

TIDINGS

Monthly Newsletter of St. Timothy's

Vol 24, Issue#6 July 2015



Warden's & Vestry Parish Update

The Wardens have scheduled Supply Clergy for the month of July:

- The Rev. Laura Darling will be serving with us on July 5th and 12th
 - The Rev. Will Scott will be serving with us on July 19th and 26th
- Please welcome them to our Worship Services

Thank you to the Reverend Audrey Miskelley!! June 28th was the Rev. Audrey's last Sunday as Interim Associate with St. Tim's. She has served St. Timothy's with enthusiasm, kindness and clarity as the Associate Clergy person. We will all miss the clarity of her preaching, her resolve and caring nature—we wish you well in your new Interim Role at St. Aidan's in San Francisco.

The Interim Rector Search is Progressing Well The Vestry's goal remains having our Interim on board in early August.

New Church Office Hours As a result of our staff reductions, Bea will be in the office Tuesday and Thursday from 9 to 5 and Friday from 8 to 12. We are working with volunteers to assist in specific duties and office assignments. We will be announcing the coordinator for those activities and the opportunities to assist in the near future.

Mike Oliver & Scott Sampson

TAIZÉ
The Song of Silence

Have you ever experienced a Taizé Service? Come join us Monday evening July 6 at St. Timothy's Church between 7 and 8 p.m. for a deeply contemplative candlelight service.

In the fullness of silence we discover deeper truth and insights. Gathered in a beautiful environment of luminous darkness (candlelight), live music, sacred chants, short readings of scripture and poetry, and periods of silent meditation, we rest in the presence of God.

Taizé originated about 60 years ago in the small, monastic village of Taizé in France. Today it continues to draw thousands of Christian from all over the world. It has quickly spread to Christian churches here and abroad.

We welcome everybody!

SUMMER LUNCHEON

(Planned by Senior Ministries but open to all who would like to come!)

We hope you will join us for our annual no-host luncheon at a local restaurant. We will be having lunch at the Brass Door restaurant in San Ramon again this year. Last year's luncheon there was a huge success and that is why we are repeating it again this year. There will be a choice of four menu selections along with dessert and a beverage.

Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2015

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Place: 2156 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, San Ramon

Cost: \$25 including tax and tip **CASH ONLY**

RSVP: Cathy Morris: (925) 300-3555 or lil.captain315@gmail.com

Or Carol Skuce: (925) 855-8108 or cgskuce@yahoo.com

PLEASE respond by Saturday, July 4th as the restaurant needs to know in advance. Thanks!

SHAKE, RAFFLE AND ROLL (COINS)!

Fundraising is underway for the High School Immersion Trip later this summer. Perhaps you have already seen kids selling raffle tickets and/or collecting coins to help get us to St. Dorothy's Rest and back; they'll be around most Sundays through July. While we are at St. Dorothy's we will be working on outdoor projects including building a new community worship structure, clearing camping sites and building benches using native materials. If you have any question please feel free to contact me at spearzo@pacbell.net. Or talk to the awesome youth participating: Allen Abbott, Claire & Katie Keeshen, Ellen & Sam Vila. Thanks! Sharyn Mitzo

DELVING INTO THE WORD

Wednesdays 11:30 - 1:00 p.m., Grace House Library

Join us in the library room for a conversation on the assigned lectionary readings each week. We explore the context of the gospel readings, discuss the common themes that span the readings from the Old and New Testament and reflect on how the relevance of these lessons in our lives today.

NEW BUNCO NIGHT AT ST. TIMOTHY'S



Ladies, get out your dice rolling skills and prepare to dazzle your opponents at St. Timothy's Bunco Night on Wednesday, July 15th. Bunco is a fun game involving tables of four, dice and a whole lot of luck. Women of all ages are invited to join this event which will take place at Grace House from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Drinks are included, and prizes will be awarded.

There is a \$5.00 fee and request that participant's bring an appetizer or dessert to share. See Bunco reps for signups at each service on Sundays, June 28th and July 5th and 12th. You will also pick up a sheet of Bunco Rules. Bring your friends! Questions or offers to volunteer with the event: Dee Geisler, 925-837-4670.

FINANCIAL HAPPENINGS

Please Note: Tidings reports are due at the end of the month prior to the close of the current financial reporting month. As a result, Tidings reports will appear four weeks after the close of the previous month. So, this July Tidings has May closing numbers, not June. However, an overview of what is happening financially during the current month will be included, i.e. June. I hope this is not too confusing.

June appears to be another good month for St Timothy's however, with the final payment of severance for Fr Frost, we anticipate a larger loss for the month than forecast back in January. However, the good news is that the three year loan approved by the Diocese helps cover this loss and our cash position is maintained. Another significant step forward is that the modified 2015 budget that was adopted by the Vestry in early May goes into effect on July 1st. This budget will help us in our planning and start to move us into a balanced budget situation. This is again good news; however, we do have significant work ahead to get to that point.

The comment at the end of the earlier 411 Announcement, that we at St Timothy's have much to be thankful to God for is very true. The Holy Spirit is working and we are on a positive path to financial recovery.

May Report (Also included in the previous 411 Announcements)

Our months continue to be kinder financially than anticipated. May ended with a deficit of only \$7,698. When compared to our anticipated deficit of \$24,181, it is good news. This improvement is due to increased contributions of \$18,300 over budget. Our expenses were less than anticipated except for payroll, which was higher due to an additional month of rector severance.

Looking at our Year to Date (January to May) numbers we are again better than anticipated. We budgeted a deficit of \$97,944 and the current deficit as of May 31st is \$35,883. This improvement is primarily due to increased giving of \$48,145 over budget which was offset with increased expenses of \$13,915. The expense increase is primarily due to maintenance and the additional month of rector compensation. It should be noted that June will have an additional 3 months of rector compensation. This will complete this obligation and has been taken into account in our cash planning.

We at St Timothy's have so much to be thankful for, one of which is the increased giving and everyone working together to help manage God's money using good stewardship practices. There is much financial work to be done, but we are making progress. Your continued support and prayers for the tasks at hand are needed and appreciated.

Joe Cunningham
Treasurer

WORK PARTY

In an effort to take care of some items on our campus without incurring the cost of outside help, we are planning to have a work party on Saturday, July 11 at 9:00 AM on the patio to do the following:

- Paint copper pipes in the restrooms in the education building
- Move fire pit to the storage container
- Freshen the paint in the breezeway and north side of the education building
- Make minor repairs to the play houses in the school yard
- Remove declining cherry tree in patio

Questions about any of the above, please contact Bev Matsunaga at 837-4993, Ext. 11

St Timothy's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting Highlights – June 2015

The vestry met in Grace House on Thursday, June 11 at 7:00 pm.

- **MOTION:** Approve the Vestry minutes of May 14, 2015.
- **MOTION:** Approve the Commission and other reports submitted by Noah's Ark and Outreach.
- **MOTION:** Use \$85,000 of the available \$90,000 from the Diocesan loan to compensate Rev. Jeff Frost. Moved, seconded, and passed. The Finance Committee recommended this action.
- **MOTION:** Request that the Property Commission develop a revision plan for the landscaping in light of the drought and the increase in the cost of water and submit that to the vestry.
- **MOTION:** Authorize \$5000 to fund interim interview trips. Moved, seconded, and passed.
- **AGREEMENT:** If time allows, significant agenda items will be tabled before voting on them to allow additional reflection between meetings.
- **ACTION:** A subcommittee will work with Rev. Audrey to revise the language on the web site with respect to weddings.
- Two candidates for the position of interim rector visited St. Timothy's during the week of June 14. The vestry had dinner, met and talked with both candidates. A supplemental vestry meeting is planned for Saturday, June 27th.
- Audrey is working on a plan to augment the Prayers of the People each Sunday to include a subset of the parish families.
- The financial status of the parish is discussed elsewhere in Tidings by the Treasurer – Joe Cunningham.

- Parish members are welcome to attend Vestry meetings. The next formal meeting is on Thursday, July 9.
- The minutes of the vestry meeting will be filed in the Parish Office after they are approved by the Vestry.

Submitted by Sally Shea Potts, Vestry Clerk

Noah's Ark 2014-2015 Highlights

- We welcomed 2 new staff members who have joined our team and add to the richness of the program. We are fortunate to have found them.
- In October we shared in Parent Night-a wonderful evening with the teachers highlighting details of the curriculum accompanied with a beautiful visual display of materials.
- Our new fundraiser this year, Mixed Bag Designs was a great success and all profit directly went into the program for project supplies and books. Children are each given a gift of a book at Advent, as part of the curriculum in the yellow class and when moving on from the program.
- Families brought in items to support the Adopt-A-Family and St. Timothy's outreach. The total items filled four boxes!
- December each class participated in an Advent Celebration in the chapel with Lori and their families. It was a treasured send off to the holiday break.
- Noah's Ark participated in the unannounced audit for Community Care Licensing in April. The auditors conduct a very thorough visit to evaluate the health and safety of the school. The team also does a random review of teachers' and students' file and found Noah's Ark strong in all areas. We are very proud of the findings and report.
- The Art Show was held in April and it was so much fun to tour the preschool walls as they were converted into an art gallery. It was a social time too as ice cream was shared throughout St. Timothy's courtyard and the playground.
- Our Dad's Day on Saturday May 8th was splendid for the children and their dads as we shared in circle time, songs and playtime. This event is a favored tradition and so enjoyable!
- The first two weeks of May, the preschool parents brought in food for the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano. A total of 95 pounds of food was collected and equates to 79 meals.
- We ended our school year on June 1st and June 2nd. Together the teachers, children and families attended one last chapel with Lori. This was an emotional time as we have many children moving on to Transitional kindergarten and Kindergarten. 38 children of our total enrollment (60) will be leaving. We wish them many blessings in their new adventures.

Please
Note

Beginning July 1 Bea hours will be
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00-5:00 and 8:00 till 12 noon on Fridays



YOUTH IMMERSION TRIP TO ST. DOROTHY'S REST



On Sunday, August 2nd, 5 St. Timothy's high school youth (and 1 by proxy) will be heading off to St. Dorothy's Rest (SDR) in Camp Meeker, California. SDR is a camp within our diocese and this is their mission statement:

The oldest camp in California, St. Dorothy's Rest invites children, youth and adults, wherever they may be on their spiritual journeys, to experience and explore God's creation through summer camps and retreats. Warm hospitality, acres upon acres of reclaimed redwood forest, and a place that is altogether different from everyday life allows visitors to care for their most important relationships—to themselves, their loved ones, their God and creation. This is a place to truly "Get A Way".

"Today St. Dorothy's serves approximately 400 children each summer, provides programs for 400 children throughout the year and has a year round retreat ministry providing adults in the community and the church a sacred place for renewal and refreshment." Please take a few minutes to watch this [110 year tribute](https://youtu.be/GJ3MZI2ius4): <https://youtu.be/GJ3MZI2ius4> to learn more about the camp.

Most of our labor at SDR will be in the redwood forest working on building a gathering/worship structure, gardening and reclaiming land for camp sites. Our spiritual program will focus on Jesus' teachings through parables, with an emphasis on agriculture.

Your financial support helps purchase necessary supplies and gets us there and back, so watch for kids selling raffle tickets, collecting spare change and taking donations on Sundays throughout July. You can contact me at spearzo@pacbell.net with questions. Thank you! Sharyn Mitzo and:

Allen Abbott, Claire & Katie Keeshen, Nina Patel, Ellen & Sam Vila.

WHY WE DO OUTREACH

Last Sunday the theme of many sermons within the Diocese of California was the attitude of scarcity as practiced by our secular society versus the belief in the world of abundance as preached by Jesus of Nazareth.

As disciples of Jesus many of St Timothy's Parishioners demonstrate their belief in in the God's Kingdom on earth by working in the Outreach ministries supported by the just completed Fruits of the Harvest event. Many of these ministries are local where we actually interface with our neighbor's who are in need. Our rewards, many times are the celebration of their victories.

Today I learned that my Friend Mr. Greg Johnson, a member of Trinity Center, passed away, hopefully peacefully in his sleep, on a park bench in Oakland. It appears Greg died without another human comforting him as he passed, but he did not go without touching other people's lives. Greg was always grateful for what he had, and was only irritated when other members took overly long showers, since being the shower monitor was his job.

Greg and I were friends, but I learned a lot more about life from Greg than he ever did from me. Greg never ceased to amaze me at how he could be so "up" even as a homeless man. It seemed like a smile never left his face nor a song from his mouth. Greg never saw his glass as anything less than full, which amazed me. For me Greg was a living reminder that in the Gospel of abundance Jesus was talking about did not include a luxury car in the garage of every million-dollar home on a fairway.

This is why I volunteer for an Outreach Ministry.

Steve Mason



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – BUILDING ON FAITH BLITZ – JUNE 6 – 8

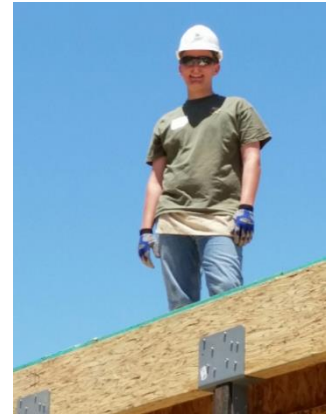
On Saturday June 6, 2015 a group of nine volunteers from St. Tim's lent a helping hand for Habitat for Humanity's Building on Faith Blitz at Muir Ridge home development in Martinez. The event included volunteers from multiple faith denominations across the area.

Volunteer workers also included the owners of these homes as part of their sweat-equity commitment.



Saturday's duties included the framing of seven of the total 20 homes at the Muir Ridge. Volunteers arrived to a continental breakfast buffet, then the teams were assigned to a house. Each house had a House Leader who supervised training and worked with their team throughout the day. The house team was further split into smaller crews to work together on the various aspects of framing and basic carpentry.

A hearty lunch was provided and given the cloudless day plenty of water was available.



At the end of the day, approximately 4:30 pm, each team cleaned up their home for the next day's volunteer crew and was rewarded with ice cream bars and sandwiches.

St. Tim's kindly contributed \$1000 to Habitat for Humanity from the proceeds from this year's Fruit of the Harvest event. A special thank you goes to the St Tim's volunteers:

- Lisa Abbott
- Allen Abbott
- John Geraci
- David Kutrosky
- Lorrie Sammons
- Nick Abbott
- Steve Bried
- Bill Keeshen
- Mike Oliver

Keep an eye out on the God's Hand red bulletin board as well as Tidings and other parish publications for future dates for volunteering opportunities with Habitat for Humanity.

David Kutrosky



A SPECIAL EVENT DINNER AT THE BLACKHAWK GRILLE!

This is part of our FOTH fundraiser for Outreach.

SUNDAY, July 26th at 5 p.m.

**Remaining seats are limited so don't delay in
getting your tickets at coffee hour.**

Tickets are \$105 per person, and \$43 of that is tax deductible and goes to the beneficiaries. Tickets are non-refundable.

Seventy- five of us will have a wonderful evening in the Walnut Grove Room at the Blackhawk Grille, where our own parishioner, David Thompson, is working magic as Souse Chef. The delicious menu includes soup or salad; a choice of entrees: Tavern Steak, Apple Wood Smoked Half Chicken, Penne Jambalaya, or Angel Hair Pasta Primavera; the Chef's Dessert Duo; and coffee, iced tea, and soft drinks. *Tax and Gratuity included.*

There is a no-host bar, and for a corkage fee of \$15 per bottle, you may bring your own bottles of wine.

This is a great opportunity to have a special evening, a lovely dinner, and party with your Saint Timothy's family while raising a substantial amount for a good cause. Bring your friends. Dress is Smart Casual, and singles are very welcome.

Sign up at the table with the Blackhawk Grille poster on Sundays at coffee Hour. Last Sunday to sign up is July 19th. Your check is your reservation.

For more information, contact Leslie Firth, lesliefirth@comcast.net, 925-314-3044.



2015 SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE for CCIH

Contra Costa Interfaith Housing ***STARTS July 19 to Aug. 10***

It's time again to give children the tools to learn. We are collecting supplies for CCIH for about 120 low-income students and formerly homeless children in their three locations in Pleasant Hill, Bay Point and Pittsburg. By providing school supplies we ensure that the children have what they need to succeed throughout the academic year. We believe that education helps interrupt the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

Bring your donations to the entry of Grace House no later than Monday, Aug. 10th. We will be taking them up to CCIH early on Tuesday, the 11th. We also welcome monetary donations. Make checks out to *Contra Costa Interfaith Housing - CCIH School Supplies Drive*, and put them in the designated mailbox in the office or hand it to Leslie Firth. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity! Everything gets distributed.

WISH LIST

Elementary School (61 boys & 35 girls)

- Backpack
- Large pink erasers (2 pack)
- Plastic Pencil box
- #2 Pencils (box of 12)
- Package of lined paper (wide-ruled)
- 3 Notebooks (wide rule)
- Medium box of crayons (Box of 24)
- Pkg. of 8 washable colored markers
- Package of glue sticks (3 pack)
- Pencil sharpener that catches shavings
- Kid scissors
- 12" Ruler
- Colored pencils (12 count)
- Water color paints (Basic 8 color set)

Middle School (34 boys & 19 girls) & High School (9 boys & 9 girls)

- Backpack
- 2 – 1 inch 3 ring binder
- 1 set of tabbed dividers (1/6th cut)
- 6 Clear Report Covers with sliding bar
- 4 - folders with fasteners and pockets
- 2 Composition notebook
- 5 Notebooks (College Ruled)
- Pack of Lined Paper (College Ruled)
- 3 x 5 index cards (2 pkgs.)
- Poster board (large)
- Graph paper
- 2 pkg. Index cards
- **Scientific** calculator
- Protractor & rubber tip compass
- Large pink erasers (2 pack)
- Pens (3 blue, 3 black, & 3 red)
- #2 Pencils (box of 12)
- 2 Mechanical pencils and replacement lead
- Colored pencils (24 count)
- Pencil sharpener that catches shavings

- Pkg. of 8 skinny washable colored markers
- 3 Highlighters (variety of colors)
- glue sticks (3 pack)
- Post it notes

Supplies for Homework Club and College Prep Program

- Mechanical Pencils and Lead
- 3 Expo dry erase markers
- TI-89 Calculator
- White Board markers
- Printer Paper
- Computer paper
- Graph Paper
- Poster Boards
- Electronic pencil Sharpener
- USB Flash drives (4 GB or higher)
- Post-It Easel pads
- Water colors
- Multi-color tissue paper (school projects)
- Re-stickable easel pads
- Math Manipulatives – toys & objects that develop counting and organizing skills (example: www.learningresources.com)
- Paper plates and cups
- Disposable spoons and forks

Additional needs

- AAA batteries
- Lakeshore gift cards for learning materials
- Safeway Gift cards for after school snacks
- Target Gift cards for unexpected items
- \$5 gift cards to Starbucks and Jamba Juice for good report card incentives

For more info, contact Leslie Firth, 925-314-3044
lesliefirth@comcast.net

◇◇◇ **World Diversity Day -
What can we create together?**

Sunday, July 5th from 3-6 pm

Larkey Park

**1st Ave. & Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek
(Just west of the Treat/Geary exit from 680)**



We are starting a new Holy-Day - a time we consciously come together from multiple parts of the County to share our cultures, food, ideas, but most of all - we come together for genuine, indepth, Inter-religious conversations around our hopes and dreams as the human race.

There are too few opportunities for people of different races, socioeconomic classes, languages, cultures, political persuasions, differing-abilities, ages and demographics of every kind to meet and talk about who we are. This first year, we hope to meet at one centrally located park where people can meet, share a dish from their heritage and embark on meaningful discussions led in a World Café model of conversations where people can express themselves in word, art, drawing, song, drumming in multiple small group conversations. There will be games for children and youth. There will be opportunities to harvest the conversations of other groups, and a sharing of what groups experienced. Generalized results will be shared in the next Ministering Together Newsletter and on our website.

Do you want to help plan this event? Contact Rev. Hubert Ivery at 925.240.3235 or hivery@spiritquest1.net or Rev. Will McGarvey at 925.597.9797 or InterfaithCCCC@gmail.com

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Amazon will now donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to St. Timothy's when you shop at Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile is the same Amazon online shopping site many of us are familiar with, including the same products, prices and Amazon Prime benefits. It's so easy to support Saint Timothy's by going to the smile.amazon.com website and typing **Protestant Episcopal Church in the Dioceses of Calif st TIMOTHYS** into the box asking for the name of your charitable organization to support. Then just start each Amazon shopping session at smile.amazon.com so Amazon's donation will kick in. That's it – Amazon will automatically donate the percentage of your purchase to St. Timothy's. Be sure to spread the word to your friends and family.

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