to the decision to order these altar cloths and priest's vestments? We have a green set.

A: The old green brocade set is so sweat-stained, frayed, and worn, and the neckline piping has worn away to just bare cotton piping. The chasuble is very also very hot in the summer and we all agreed it was a dreadful color, and the color matched nothing of the vibrancy of our windows, not to mention that it was discordant with the contemporary feel of our worship space.

Q: How is the determination typically made to purchase a new set of these items? Did the Altar Guild request it?

A: Generally, the priest/rector indicates when he/she feels new vestments would be welcomed—and raises it with the Altar Guild—who may or may not have funds for such things. Camie found some available funds from memorials for the vestments.

The current set of vestments, Almy polyester brocades, (Almy is the company that made them) are hot and some are quite worn, though the green was the worst. I imagine you will see some of those replaced in the near future as well once your new rector arrives.

Q: Where did we get them?

A: Jeff Wunrow, a local artist, designed them and had them made for us. Jeff is a critically acclaimed liturgical artist whose works are found around the world, but whose studio is right here in St. Louis—in Soulard.

3. How did you know about Jeff?

A: I met him at a Diocesan Convention in Chicago years ago and commissioned him to make a new set of sarum blue Advent Vestments for my former parish; to get away from the "just reuse the Lent Purples" mentality. They were/are STUNNING!

Q: How did he come up with the design? Did you give him any suggestions or ideas?

A: Camie invited Jeff out to see our space -- which he loved! He met with clergy and altar guild representatives as he walked through the space, measuring and dreaming with us. He "got" us and our worship space and has the artistic sensibility to create something that would reflect our space. I told the Vestry of our plans.

Jeff noticed the blue window on the south side of our sanctuary (given by the Rouse family) and the swirls of the lines in that window and was captivated. "How about we capture something in the fluidity of that window, but in greens and golds?" That's what he did.



Q: How long did it take for them to be made?

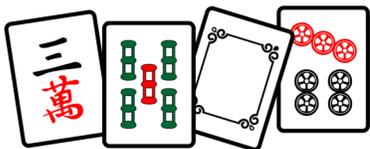
A: About 8 weeks, I think. Jeff's process is to take measurements, come to the facility where possible, understand the styles of vestments the clergy desire, and then he makes sketches, emails them to the client and invites us to give our initial impressions. He also shows us samples of the fabrics he would use in creating the design.

After a couple of weeks, he sent Camie some photos of different fabrics that he was considering using to give life to our design. She showed them to me and we nixed a couple of the patterns he had chosen, but agreed that he was the artist, and pretty much gave him carte blanche after that. We left it up to his artistic sense of what might work for our contemporary worship space once we had approved the sketches and the fabrics he had chosen. Sadly, they didn't arrive until after Camie had left and while I was in Ireland!

Q: So our members know, how were these new vestments paid for?

A: Donations were made for the vestments, and we used that money. Let's focus instead on the newer, more contemporary feel and fluidity of the fabrics, that we commissioned them specifically for our worship space, and that Jeff Wunrow is an internationally known church artist who makes his home right here in St. Louis AND he's an Episcopalian!

St. Timothy's Members Learn Mah-jongg



Starting the first of June, long-time St. Tim's member Julia Amies began teaching a group of 7 other church members how to play Mah-jongg at her home. She "advertised" in Tim's Times, offering something new and interesting. She quickly filled her class and began teaching these adventurous souls how to play! Mah-jongg is a Chinese game for 4 people played with 136 to 144 rectangular pieces called tiles. The object of the game is to collect winning sets of tiles, such as in gin rummy. "Our Mah-jongg class is going well and we love the game," Julia said.

If you are intrigued and would like to learn to play, Julia is thinking of starting another class in October; she already has 2 people signed up and would have room for 6 more—

for a maximum of 8 each time. Please contact Julia at julia.amies@me.com for more information.

Read more about Mah-jongg in "What the Surprising History of Mah-jongg Can Teach Us About America" at <https://time.com/6045817/mahjongg-history/>.



St. Tim's members playing Mah-jongg (L-R): Alice Fritsch, Brooke Forsyth, Julia's "teaching assistant" Suzanne Haining, Jane Coughlin, and Tammie O'Donnell. Not pictured: Jeanne Jarvis and Hank Conard.

Leann Schuering: St. Tim's Midwestern Opera Star

By Mitzi Uyemura

If you don't know her yet, Leann Schuering is a member of St. Timothy's. She usually attends the 9 a.m. Sunday service with her husband, Andrew, and their two young children. She often sings at those services, sharing her beautiful voice with our members as she enhances our worship. But what you might not know is that she is a professional singer, an operatic soprano, and has sung in a hundreds of productions in cities all over the country.

From her professional bio:

"Blessed with a voice that is lovely and rich" (*St. Louis Post Dispatch*), soprano Leann Schuering is in demand as a vocalist and voice teacher in the St. Louis region. She has performed solo engagements and leading roles with many of the area's most prominent performing arts organizations, including the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the St. Louis Shakespeare Festival, Union Avenue Opera, St. Louis Art Song, The Kingsbury Ensemble, The Muny, and others. This summer she returns to Union Avenue Opera as Charlotte in Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*. A member of the Voice Faculty at Webster University School of Music since 2018, Dr. Schuering holds degrees from The University of Michigan, The University of Illinois, and The University of Chicago." <https://www.leannschuering.com>

Even more exciting is that she will perform a concert on September 11 right here at St. Tim's! The concert is called "The Moon and I" and will be comprised of songs about the moon.

Songs about the moon?

Leann describes how this concert came to life:

In the Spring of 2022, I was asked to sing the North American premiere of Rhian Samuel's song cycle, *The Moon and I*. It brought me to reflect on all of the other songs I know, across centuries and languages, that feature the moon. No matter where or when we have lived, we have all gazed at the same moon - and who hasn't gazed at it with wonder at one time or another? Harvest Moons, Blood Moons, Super Moons, Lunar Eclipses...big, full, round moons or tiny slivers of crescents...the moon inspires us all with its enigmatic allure. Through the songs in this concert we will come to know the moon as confidante, messenger, companion, observer, and above all, a thing of great beauty and wonder.

To learn more about Leann and find out what the concert will be like, I had a delightful conversation with her a few weeks back. I ended up learning a lot more about Leann's incredibly interesting life than I had room to include! The following Q & A are from that conversation.



Q: When did you realize you had an opera-caliber or professional quality singing voice?

LS: I always knew I had a good singing voice; I don't know if that was based on feedback from adults or just how much I enjoyed it. My high school choir director told my parents I should have voice lessons. I remember at the time thinking that I didn't want anyone telling me how to sing. How little did I know! Singing was always a passion and I followed it, and I found reward

when I followed it in the form of feedback, or goals, or awards. I was involved in both music and theater in high school and college, and all of my extra curriculars were in music and theater during those years.

Q: You got your undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies. That seems fairly far removed from a career as a vocalist. How did your singing career come to be?

LS: I had a completely unrelated major which I enjoyed, but about halfway through college (at the University of Chicago), the light bulb went on, and I realized that everything I was doing in my spare time involved music and theater. I decided to finish my major in Environmental studies, which I was also passionate about, while preparing for graduate studies in Music. I was actually introduced to the world of opera and opera singing through an academic opera survey course in college and fell in love with it. My graduate studies in voice were heavily focused on opera. I knew that's where I was heading at that point.

Q: Where are you from?

LS: I was born in Lafayette, Indiana and we moved to Decatur, Illinois when I was in second grade. I consider Decatur my home town. Millikin University is located in Decatur, and it has a very good school of music. That is where I took my first voice lessons. Decatur is also where I met my husband Andrew, whose family moved there from Quincy during our junior year in high school.

Q: Were you and Andrew high school sweethearts?

LS: No. We started dating at the very end of senior year; he asked me to our senior prom. We continued dating

and had a long-distance relationship for 6 years. When I went to the University of Chicago as an undergrad, Andrew went to the University of Illinois. And then we flip flopped, and I went to Illinois for grad school and Andrew had his first job after graduation in the Chicago area. Then finally two years later, we managed to finally settle down in Decatur together, getting married in 2006. Andrew had a corporate job there and I taught voice and opera workshop at Millikin University from 2007 - 2011.

Q: Most people wouldn't associate opera with the Midwest. How were you able to be involved in singing opera professionally living in the Midwest?

LS: My first professional opera job was at a small theater in Bloomington, IL when I was in grad school. During the years Andrew and I were in Decatur, I would go to New York for a couple of weeks every year and do summer young artist programs, festivals, coaching, auditions, etc. If you want to break into the upper echelons of the opera world, you have to make connections in the major opera companies and work in young artist programs, like Opera Company of St. Louis. Opera companies all over the U.S. have young artist programs and they're usually in the summer. They are incredibly competitive; it's critical to participate in them because that is how you make connections in the opera world and further your career.

Q: How did marriage and children affect your professional career?

LS: Andrew has always been very supportive of my career. We had lots of conversations in the early years of our marriage about who would pursue what, and when. He wanted to consider graduate school, but that didn't work out as we hoped. Then in our later 20s the conversation became whether we wanted children and when. It's important to understand that by age 30 you kind of "age out" of the young artist programs in opera, so I had to decide if I wanted to devote the last few years of my 20s to those competitions and programs, to all the travel and unpredictability, etc. Or did I want to start a family? I wasn't really sure until one day I was. It was literally like my biological clock went off. To a certain extent, deciding to start a family was also something that Andrew and I could control, it was a choice we could make for ourselves, unlike an audition or a competition. The irony was that I was starting to make those critical connections in opera. So in a sense I was walking away from what could have been a turning point in my career, but I felt very secure in the decision to have children. The question was how could we start a family, and also be in a place where I could continue to make connections, develop my craft, further my career. A doctoral program at the University of Michigan was the answer. I started my doctoral degree when our daughter Tedlin was 3 months old and we moved from Decatur to Ann Arbor. That was quite the adventure! But that move was everything we wanted it to be for our family.

Q: How and when did you end up in St. Louis?

LS: We moved to St. Louis from Ann Arbor in 2015 when our son Emmett was 5 months old. Our friends told us we must like to move with babies! I wanted more performance opportunities, and I knew moving to St. Louis would provide that. St. Louis came to mind because during our years in Decatur I was coming down twice a month to take private voice lessons from John Stewart, who was the chair of the Voice Dept. at WashU. I was also coaching with Gail Hintz, who will be the pianist at the concert in September. I had a small part in a Union Ave. Opera in 2009 or 2010, so I already had a network in St. Louis. We really liked the size of the city and I knew there was a lot going on arts-wise. It was a nice distance to a lot of our family members, a great place to raise a family, and had a lot of professional opportunities for me both performing and teaching. Andrew got a job offer in St. Louis, so we followed that.

Q: How has living in St. Louis been for you professionally?

LS: I pretty much hit the ground running with performance stuff here. I thought about my life as having 3 different areas: mommy, teaching, and performing. I knew I couldn't do all three, and mommy was my first priority, so I focused on performing then. I've had the opportunity to perform with nearly all of the classical music organizations in St. Louis. In 2018, I got a call from the Director of Vocal Performance at Webster University, who asked me to be an adjunct professor there. Emmett was 3 then, and I decided that my kids were old enough at that point for me to add teaching to my list of responsibilities.

Q: How did you become members of St. Timothy's?

LS: I was raised in the Unitarian Universalist Church and Andrew was raised in the Roman Catholic Church. I always knew I wanted church to be part of our lives but I didn't know how. We went to a Catholic mass and it didn't feel right. Over my years of singing, I've performed in many different churches and got a decent overview of possible denominations. I became familiar with Episcopalianism during our time in Ann Arbor and really enjoyed Episcopal liturgy. When we moved to St. Louis, I found St. Timothy's and we never went anywhere else. I remember Andrew saying to me as we drove out of the parking lot after that first service, "Thank you for finding this place." From the first time we went to St. Tim's it just felt right. We started attending regularly after that.



The Schuering Family at St. Tim's on Easter, 2022



SAINT TIMOTHY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CREVE COEUR, MO

"The Moon and I"

Join us for a spectacular
vocal concert performed by
acclaimed Soprano Leann Schuering
with Pianist Gail Hintz
on Sunday, September 11, 2022
at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church,
3:00 p.m.



"No matter where
or when we have lived,
we have all gazed
at the same moon...
Through these songs,
we will come to know
the moon as a thing of
great beauty and wonder."

- Leann Schuering

Ordinary Time Can Become Quite Extraordinary!

Jesus According to Luke A Gospel's Unique Contribution to What We Know of Christ

By Mark Abbott, Instructor of Preaching,
Seattle Pacific University

(Editor's Note: We are in Year C of the Episcopal Lectionary, with the Gospel readings exclusively from Luke for the entirety of the Season after Pentecost.)

As a preaching pastor for more than four decades, I periodically dipped into the Gospel of Luke for a Sunday sermon. Of course, at least once at Christmas there would be a sermon from Luke's wonderful story of Jesus' birth. But seldom have I looked at the whole Gospel of Luke as I did in preparation for writing the Lectio: Guided Bible Reading for Winter Quarter.

I found that covering Luke's Gospel in 11 chapters of 2,500 words each was a major challenge. But I also found myself involved in more than a writing assignment as I opened up this remarkable story of Jesus according to Luke. While I tried to make some of the important scholarship on this gospel accessible, my main motivation was pastoral. I tried to make Luke's portrait of Jesus accessible to a contemporary college freshman.

Here are some of the things I observed about how this wonderful segment of Scripture deals with Jesus:

Luke was a serious historian, careful in his writing and elegant in his language. As N.T. Wright observes, Luke "was an educated and cultured man, the first real historian to write about Jesus. His book places Jesus not only at the heart of the Jewish world of the first century, but at the heart of the Roman world into which the Christian gospel exploded."

Luke continues his story into this Gospel's sequel, the Acts of the Apostles.

Luke depicts Jesus in his short-lived ministry as deeply compassionate — caring for the poor, the oppressed, and the marginalized of that culture, such as Samaritans, Gentiles, and women. Whereas Matthew traces Jesus' genealogy to Abraham, father of the Jewish people, Luke goes back to Adam, parent of us all.

Again and again, Luke zeros in on women, who were seen as second-class citizens in the first century. The first birth

announcement for Jesus, as Luke tells it, was made to shepherds "living in the fields," and were among the lowest in that society's pecking order. Jesus' ministry was for all, especially for those who were rejected or diminished in value by their society.

Luke places special emphasis on the Holy Spirit and on prayer. After highlighting the role of the Holy Spirit in the birth and ministry of Jesus, Luke begins the sequel to his gospel by telling of the Holy Spirit's outpouring (Acts 2). As to prayer, Luke not only pictures Jesus at prayer but also includes several parables that highlight the importance of prayer. As you read Luke, be alert to how often these themes appear in this Gospel.

Some of Jesus' most powerful parables are uniquely recorded in Luke: The Good Samaritan (10:25–37), The Rich Fool (12:13–21), The Prodigal Son (15:11–32), The Rich Man and Lazarus (16:19–31), The Persistent Widow (18:1–8), and The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (18:9–14).

Luke describes Jesus on the road. He gives us a longer "travel narrative" than the other gospels (9:51–18:14). While on his extended journey to Jerusalem, Jesus heals, teaches, and disciples his followers. Then, the book climaxes on the road to Emmaus (24:13–35). Luke's Jesus is on a journey with us.

While I am very grateful for the vital diversity in the four-gospel story we have of Jesus, I celebrate this wonderful story of Jesus according to Luke.

<https://spu.edu/depts/uc/response/new/2013-spring/bible-theology/jesus-according-to-luke.asp>

From everyone who has
been given much,
much will be demanded;
and from the one who has
been entrusted with much,
much more will be asked.

Luke 12:48 (NIV)

Every Day Should Be “Back to School”

By The Rev. James H. Purdy
Retired Clergy Associate

A recent “conversation” through email with a friend reminded me of heated exchanges with a divinity school professor five-plus decades ago.

Prompted by an invitation from the sub-Dean, several of us first year seminarians were engaged in a forthright discussion with one of the senior faculty members of what seminary is, what it might be, what we hoped to gain in those three years and two Summers of theological education, and, more importantly, what we hoped to recognize, realize and give to parishioners and communities after our ordinations.

From the outset, it was clear that the professor and we were on different “pages.” Clearly, his beliefs and passions centered on mastering disciplines, passing tests and bluebook examinations, and developing and displaying pools of information. Professor S refrained countless times: “There are certain things you must know, that you need to know....that are necessary, that are essential for your salvation...And without those facts—and the ability to express them consistently and authoritatively, never apologetically!—without those competencies, you will serve neither God nor God’s people. You should never be ordained!”

As you can imagine, the four of us disagreed with his right to live and to his tenured status—and, more particularly, with his assumptions and conclusions. We believed then (and now) that a faithful life is far more than transferring knowledge “authoritatively, never apologetically.” How I wish that, at that time, one of us had known and spoken the words of William Butler Yeats (which I reminded my divinity-school, still-friend)—“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

Inarticulately, we students railed and ranted about the irrelevance of precise words—of proper definitions, immutable doctrines, stern punishments—and, more vociferously, about the strong barriers and barricades

that were created by fixating on those words. I recall “instructing” Dean Harris: “Mr. Dean, those words draw lines. Inevitably, they create rules. They erect walls and boundaries. They declare some people ‘in,’ and most ‘outside,’ the circle of faith, of God’s care, of God’s love. (Even more brashly, I said) Mr. Dean, I know that is not what you intend, demanding fealty to intolerant dogmas. You don’t wish or hope to celebrate grand occasions of triumph, of victories of correct belief and tidy rituals over sin, the flesh, and the devil and the people who are ‘caught’ by ‘them,’ do you?”

We asked Dean Harris, Professor S, and, later, the faculty and the board of trustees to consider how the school’s curriculum and “community life” might move “from knowledge to skill”—from requiring the giving of mental assent to a series of propositions, from memorizing and regurgitating factoids, to stimulating and encouraging within each student and teacher an ability and an eagerness to learn and to keep

learning...not to stare happily at the seemingly-hard-won diplomas or gaze contentedly at the ordination certificates on the walls of our offices, but to sift through the precious information that is available in the people we see and with whom we speak, in the books and newspapers we read, in the still, small voice we hear inside, and in all that we observe in God’s world every new day and to frame and offer faithful responses in those specific contexts.



“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

It seems to me that faith has little to do with the absolute certainty of ideas, words, policies and procedures, and heavy-handed convictions. Faith is rooted in the heart. Faith is being attentive to the rich resources and the crying needs that dwell within us and around us. Faith is committing ourselves to doing what we can with who we are and with what is loaned to us, trusting that God will make helpful use of us and of it.

Back to school, each and every day.

All Parish Book Read: *The Last Children of Mill Creek*

By Tony Corey and Mitzi Uyemura

Have you ever gone back to your hometown to show family or friends where you lived as a child? It is a nostalgic trip that a great many of us have had the privilege to experience. Not Vivian Gibson. Her childhood home, and the entire neighborhood where she spent her young life, is gone. It was demolished when she was still a child.

Yet despite that horrible circumstance, Ms. Gibson recalls her childhood in warm, loving, almost idyllic terms. Most of her neighbors in Mill Creek were poor, many living in homes without running water or indoor plumbing. But she and her siblings didn't seem to know they were poor, and they flourished in their home and neighborhood under the watchful eyes of their parents and grandparents.

In a 2021 article, The Los Angeles Review of Books called her book, *The Last Children of Mill Creek*, "joyful, nostalgic, mischievous—a love letter to Gibson's childhood."

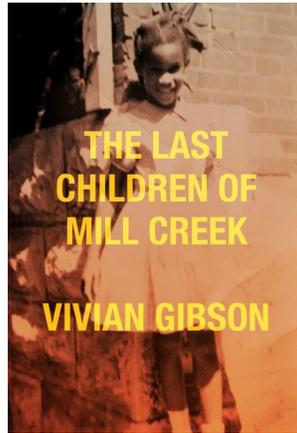
And it is *The Last Children of Mill Creek*—this true story of Vivian Gibson growing up in segregated 1950s St. Louis—that St. Timothy's Ministry on Racial Reconciliation (MORR) invites you to read with us as a parish.

On the author's website, it states that "Vivian Gibson is a native St. Louisan who grew up in Mill Creek Valley... In her moving memoir, Gibson recreates the everyday lived experiences of the Ross family, including her seven siblings, her crafty college-educated mother, who moved to St. Louis as part of the Great Migration, and her at-times forbidding father, who worked two jobs to keep them all warm and fed. With an eye for telling detail, she sketches scenes populated by her friends, shop owners, teachers, and others who made Mill Creek into a warm, tight-knit, African-American community, and reflects upon what it



means that Mill Creek was destroyed in the name of racism disguised as 'progress.'"

A 2021 article in the London Times Literary Supplement titled "Born and Razed:



Remembering a Lost Community," discusses the type of destruction that many African-American neighborhoods, like Vivian Gibson's Mill Creek, experienced. It states: "In the 1950s and 60s, cities across the United States razed supposedly blighted neighbourhoods in the name of "urban renewal." These federally funded demolitions displaced more than a million people and often 'destroyed tight-knit communities'... One such community was Mill Creek, a Black enclave in St. Louis, Missouri; in the late 1950s, it met with wrecking balls that 'permanently destroyed a viable urban neighborhood of more than 20,000 people,' as Vivian Gibson puts it in *The Last Children of Mill Creek*.

This memoir offers a rare view of a since-levelled mid-century community through the eyes of one of the last children to live there. The seventh of eight siblings, Gibson was still in primary school when her family left Mill Creek, just before its demise, for a bigger house in another part of the city. Writing her book at the age of seventy, she supplemented her early experiences with research on both the area and her family, drawing on letters, documents and conversations with relatives. As a result, she's able to contextualize her memories within the history of her family, and her family within the history of St. Louis and the United States." <https://www.the-tls.co.uk/articles/the-last-children-of-mill-creek-vivian-gibson-review-megan-marz/>

Please join us on
Sunday, October 2, from 5 - 7 pm
at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
as we welcome

**Vivian Gibson, author of
*The Last Children of Mill Creek***

for a presentation by the author,
Q&A, and small group discussions.

Come early for a light dinner at 4:30 pm
RSVP: atconard@gmail.com

MORR invites you to read this amazing book with our parish, then come to St. Timothy's and meet the author herself! On Sunday, October 2, Vivian Gibson will make a presentation, answer questions, and help us better understand her life experience.

Report from the Treasurer June 2022



	2022 Budget	As of June 30	% of Budget
Income	\$591,950	\$353,169	59.66%
Expenses	\$645,416	\$296,811	44.78%
Net Income	(\$ 53,466)	\$ 56,358	

In June we received about \$27,167 in pledge payments, far less than the average of \$42,000 needed to make our budget. However, many pledges have been paid in advance in previous months and pledges remain ahead of budget for the year. We also received our third Endowment contribution of \$5,863.

For the month we had a net shortage of (\$18,725), but for the year we still had a gain of \$56,358 because of the pledge prepayments and low expenditures.

As I write this, we are nearing the end of July. Results are not yet available, but we so far have had very limited pledge payments (not unusual in the summer season), and I expect our monthly results will again be a deficit, while our net income will remain positive. Complete financials will be posted in the hallway outside the office as soon as they are complete. Please feel free to contact me, Rick Sharp, or Kurt Zwickelmaier anytime you have a question or concern about our financial reports.

- Alice Fritsch, Assistant Treasurer
treasurer.at.saint.tims@gmail.com

August 2022 Parish & Family Events at St. Timothy's!

Saturday, Aug. 6 from 3 - 5 p.m.
Ice Cream and Games
Family Drop - In

Saturday, Aug. 13 @5:00 p.m.
Summer Parish Picnic
Water fun, games, and a barbecue!

Monday, Aug. 15 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Family Pizza & Movie Night!

Sunday, Aug. 21 @9 + 10:45 a.m. services
Back to school blessing. Bring your backpack!

E-mail Erin @ rev.erinpickersgill@gmail.com
to RSVP or with any questions.

TIM Talks

Conversations Worth Having

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Fall 2022 Adult Forums 9:50 a.m. Sundays in Fleming Hall

Sept. 18 "Future of Creve Coeur" – Mayor Robert Hoffman will share his vision of the future of Creve Coeur.

Sept. 25 "Creve Coeur-Olivette Chamber of Commerce" Executive Director Tom Lancia will speak to us about the work of the Chamber of Commerce. Steve Crock represents St. Timothy's at its meetings.

More information to come soon.
Contact atconard@gmail.com with questions.

Dates to Remember

August Birthdays

2	Peggy Boyd
	Laurel Dunworth
	Sean Fowler
	William Pooley
4	Cathie Muschany
5	Brad Barnes
	Richard Buckman
6	George Podolsky
7	Marj Gold
9	Gary Stansbery
10	Grace Holland
	Nash Morgan
12	Jim Clark
	Donald Mazhou

13	Bridget Evers
15	Tara Mihal
16	David Neise
18	Rhett Schwent
	Sam Snyder
20	Will Knight
21	Matthew Noonan-Wehling
25	Jeremy Gibbs
26	Brooks Hawkins
27	Ashley Snyder
28	Craig Boyd
	Laura Catalano
	Susan Moenkhaus
	Dick Sinise

August Anniversaries

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

September Birthdays

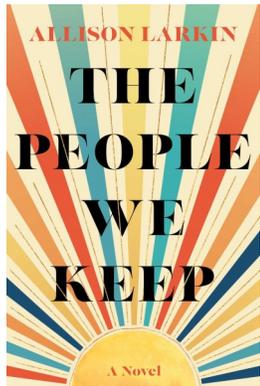
2	Becky Porter
4	Bob Rouse
5	Jack Danforth
7	Connor Smith
8	Ken Dobbins
	James Hinrichs
9	Lance Kramer
	Dee Dee Stone
11	Maxine Sharp
13	Lenene Andre
14	Dick Gold
	Michael Spung
15	Adam Barnes
	Marin Moenkhaus
	Tina Warhover

20	Teresa McDowell
23	Larry Thomas
24	Callen Goff
	Clark Loechner
25	Bud Bosanquet
	Mike Cummins
26	Sarah Johnson
27	Caroline Kelsey
	Robin Turner
30	Nick Mason

September Anniversaries

1	Sasha & Tyler Saliski
5	Peggy & Keith Boyd
7	Sally & Jack Danforth
10	Rita & George Podolsky
17	Elizabeth & James Fogt
20	Linda & Larry Lawless
30	Jennifer & Brad Barnes

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



St. Timothy's Women's Book Club

The St. Timothy's Women's Book Club is starting a new book! This quarter, the selected book is *The People We Keep*, by Allison Larkin. According to Goodreads, "April Sawicki is living in a motorless motorhome that her father won in a poker game. Failing out of school, picking up shifts at Margo's diner, she's left fending for herself in a town where she's never quite felt at home. When she "borrows" her neighbor's car to perform at an open mic night, she realizes her life could be much bigger than where she came from. After a fight with her dad, April packs her stuff and leaves for good, setting off on a journey to find a life that's all hers."

As April moves through the world, meeting people who feel like home, she chronicles her life in the songs she writes and discovers that where she came from doesn't dictate who she has to be."

We will meet on **Tuesday, October 18 at 6:30 p.m.** to discuss the book. Susan Moenkhaus is our new facilitator, and hopes we can meet in person at church. She'll send a reminder a week before the meeting. Contact Susan at smoenkhaus@gmail.com with any questions. *Let's get reading, ladies!*

St. Tim's Ongoing Food Pantry Donations

St. Timothy's Food Ministries collects food for the Trinity Church CWE and Circle of Concern food pantries year round. As you are doing your own shopping, please check these lists and get some items for those in need.

Circle of Concern request list: (Aug., Oct., even months)

Pasta Sauce	Laundry Detergent
Snack Foods	Body Wash
Dinner "Helpers"	Pull Ups training pants
Baking Mixes	
Breakfast Cereal	

Circle of Concern's food pantry serves approximately 2,000 individuals monthly and more than 1,200 households annually. <https://www.circleofconcern.org/>

Trinity Food Pantry request list: (Sept., Nov., odd months)

Ramen Noodles
Boxed breakfast cereal
Bottled water
Toothbrushes
Bar soap
Deodorant, Men's & Women's

Urgent need: Washcloths

During the hot weather, we hand out wash cloths for people to wet down and put on their heads or the back of their necks.

Make a donation to the Trinity Food Pantry:
<https://www.trinitycwe.org/donate>

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. Erin Pickersgill, *Deacon*
Mark R. Scholtz, *Director of Music*
Kathy Tate, *Administrative Assistant*
Mitzi Uyemura, *Angler Editor*

Dated Church Material
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