

# Advent Tidings

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

## ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S ARTICLE

*Hope, Peace, Joy, Love ---*

These are the words we use describe the candles on the Advent wreath. The beginnings of the Advent wreath are less liturgical; always their use has been to help us to prepare our heart for the coming of the Christ Child. Perhaps inspired by a wagon wheel, a Lutheran pastor in Germany in the late 1800s used the candles to count down the days until Christmas—Sundays, large candles, weekdays, small candles. By using candles, he intended to help young children anticipate the coming of Christmas and journey with Mary and Joseph into Bethlehem. Different traditions have followed the use of the Advent wreath which is a circle of God's everlasting Love and green because it is also a reminder of Love that is eternal (and Christmas in Germany would have meant deciduous trees had dropped their leaves).

The single pink candle symbolizes Joy because we traditionally say the collect/ prayer on the third Sunday of Advent that comes from Philippians 4:4 which says: "Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again, rejoice!" Sometimes the other candles are purple sometimes blue, representing an influence of Mary's role in saying "yes" to the Angel Gabriel. The single white candle we light as the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve celebrating the Light of Christ coming into the world and into our hearts.

This Advent I invite you to prepare a small place in your home for quietly remembering the Christ that comes quietly into to the world welcoming us. Will you light a candle and pray? Will you bake with prayers in your heart and gratitude on your lips? Will you tell the story of the Nativity by putting out a crèche and tell the story that Jesus was born into a family of poor parents who loved God, who knew the commandments, God's covenantal Love? Jesus shared that love, healed, taught, was betrayed, died, and rose from the dead. May we slow down and listen to our own hearts--where we are wounded and know peace and also listen to others. Christmas glitter is not a band aid, but a declaration of joy and the breaking in of Hope and Love where there is darkness, grief, and isolation. God with us, now and always.

As we remember and look toward a joyous season of Love, Generosity, and Hospitality in decorations and lights; we are being asked to pray for people around the world, persons who still cannot get vaccines during this Pandemic, for the homeless who seek to find a safe place to rest and live, sometimes leaving the place they were born, and especially all the children who are sick, hungry or separated from their families.---And all of us who are separated from family because of Covid 19. May we find moments of gratitude however this Advent comes to us.

I invite us to pray in church and at home, to wait with eagerness for the Light that comes with Love--God promises it will come to us. May we wait with hope, strength, courage and perseverance and joy for the promise of being renewed in by this great Christmas Love for us and the whole earth.

*Hope, Peace, Joy, Love to you and to all who you Love*

*Peace on Earth and Good News to all*

*Pastor Susan*

Thank you to all the people who are making our in-person and live-streaming possible. We hope you will join us for our Advent and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

## **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT ST. TIMOTHY'S**

**December 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Saint Nicholas Sunday**

**December 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

3:30

Sunday afternoon Movie Time - "The Star"  
For children and children at heart in the church  
Cookies, cocoa and craft in the courtyard first!



**December 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**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 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Day**

10:00 Christmas Eucharist with carols

**December 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday after Christmas**

10:00 Worship (also live-streamed)

## CELEBRATION OF SAINT NICHOLAS DAY THIS SUNDAY



Saint Nicholas lived a long time ago, March 15, 270--December 6, 343. He was raised by Christian parents who died in an epidemic while he was still quite young. Hearing the words of Jesus, "sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor" Matthew 19:21, Nicholas responded by using his inheritance to give to the poor. He became a Greek Bishop of Myra in what is now Turkey during the time of the Roman Empire. He is believed to have participated in the council that wrote the Nicene Creed in 325. Many miracles of kindness, compassion and secret gift giving were attributed to him. There are stories of a ship being tossed violently on the waves, and Nicholas spoke to the sea and calmed the waves. Bishop Nicholas especially loved children and

desired to protect them from servitude, a common solution for parents of the poor.

On Sunday we will have a visitor who will greet us and tell a little of his story, bringing a traditional sweet treat. After church we will have a treat from Saint Nicholas, who is also the patron Saint of Bakers. Thank you to Marie-Claire M. who organized this wonderful surprise!

## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT FEATURING, THE STAR!



Have you ever wondered how the animals in the manger felt on the night Jesus was born? Please join us on **Sunday, December 12th from 3:30-5:30** for a family viewing of the wonderful Christmas movie, The Star. We will gather in the courtyard for cookies, hot chocolate, and a craft, before we all head indoors to watch the movie. Pajamas and blankets are strongly recommended (but not required!) If you have any questions, please contact

Rayne Devlin at [srdevlin@gmail.com](mailto:srdevlin@gmail.com).

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS – DEADLINE DEC. 5th



We are looking for donations for the church flower fund for Christmas this year. Members can donate money in the name of loved ones and special events for Christmas. A portion of that money will be used to purchase poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas. Any remaining money will be used for future flower purchases for the church.

Envelopes for the donations can be found in the Narthex below the flower chart or, simply send your donation in an envelope to the Parish

Administrator marked Christmas donation & wording you want published in the bulletin.

**Donations will be accepted up to & including Sunday, December 5th.** For questions regarding the donation contact Cathy Morris: [Lil. Captain 315@gmail.com](mailto:Lil.Captain315@gmail.com) or 925-300-3555. *Thank you.*



## IN-PERSON YOUTH GROUP

Youth from St. Timothy's and San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church gather for in-person youth groups on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. High school youth gather from 4pm to 5:30pm with middle school happening from 5pm to 6:30pm. In these groups, youth play games, eat a meal together and engage one another in discussions about faith and life.

December 5th: @ San Ramon Valley UMC

December 12: @ St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

## ONLINE YOUTH GROUP

Every Sunday night through December 12<sup>th</sup>, from 7pm to 8pm youth from five churches gather over Zoom to check in over one another and participate in a discussion about faith. This group is perfect for youth of any age to join! We are currently discussing the book "What's the Least I Can Believe and Still be Christian?" in which youth are presented with dogmatic beliefs that are not necessary for a Christian's faith along with components that should be part of every Christians faith.

## ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday night, through December 15<sup>th</sup>, youth from all over the Bay and the Central Valley get together over Zoom to read a chapter of the Bible and discuss its implications to our faith and life today. Youth are currently working through the Book of John. Previous Bible knowledge not necessary to join this group. To join, contact Robbie at the contact information at the bottom of youth news.

For more information contact Robbie Frederiksen at [rfrederiksen13@gmail.com](mailto:rfrederiksen13@gmail.com)

Or call (503) 816-1055.

Link is on our website - <https://www.sainttimothysdanville.org/youth-ministry.html>

# 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 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:**

St. Timothy's website under the [Serve Others Menu](#)

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](mailto:joannmarieoliver@gmail.com).

## 2021 OUTREACH GRANTS

Grantee	Granted 2021	Granted 2020	2020 Emergency Grants	Granted 2019
Discovery Counseling Center	3,200.00	3,500.00	1,450.00	3,300.00
GAIA Global Health	5,000.00	5,500.00		5,000.00
Habitat for Humanity	2,000.00	2,000.00		1,500.00
Hope Solutions	5,500.00	6,000.00	5,000.00	5,600.00
Loaves and Fishes	7,500.00	8,000.00	5,000.00	7,250.00
Monument Crisis Center	6,500.00	8,000.00	4,250.00	7,250.00
Options Recovery Services	5,000.00	5,000.00	800.00	5,100.00
PFLAG	500.00	500.00		500.00
Rise Against Hunger	1,000.00	1,000.00		2,000.00
Shelter, Inc.	5,000.00	5,400.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
The Comfort Cub	2,500.00	2,500.00		2,000.00
The Gretta Foundation	7,000.00	8,400.00		7,800.00
The Respite Inn	2,000.00	1,500.00		1,000.00
Trinity Center	8,000.00	8,250.00	4,000.00	7,650.00
Episcopal Relief & Development *	1,000.00	2,000.00		1,000.00
Trinity Center lunches (no longer active)				500.00
Church Divinity School of the Pacific #	1,000.00	1,000.00		1,000.00
Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County #	1,000.00	1,000.00		1,000.00
School for Deacons#	1,000.00	1,000.00		1,000.00

\* For immigrant relocation efforts

# Specified in the parish budget

Funds allocated above to Grantees	61,700.00	67,550.00	25,500.00	62,450.00
Funds specified for specific organizations in the church budget	3,000.00	3000.00		3000.00
Funds available	<u>64,878.74</u>	<u>70,655.36</u>		<u>65,475.68</u>
Remainder	178.74	105.36		25.68

The above grants were approved by the Outreach Committee and the Vestry in October.

 **OUTREACH NEWS** 



**Great news from our friends at Shelter, Inc.**

In addition to celebrating their 35th Anniversary this month, they had the wonderful news that they have been selected to **receive one of the 2021 \$5 million grants from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund**. This will be the largest philanthropic grant in their history.

November is National Homeless Awareness month, and this generous grant will allow Shelter, Inc. to provide long term rental subsidies to families who have lost their housing along with the wrap around services necessary to help them remain stably housed. A portion of the Day 1 fund will be leveraged to increase housing stock for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color who are often low income and marginalized.

**Shelter, Inc. has been expanding its services in recent years** both in area (they now cover Solano and Sacramento counties) and in depth as they move from a transitional housing model to providing the full services to help families be successful in permanent housing. Last year more than 23,000 children, women and men received help from Shelter, Inc. programs in the 3 counties they serve.

The Bezos Day 1 Fund has made a \$2 billion commitment to focus on meaningful and lasting impacts in the two areas of: funding non-profits that help families experiencing homelessness and creating new non- profit pre-schools in low-income communities.

Shelter, Inc. is one of the largest providers of housing and services for low-income clients in the Bay Area. Saint Timothy’s Outreach has been supporting them with grants for the last 32 years.

*Alison Hill, Liaison*

**COFFEE HOUR**



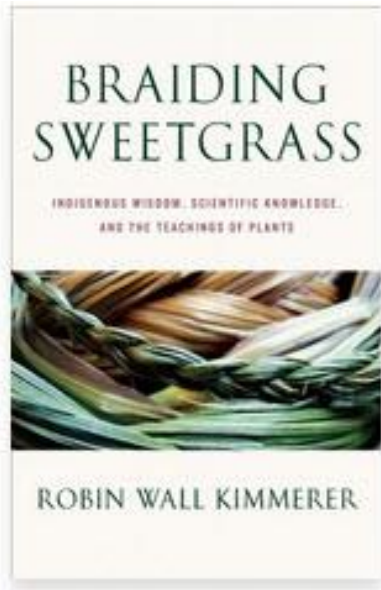
St Timothy’s would like to offer coffee hour regularly after the 10:00am service, but we need volunteers to host and provide a light snack to go with the supplied beverages.

If you would like to host a coffee hour after the 10:00 a.m. service, please contact Jacque ([ichiavini@gmail.com](mailto:ichiavini@gmail.com)) by the preceding Friday. She will set up the coffee pots for you so you can just plug in on Sunday morning.

If no host has come forward for a particular Sunday, only coffee and juice will be served that day.”

## 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 and other things 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 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 St. Timothy's 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 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 anyquestion you might have Any questions? [Friarttuck72@comcast.net](mailto:Friarttuck72@comcast.net)



## 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](mailto:kari.doolittle@gmail.com)/[925.984.1657](tel: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 our Sunday worship. Family 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

Thank you to our wonderful technology team—who is making not only Live-stream possible but 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 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.

## HEALING PRAYER FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH



**Healing Prayer offered on the first Sunday of the month in the back Chapel after the 10 a.m. service**

We offer confidential healing prayers for anyone who would like them. Prayers are offered by clergy or trained members of the parish who are commissioned by the clergy. Anointing with holy oil and laying on of hands is available if the recipient wishes. We will follow Covid protocols with disinfecting of hands.

We pray for God's healing which may come in many forms: spiritual, emotional, or physical.

We are here to pray with you. Just come back to the chapel after the service.

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.

Please send your requests to: [prayers@SaintTimothysDanville.org](mailto:prayers@SaintTimothysDanville.org)

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](mailto:prayers@sainttimothysdanville.org) and we will be honored to pray with you. Questions: please contact Helen or Patti at the above email.

# ST TIMOTHY'S VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## November 2021

The vestry met on Wednesday, November 17, at 6:30 pm in Grace House and via Zoom

### MOTIONS:

- Approve minutes of the October vestry meeting, the reports from the treasurer and the reports from the Associate rector and the Administration, Communications, Outreach and Worship Commissions

### OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED:

- **Vaccination Status** – The vestry plus helpers will begin recording the vaccination status of parish members after church in Advent in anticipation of allowing unmasked indoor gatherings. It is possible that masks will continue in church services.
- The Finance Committee reviewed and approved the proposed **Outreach Grants for 2021**. The checks have been issued. See the Outreach report for details.
- The treasurer discussed the status of the income and expenditures in 2021 to date. For details, see his report.
- **2022 Budget** – All budget requests for 2022 have been received. The treasurer and the finance committee will draft the 2022 budget for discussion and a vote at the December 2021 meeting. The 2022 Final budget will be voted on in January.
- Pastor Susan is being paid for 40 hour a week during the sabbatical of Pastor Todd.
- Pledges for 2022 are coming in about as expected by the Pledge Secretary.
- The status of the Boy Scout bankruptcy settlement plan was discussed by the Treasurer. St. Timothy's is an official Boy Scout sponsor and has been for many years.
- **Rectory Maintenance** – Scott MacDougall – Junior Warden and Property Commissioner - The funds that were supporting the maintenance of the rectory have been exhausted. Currently there are no funding sources identified for maintenance of the rectory.

Parish members are welcome to attend Vestry meetings. The next meeting is on Wednesday, December 15, 2021. Contact Sally Shea Potts to receive an invitation to the Zoom meeting.

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

# TREASURER'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 17, 2021

## Financial Highlights

- Financial results through October 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	\$548,598	\$559,787	\$10,189
Other Income	\$ 36,045	\$ 35,803	\$( 242)
Expenses	\$628,168	\$579,153	\$49,015
Net Income	\$( 43,525)	\$ 15,437	\$58,962

Pledge Income difference due mainly to:

Pledges better than budgeted this month and in early 2021. There are also 18 families for \$38,370 who have not made 2021 pledge payments yet.

Other Income difference due mainly to:

Loose Plate \$(5,764) and Facilities Cost Sharing \$(8,561) under budget offset by Contributing Income \$13,127 and Special Gifts \$1,150 above budget.

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

Personnel expenses \$17,709 under budget due mainly to \$15,887 for lay staff due to vacancies during the year.

Altar Guild expenses \$998 under budget

Music expenses \$2,209 under budget

Christian Formation expenses \$1,268 under budget

Children & Youth Ministry expenses \$1,499 under budget

Fellowship expenses \$2,137 under budget

Administrative expenses \$6,930 under budget

Facilities expenses \$9,939 under budget

Finance expenses \$2,946 under budget

Contingency expenses \$2,764 under budget

Neal Matsunaga

## CONTACT US

**The Rev. Todd Bryant – Rector**

On Sabbatical

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

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**Shipra Rastogi –**

**Noah's Ark Preschool Director**

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**Bev Matsunaga – Facilities (Volunteer)**

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**Steve Zimmerman – Bookkeeper**

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**Neal Matsunaga – Treasurer (Volunteer)**

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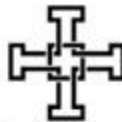
**Rebekah Dodda – Office Administrator**

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**Carleen Carns – Pledge Secretary (Volunteer)**

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Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church

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