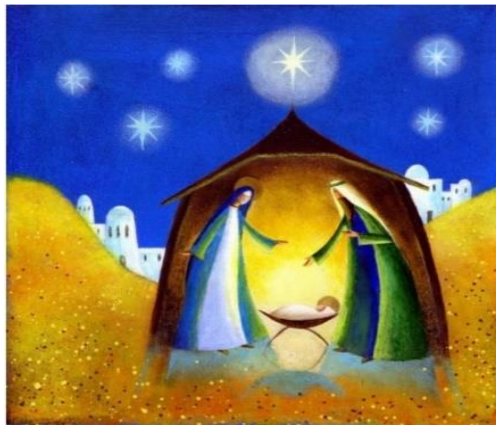


Tidings

December 2021

The newsletter of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Danville, CA.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. TIMOTHY'S



December 24th

Christmas Eve

- 3:00 Family service with Eucharist and carols - angels, shepherds, and sheep welcome. Costumes available at church
- 5:00 Family service with Eucharist, carols and candlelight
- 7:30 Festival Eucharist with music, candlelight and full choir (also live-streamed)

December 25th

Christmas Day

- 10:00 Christmas Eucharist with carols

December 26TH

Sunday after Christmas

- 10:00 Worship (also live-streamed)

January 2nd

Second Sunday after Christmas

- 8:00 Worship
- 10:00 Worship (also live-streamed)

January 9th

Epiphany

- 8:00 Worship
- 10:00 Worship (also live-streamed)

ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S ARTICLE

Merry Christmas!

The Gospel of Luke want us to know God is acting in people's lives and sends a gift of God's own self.

When the Angels come to the shepherds at night, filling the dark sky with light and song, they came with a message. First the shepherds were told— "Do not be afraid" and second that they were told that they brought "good news of great joy for all the people." As they departed with song and praise, they sang of God's peace on earth.

The Angels said nothing about candles or trees or presents—that is our response to mark the gratitude, the excitement, and the wonder. In Bethlehem, where the people had come to register to be taxed, there would have been soldiers and commotion. The shepherds would not have been particularly welcome. And this Christmas, as we set angels on our trees and set up our nativity sets, the world continues in a troubling place of hunger, displacement, and disastrous storms of weather. The darkness includes disease, sorrow, and loss. To speak good news into this dark space is only possible when we remember that Christ has come among us to abide in us, to be with us to do the good things we need to do: "do justice, love mercy (kindness) and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8), it is not a journey we make alone. This Love is a simple as kindness and justice and as hard a love as self-awareness and discernment.

As we turn toward a Christmas that looks different than last year's Christmas during the Pandemic, prior to vaccines, we have been able to see family and friends, yet we know that no Christmas or holy day is ever the same. Children grow, friends move, technology changes, and our values realign and mature. Still, we need to tell our faith stories of the child born to us anew.

Saint Nicholas this year, (thank you Ade), reminded us of the gift of love that gives in secret, the blessing of a child's surprise and delight at how much they are loved, not by the material gifts, but by the people around them. Thank you to this community of Saint Timothy's who have been so supportive to Pastor Todd and me and this church during Pastor Todd's sabbatical. You have been generous in time, treasure, and talent as we faithfully navigate church in light of this Pandemic and the changes that are happening in our culture. Thank you to our bread bakers, the pray-ers, the slide clickers in church, our cookie bakers, the technology team, altar guild, our song singers, our counters, our worship servers, our facility caretakers, our vestry, our stewardship planners, our storytellers of faith, our liturgical artists, our administrators, web updater, all who greet, welcome, and offer hospitality in person or on the phone, our parents, friends, and grandparents who love our children and youth—those who are in church and those who are not in church and for all the silent offerings of faith in thought and deed that people continue to give to each other.

Thank you also to the amazing community of Saint Timothy's who have reached out to the people around us with food, housing justice, compassion, generosity, smart thinking and sharing the Good News with all our differing abilities.

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given, so God imparts to human hearts
the wonders of his heaven...be born in us today...*

Blessings of Joy! Merry Christmas!

Pastor Susan



MANGER SCENES OF OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



Anne G



Mike & Kathy M



Sharyn M



SallyP



Gloria R



Ron and Rev Martha K

WINTER NIGHTS SHELTER

January 17 – 31, 2022



St. Timothy's has hosted Winter Nights Shelter families since 2005!

Winter Nights Shelter is Back! Following Covid protocols, and with the approval of the County Health Department, Winter Nights is once again operating the rotating family shelter in Contra Costa County. With the help of St. Timothy's and Beth Chaim volunteers, we will open the Parish Hall to become a Winter Nights Shelter serving approximately 30 guests (families with children).

How Can I Help: We will provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner; laundry services; showers; assistance with homework; space for play and relaxation. Transportation, counseling, and other services are provided by the Winter Nights Shelter program.

There are many ways to participate.

To learn more about the various volunteer opportunities and to sign up online go to:

[Serve Others Menu – Winter's Night Shelter on the St. Timothy's website](#)

Signups will also be available on Sundays

All Staff, Guests and Onsite Volunteers must provide proof of full Covid vaccination.

What is Winter Nights Shelter? Winter Nights Shelter is a rotating homeless shelter that uses the facilities and helping hands of over 17 faith organizations to provide shelter for homeless families from October through June. Those served by the program move every two weeks from one congregation to the next during this period. The mission is to break the cycle of homelessness and move families toward self-sufficiency and stable housing. <http://www.cccwinternights.org/>

Contact Joann Oliver at 808-8810 or joannmarieoliver@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES - 2021



THANK YOU SO MUCH ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF AND CLIENTS OF MONUMENT CRISIS CENTER (MCC) for your contributions to making Christmas Food Boxes – 2021 such a success this year. With the help of many, many people in the parish and Noah’s Ark preschool we delivered **161 boxes** of food to MCC on Tuesday, November 30.

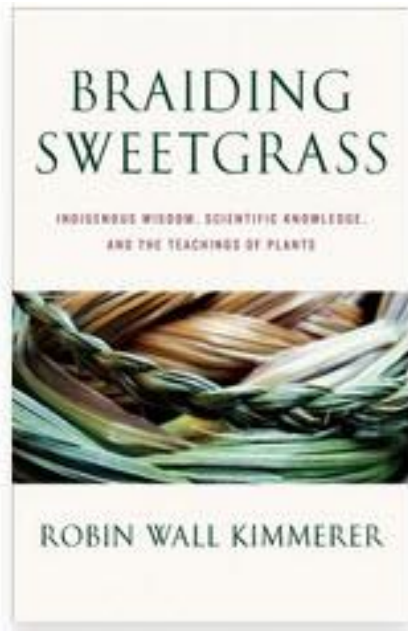
- Thank you to the **volunteers** who helped with sign-ups and answering questions on Sundays.
- Thank you to the kids and grandkids and volunteers who helped decorate our boxes.
- Thank you to the parish and preschool **families** who filled boxes with food and brought them to St. Timothy’s.
- Thank you to the box **sponsors** who contributed toward having one of our volunteer shoppers fill one or move boxes for them
- Thank you to the **shoppers** who bought and packed boxes for others.
- Thank you to the **Boy Scouts** who made a special trip to St. Timothy’s on a Sunday to move the boxes from the stage to the Parish Hall floor in preparation for loading the trucks.
- Thank you to the volunteers, recruited young men and brave parish dad who came to St. Timothy’s on a Tuesday afternoon to help **load the boxes** into the MCC trucks.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE AND THIS VILLAGE HAS MANY CARING PEOPLE.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND THANK YOU FROM SALLY SHEA POTTS.

ST. TIMOTHY'S BOOK GROUP - January

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants



by Robin Wall Kimmerer

With deep compassion and graceful prose, botanist and professor of plant ecology Kimmerer encourages readers to consider the ways that our lives and language weave through the natural world. A mesmerizing storyteller, she shares legends from her Potawatomi ancestors to illustrate the culture of gratitude in which we all should live. In such a culture, everyone knows that gifts will follow the circle of reciprocity and flow back to you again... The grass in the ring is trodden down in a path from gratitude to reciprocity. We dance in a circle, not in a line. Kimmerer recalls the ways that pecans became a symbol of abundance for her ancestors: Feeding guests around the big table recalls the trees' welcome to our ancestors when they were lonesome and tired and so far from home. She reminds readers that we are showered every day with gifts, but they are not meant for us to keep... Our work and our joy is to pass along the gift and to trust that what we put into the universe will always come back.

(Oct.) – *Publishers Weekly*

We will meet via Zoom on Thursday, January 20 at 2:00 pm. Contact Sally Shea Potts for an invitation.

LIFE STORY, THURSDAYS AT 9:30, GRACE HOUSE LIBRARY



Writing your Life Story for your children, grandchildren, etc. is not like writing an essay, dissertation, or report. This is a fun thing, and no one is grading your writing. Week by week we write our memories and file them in a 3-ring binder in numerological order; and there we have our Life Story. There is lots of humor and laughter in every person's life. Write about the first special memory and others will follow - like "The Best Day of Your Life" with as many details as you remember. Being part of a group, and meeting on a regular basis helps us to keep writing. Enjoying and hearing other members writings week by week keeps us on track and brings us ideas from other people's writings.

Saint Timothy's is fortunate in hearing men's and women's stories. The Life Story Writing group meets every Thursday from 9:30 – 11:00 am to give each other support as we enjoy their reading. All the group stories stay private within the group. The group has been part of Saint Timothy's since 2008 with writers coming and going and some being in the group since 2004. If you are interested in writing your Life Story, you are invited to one or more Group meetings at St. Timothy's in the Grace House library on any Thursday morning to experience exactly what goes on and to ask questions.

JOIN THE LIVESTREAM TEAM AT ST. TIMOTHY'S!



It's fun, easy, and very important to the St. Timothy's community as we continue to share worship together!

Training provided and guided each Sunday with backup as you learn... we need you!!

RSVP not needed but helpful: contact Kari Doolittle:

kari.doolittle@gmail.com/925.984.1657 We look forward to expanding our team!

We are grateful to our tech team making possible our one community of both on-line and in-person Sunday worship. Families across the country often gather with us on Sunday morning. Recently a funeral service was also streamed, making it possible for family literally scattered in different time zones in the world, to pray and grieve and be together in real time. Thank you to our amazing and faith filled electronic communication team!

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR TECH TEAM!

Our wonderful technology team— is making not only Live-stream possible but also projecting our bulletins on Sunday!

Thank you, Don P, John H, Kari D, Sathwick R, Randy S, Liz K., Emma G and Alex M.

We appreciate the individuals who are also changing our slides during worship with skill and finesse.

Thank you to all the people who are bringing milestone prayers from chat in real ime on Sunday and offering pray

Thank you also to Rand M who built our new tech desk—an operations center--where the electronic magic happens and enables our worship leaders to lead us visually and with sound in person and on-line.

WE WANT TO SUPPORT YOU IN PRAYER

Do you want confidential prayer support for yourself or a loved one? Our Prayer Team offers just that! We pray for you for a week or longer if needed. We don't talk about it with you, or with anyone; we just pray. St. Timothy's Prayer Team is a confidential group that will pray about the concerns in your life. While many are health related, no prayer is too small or too large for our group. Please send your prayer requests to prayers@sainttimothysdanville.org and we will be honored to pray with you. Questions - please contact Helen or Patti at the above email.

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Healing prayer in the prayer chapel following the 10:00 am service.

ST. TIMOTHY'S VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

December 2021

The vestry met on Wednesday, December 13, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

MOTIONS:

- Approved the **2022 annual housing resolutions** for Pastor Todd Bryant and Pastor Susan Geissler-O'Neil for 2022.
- Approved the allocation of **any 2021 positive net income to the 2 maintenance reserve accounts** for the church campus and the rectory property.
- Approved a policy to **move growth in funds in the church several investment accounts to the church and rectory property Maintenance Reserve accounts**. The amount moved will be limited.
- Approved a Finance Committee proposal to **reallocate part of the church investment portfolio** to result in a 60/40 stock/cash-bond ratio.
- Approved the December vestry meeting agenda, November vestry meeting minutes, Treasurer's report and reports from: Associate Rector, Administration Commission, Communications Commission, Outreach Commission and Worship and Liturgy Commission.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Neal will send the vestry a report showing the list of investments in TD Ameritrade.
- Ask for investigation by the Finance Committee into guidance related to green and socially responsible investment accounts.
- The Finance Committee will talk to other churches who have switched insurance carriers regarding information about the research that resulted in their carrier choice.

Several of the actions taken above were made to address the problem with the church and Ackerman property maintenance accounts which have been depleted due to the pandemic and changes to the allocation of church income allocation approximately 5 years ago as part of an effort to balance the budget.

The vestry reviewed and discussed the draft 2022 budget which currently shows a deficit of \$168,000 for the year 2022. Neal will be working with stewardship to address this issue with the congregation. Based on past years, additional pledges are expected but it appears that there will be a deficit in 2022.

Parish members are welcome to attend Vestry meetings. The next meeting is on Wednesday, January 19, 2022. The minutes of the vestry meeting will be filed in the Parish Office and on the website after they are approved by the Vestry at the next month's meeting

Submitted by Sally Shea Potts, Vestry Clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT

December 13, 2021

Financial Highlights

- Financial results through November are positive overall despite underruns in loose plate offerings and facilities cost sharing due to the underruns being offset by higher than budgeted pledge and contributing income to date.
- Year to date budget vs actual results, adjusted for amortizing “pledges paid in full” in the current year, are:

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Pledge Income	\$603,457	\$617,001	\$13,544
Other Income	\$ 38,298	\$ 41,834	\$ 3,536
Expenses	\$690,984	\$620,216	\$70,768
Net Income	\$(49,229)	\$ 38,619	\$87,848

Pledge Income difference due mainly to:

Pledges better than budgeted in early 2021. There are also 17 families who have not yet made payments on \$32,370 in pledges.

Other Income difference due mainly to:

Loose Plate \$(6,375) and Facilities Cost Sharing \$(7,702) under budget offset by Contributing Income \$13,307 and Special Gifts \$2,850 above budget.

Expenses – Operating expense difference is the sum of a number of under budget items, with the main ones being:

Personnel expenses \$30,793 under budget due mainly to second payroll period expenses not being posted to books yet.

Altar Guild expenses \$940 under budget

Music expenses \$2,033 under budget

Christian Formation expenses \$1,418 under budget

Children & Youth Ministry expenses \$1,716 under budget

Fellowship expenses \$2,307 under budget

Administrative expenses \$7,472 under budget

Facilities expenses \$14,164 under budget

Finance expenses \$6,016 under budget

Contingency expenses \$3,243 under budget

Neal Matsunaga

CONTACT US

The Rev. Todd Bryant – Rector

On Sabbatical

The Rev. Susan Geissler-O'Neil – Associate Rector

(925) 837-4993 x113

sgeissleroneil@SaintTimothysDanville.org

Myles Ellis – Director of Music

(925) 837-4993 x115

musicdir@SaintTimothysDanville.org

Shipra Rastogi –

Noah's Ark Preschool Director

(925) 362-8565

NoahsArk@SaintTimothysDanville.org

Bev Matsunaga – Facilities (Volunteer)

(925) 837-4993 x111

Facilities@SaintTimothysDanville.org

Steve Zimmerman – Bookkeeper

(925) 837-4993 x116

Bookkeeper@SaintTimothysDanville.org

Neal Matsunaga – Treasurer (Volunteer)

(925) 838-1617

Treasurer@SaintTimothysDanville.org

Rebekah Dodda – Office Administrator

(925) 837-4993 x110

parish@SaintTimothysDanville.org

Carleen Carns – Pledge Secretary (Volunteer)

Pledges@SaintTimothysDanville.org



Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church

www.SaintTimothysDanville.org

1550 Diablo Road

Danville, CA 94526

925.837.4993

Email: parish@sainttimothysdanville