



# May Tidings

May 2022

Newsletter of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Danville, CA

## RECTOR'S ARTICLE

Happy Easter. It was such a privilege for Susan and me to worship with you in-person and online during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. You made it all possible. I want to say thank you to so many people.

It was a great Easter weekend of worship!

- Thank you to everyone who made Easter dedications and gave.
- Thank you to Gregg who made the Paschal Candle and Kathy for her artwork.
- Thank you to Cathy and the whole Altar Guild for preparing 7 services in Holy Week.
- Thank you to Leslie and liturgical art for the arrangements and hangings.
- Thank you to Karen, Kimberly, and vestry, for great fellowship and fun on Easter morning.
- Thank you to Jacque and the many servers who made worship meaningful and well run.
- Thank you to Don and all tech team who really stepped up to serve not only, every Sunday, but also during nearly every holy week service.
- Thank you to all who have given for our budget gap. Your generosity has decreased our gap by \$54,635 as of April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Thank you to our staff who worked tirelessly to get all the details in place.

None of this would have been or will continue to be possible without you and your commitment to St. Timothy's.

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There will be two Sundays where we combine worship into one 10 am service only

May 1<sup>st</sup> – Bishop Marc will be with us on campus, with snacks after (10am service only, no 8am service)

June 5<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost Sunday (10am service only, no 8am service)

## REAFFIRMATIONS WITH THE BISHOP MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>

When Bishop Marc Andrus comes to be with us at Saint Timothy's, you may choose to reaffirm your faith, not only by affirming our Baptismal covenant, but by coming forward to reaffirm your faith with a blessing with the bishop. We pray that the Holy Spirit continues the good work that has already begun in us.

We are invited by Christ to follow in the way of compassion and service, walking in the way of justice mercy and joy. How do we mark that awakening of spirit within us to live out our faith daily, to forgive one another, care for the earth beneath our feet and our neighbor who is a long way off? During Lent we practiced prayer, reading scripture, caring for others, worship and many moments of sacrifice which have led to a renewal of Spirit.

Does this seem like a time of renewal for you? Let us know. Questions?

[rector@Sainttimothysdanville.org](mailto:rector@Sainttimothysdanville.org) or [sgeissleroneil@sainttimothysdanville.org](mailto:sgeissleroneil@sainttimothysdanville.org)

## ANNUAL ST.TIM'S PEREGRINE HIKE

Join Mt. Diablo docent and UC naturalist Wally De Young on a hike into Walnut Creek's Pine Canyon (Castle Rock/Diablo Foothills Regional Park) to learn about the history, flora and fauna of the area as we search for a glimpse of the fastest animal on the planet, the peregrine falcon, as they raise their young in the 500 ft cliffs above.

May 2nd, 4-6 pm, 1700 Castle Rock Road, Walnut Creek.

Space is limited so RSVP's are required to

[walledeyoung@comcast.net](mailto:walledeyoung@comcast.net)



## PENTECOST BYOL PICNIC JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>

Join us for one service at 10:00 for Pentecost!

We will gather outside on the patio and in the Parish Hall for a **Bring Your Own Picnic Lunch** following the service. Call a friend, share a sandwich! If you like, bring cookies to share!

We are planning on celebrating the power of the Spirit in fellowship!

# THE FRUITS OF THE HARVEST

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Raising funds for Outreach for 25 years!!!**

**It's the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of  
THE FRUITS OF THE HARVEST (FOTH)**

***Date Change:***  
**Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup> – Zoom at Noon at home**  
**Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup> – Party on the Patio Brunch Event after the last service**  
(watch for more information in late Spring)

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE OUR WORSHIP  
SO WONDERFUL AND BEAUTIFUL THIS EASTER!**

Thanks to Greg S. for decorating our beautiful 2022 Paschal Candle. Greg has been sharing his talents and creating our Paschal Candle for the last several years!

Thank you to our liturgical artists, Leslie F., Sandy V., our artist Kathy W. who designed the bulletin cover and so many people including our tech team, Meg L. our bread baker, our entire altar guild, Cathy M., our choir and music director Myles E, all the acolytes and servers and ushers and worship team, including new fire maker, climbing ladder folks, Tom L. and incense thurible and boat, Ella and Austin, and all the people and prayers that make our Holy week, Easter Vigil and Easter celebration possible. Thank you to all who are celebrating this joy!



## LITURGICAL ART FOR THE SEASON OF LENT AND EASTER



During Holy Week the austere banner with an angry “Crown of Thorns” was hanging over the altar to symbolize the agony that Jesus will go through, and perhaps is reflective of pain that we are enduring in some way. There were somber wood branches, and later twig baskets with candles under the cross.

On Easter Sunday this was replaced by the "Crown of New Life" banner with colorful flowers, vines, and ribbons, and a giant, colorful floral arrangement, plus Easter lilies, all to symbolize the resurrection and joy.

Thank you to Sandy V and daughter Stephanie for the palms decorating the altar on Palm Sunday. Thank you to all who took part in the installation of the Lenten Banner and the Easter Banner and flowers. You are much appreciated, and it could not happen without you.

Leslie Firth



## OUR GARDEN IS GROWING AT SAINT TIMOTHY'S!



Did you know that some of our herbs are harvested and taken to Monument Crisis Center or Trinity Center for fresh herbs that will be given away or used in meals? When the time is right or if you have extra fruit or vegetables to share, let us know and we will plan for sharing them at Monument Crisis Center! [kari.doolittle@gmail.com](mailto:kari.doolittle@gmail.com)

## WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES

Trinity Center is a on profit organization connected with St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek. This day program provides meals, showers, laundry, clothing, mail and telephone access, case management and referral services, substance abuse, mental health support groups and help with benefit application forms to homeless and those experiencing extreme poverty.

We are now accepting donations for new and used adult size walking shoes as well as hard plastic bags for their Clothes Closet until June 5th. Please place all donations in the boxes in the front of the Parish Hall and Grace House. If you have any questions please contact Nora Hudson.

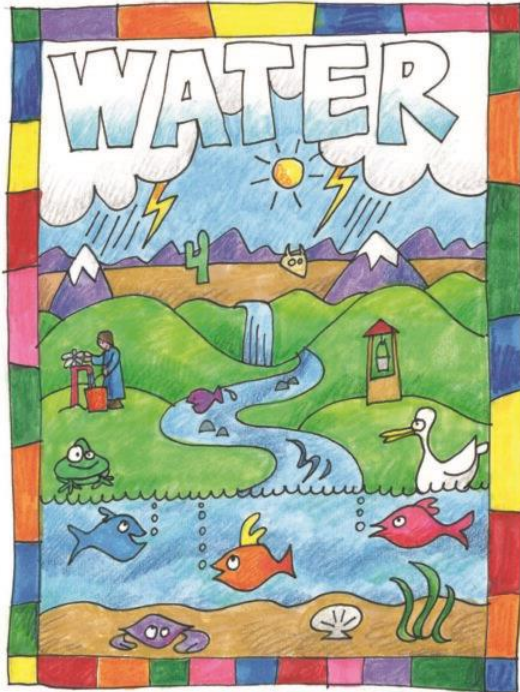


# GROW A GARDEN

## For children and children at heart

Dear God,

Bless these seeds and seedlings, and this little piece of ground (or this pot of earth). I give thanks for the sun, the water, the night, and the power to care for these growing plants. Help me to be more aware of your love for me and all creation as my plants grow. Give me a thankful heart.



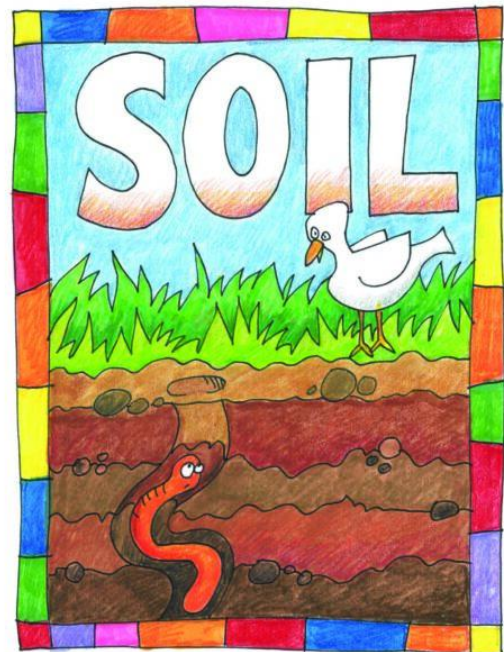
The Abundant Life Garden Project®  
Cynthia Coe and Jerusalem Jackson Greer - Curriculum Designers, The Rev. Jay Sidebotham - Illustrator

And when things do not go as I had expected, help me to find more Love and to plant another garden in season, knowing that you desire for me more Love and abundance than I can imagine.

Thank you  
God for  
flowers and  
berries and  
bugs and  
worms and  
butterflies  
and birds  
and spiders  
and bees,

and ladybugs and all the little tiny things I cannot see.  
Thank you, God, most all, today, for me.! Amen

Praying for our gardens reminds us to pray for all of God's creation and to learn more about what it means to be stewards of creation, caring for water, earth, sky, and all of God's creatures, including our ourselves and our neighbor!



The Abundant Life Garden Project®  
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*Living God, you call us to be good stewards of this earthly home, strengthen us to care for your creation; forgive us when, through our greed and indifference, we abuse its beauty and damage its potential. Empower us, through your Spirit to so nurture and love the world, that all creation sings to your glory. Amen.*

(From the Church of England's [Creation Care Prayers](#))

**Growing a garden? Send us a picture.**

*Pastor Susan*

## TELL ME THE TRUTH ABOUT RACISM

Thank you to Peg M. who gathered us with stories from Godly Play so we could hear in a new way about God's loving heart and how chains have divided us all through human history. Christ came into our midst that we might "love one another" and Love was the plan since our very creation. May we remember that always, we are intended to be a blessing to each other and to embrace the way of love, truth, justice, and mercy in God's own compassionate heart.



## WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Join us for a Bible Study. Bring a Bible, any translation/version and join us for a new bible study unit on Zoom at 10:30 on Wednesdays. Questions?

Contact Pastor Susan [sgeissleroneil@sainttimothysdanville.org](mailto:sgeissleroneil@sainttimothysdanville.org)  
or Helen C. [colemanhelen@pacbell.net](mailto:colemanhelen@pacbell.net). We would love to "see" you!

## LIFE STORY GROUP

**Thursdays at 9:30 am Grace House**

Have you written life stories or wanted to write them and need a little incentive to get your story on paper? During this time, we have even more to share!

Life story group is meeting in the Grace House Library on Thursdays at 9:30 am. Join us!

New writers are welcome!!

Contact Father Maurice, [Friartuck72@comcast.net](mailto:Friartuck72@comcast.net)

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BAPTISM?

We would love to talk to you about Baptism! As our churches continue to celebrate in-person and we can invite family to be with us for special events, we are reaching out to people who may have had to put off baptisms in their family or extended family. We want to celebrate your joy with you! Contact Pastor Susan at [sgeissleroneil@sainttimothys.org](mailto:sgeissleroneil@sainttimothys.org) for more information.

## ALTAR GUILD ASSISTANCE

Have you ever wondered how the candles on the Altar are maintained, ensuring they are ready to be lit for the services? What about communion wafers, silver on the altar including and the changing of the seasonal colors on the Podium? Well, that is just a small portion of what Altar Guild members do in maintaining the Sanctuary & Altar for the church services.

We are looking to recruit new members. A member normally serves one Saturday & Sunday per month on a team ( we currently have 4 teams).

So, if you are a new member at St. Timothy's or an existing member wanting to get more involved in volunteering, please contact Cathy Morris, Head of Altar Guild [lil.captain315@gmail.com](mailto:lil.captain315@gmail.com)

## CONFIDENTIAL PRAYER TEAM

Do you, or someone you know, need extra prayers right now?

Send your requests to [prayers@SaintTimothysDanville.org](mailto:prayers@SaintTimothysDanville.org) We will forward your request to a group of dedicated pray-ers who will take your concerns to God daily. The group is confidential--we won't talk to you about your concerns; we'll just pray.

For more information, contact: Patti F [farrisintheland@yahoo.com](mailto:farrisintheland@yahoo.com) or Helen C [colemanhelen@pacbell.net](mailto:colemanhelen@pacbell.net)

## STEPHEN MINISTERS

Are you in need of a good listener? Going through illness, divorce, job loss, or issues with family? Stephen Ministers are a group of trained lay volunteers who will meet with you weekly when you need someone to talk over issues with. We don't solve your problems, but we provide a safe haven for you to share, knowing that what you say remains confidential. For a Stephen Minister, referral, please contact Pastor Susan at [sgeissleroneil@SaintTimothysDanville.org](mailto:sgeissleroneil@SaintTimothysDanville.org)



**Help Californians be part of June 18<sup>th</sup> PPC Actions in DC**

Dear friends –

We write to update you about the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival (PPC) actions and to ask your help to get people from California to PPC’s *Mass Poor People’s & Low-Wage Workers’ Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls in 2022* coming up this June 18<sup>th</sup>, see [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KR\\_xYIpdeNM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KR_xYIpdeNM)

The Poor People’s Campaign is a national campaign launched in 2018 to address the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation & denial of health care, militarism & the war economy, and the false moral narrative of religious nationalism. *Before* the pandemic there were 140 million people in the US who were poor or one emergency away from economic ruin. Since March 2020, while hundreds of thousands of people have died, millions are on the edge of hunger and eviction, still without health care, living wages. Any nation that ignores nearly half of its citizens *is in a moral, economic and political crisis.*



June 18 will be a generationally transformative and disruptive gathering of poor and low-wealth people, state leaders, faith communities, moral allies, unions and partnering organizations pressing for this crisis to be addressed. This is a unique opportunity to let legislators and policy makers hear the stories and struggles from people their actions impact. CA PPC is currently mobilizing the MORE tour across the state to reach people for a series of key events to build for the DC actions including a

western regional mobilization in LA on May 16 [sign-up form.](#)

Will you help Californians impacted by poverty, racism and other injustices get to Washington, DC, in June? It’s estimated that airfare and lodging for people traveling from the west coast will total about \$3000/person. Can you help sponsor someone from CA who would not otherwise be able to take part in the PPC’s *Mass Poor People’s & Low-Wage Workers’ Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls in 2022*? [DONATE HERE](#)

Or donate air miles-donate to someone who’s part of same mileage club or contact the airline for info.

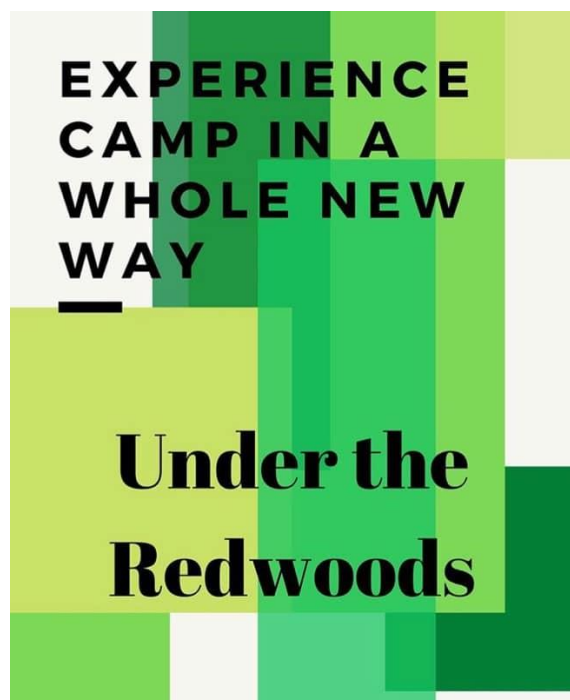
*Thank You!*

*The California Poor People’s Campaign  
(At right our CA delegation to the June 2019 PPC National Congress in Washington, DC. This year let’s have at least \_\_\_\_ people from California!)*





## 2022 CAMP DATES FOR SAINT DOROTHY'S REST



Staff Orientation	June 19-25
Teen Adventure Week	June 26-July 1
Russian River Adventures I	July 3-8
Counselor in Training	July 3-8
Russian River Adventures II	July 10-15
Russian River Adventures III	July 17-22
Have questions? Email: <a href="mailto:office@stdorothysrest.org">office@stdorothysrest.org</a>	
Phone: (707)874-3319	

### **Teen Adventure Week (ages 13-15) (6 days)**

Adventure Week is truly a unique camp experience that focuses on developing leadership skills, spirituality, worship, and community. Campers participate in service projects as well as overnight camping trips. Outreach activities have included working at local soup kitchens, providing meals to the homeless and hungry in the area, and helping local churches with various projects. Backing trips have included overnighing on the Sonoma Coast, Point Reyes, and Angel Island.

### **Russian River Adventures (ages 8-12) (6 days)**

Fill your week with arts & crafts, theater, archery, swimming, hiking and fun-filled chapel times. The week culminates with the Woods-to-Waves 10-mile hike to the Pacific Ocean! [RATES: Full – \$1000, Partially Sponsored – \$800]

### **Counselor-In-Training Program (ages 15-18) (6 days)**

Ever wonder what it is like to be a camp counselor at St. Dorothy's? Our Counselor-In-Training (CIT) program provides participants with the opportunity to learn about the day-to-day running of camp, leadership styles, working with youth and peers. At the completion of the CIT program, participants may apply to return as a CIT for Russian River Adventures III/Creative Arts Camp. Attending the CIT program is strongly encouraged if you are interested in serving as a summer camp counselor in future summers, but it is not required.

St. Dorothy's Rest also offers a unique summer camp experience to youth ages 5-15 as well as offering camp programs for critically ill youth from bay area hospitals, including a camp for youth and their siblings with cancer and a special camp for children who have had transplants.

## SUMMER CAMP 2022 BISHOP'S RANCH

**BREAD Camp** is a great place to discover community, spirituality and learn more about yourself. Campers spend mornings exploring spirituality through activities, conversation, and small group discussions. Afternoons are filled with lots of fun including swimming, arts, and crafts, hiking and other elective activities. Evenings are filled with fun games, campfires, compline, and a few surprises! Lots of music fills each day.

**INTERGENERATIONAL Camp** All are welcome to this new (yet familiar) camp for families of all shapes and sizes. We will gather for a week of games, social activities, crafts, worship, and more.

**Camp Staff Training: June 19-25**

Click [here](#) for the staff application

**INTERGENERATIONAL Camp: June 26-July 1**

A new (yet familiar) camp for families of all shapes and sizes

**BREAD Explorers: July 3-8**

For campers entering grade 10 through graduated grade 12

**BREAD Adventurers: July 10-15**

For campers entering grades 7 – 9

**BREAD Discoverers: July 17-22**

For campers entering grades 4 – 6

**TOAST: July 22-24**

For campers who identify as young adults (21+) and BREAD Alumni

**Register for BREAD and Intergenerational Camp [HERE](#).**

(Adults: If you haven't already, you'll need to first create an account in our new database, Camp wise, and then you'll register your camper.)



## THE LENT MADNESS

Curious?

In a year marked by razor-thin margins of victory, the championship round between Teresa of Avila and José Gregorio Hernández did not disappoint! In the end, José snuck past Teresa in a photo finish to win the 2022 Golden Halo. Both of these saints captured the imaginations of the Lent Madness global voting

public and both are worthy of this ecclesiastical accolade. We are pleased to award Teresa the (rare) Silver Halo to mark this year's accomplishments. [Lent Madness](#)



Dr. Jose Gregorio Hernandez died on June 29th, 1919, run over by one of the first cars to ever drive the streets of Caracas. There was instant commotion—official statements of grief from the government were insufficient, city services ceased in a so-called “pious strike”, shops voluntarily closed their doors. Upwards of thirty thousand people filled the streets for his funeral procession. Authorities had constructed a float to bear his coffin through the streets but the crowd surged forward, in grief the multitude seemed to cry as one, “Dr. Hernández is ours!” The float abandoned, the coffin of *el médico del pobre*, “the doctor of the poor” was carried to the church, shouldered by the same common people to whom he dedicated his life.

Jose’s gifts had taken him from his rural hometown to medical school in Paris, and back again. Feeling a duty to teach, he became a popular professor and an important medical researcher. His innovations ran the gamut, from isolating the “bacillus pestis” in a 1909 plague outbreak to introducing the thermometer. In his book *Elements of Philosophy*, he attempted to reconcile science and religion, reflecting on topics like God’s role in evolution and the inadequacy of medical diagnosis like hysteria to explain the ecstasy of saints like Teresa of Avila.

His true passion was patient care, and he refused more prestigious posts in order to spend his time in barrios and remote villages. He kept a bag of money outside his office for patients, they could use it to pay for their visit or privately take money for their needs. “Most of these people do not have resources; I am not going to deny them the consultation and I am not going to make them go through the pain of telling me that they have no money. God will help”, he explained.

Posthumously, miraculous healings were attributed to Dr. Hernández and his tomb became a pilgrimage site. One unique practice is be treated by Dr. Hernández in your sleep. Patients make their environment as hospital-like as possible, putting a white sheet on the bed and laying out whatever medical supplies they can access, things like gauze or isopropyl alcohol. The “operating room” prepared, they pray before going to sleep and awaking healed. The Doctor always leaves some sign

of his work behind—pieces of discarded surgical equipment, medical prescriptions, and even scars. These sacred beliefs have built up slowly around the miracles that began as soon as *el santo médico* died, observed by Christians, Spiritists, and those that fall somewhere in between. Altars to Dr. Hernández are also found in Venezuelan hospitals, where patients can leave notes of gratitude.

Dr. Hernández’s legacy can feel contradictory, he is both a scientific icon and a faith healer, responsible for thousands of miracles in life and death—but what is biomedicine, if not a miracle? The Doctor has been beatified by the Catholic Church, and embraced by indigenous syncretic traditions like Santería and the cult of María Lionza. In this, he is the perfect saint, a mirror and a canvas—a real, historical life and a mystical, symbolic figure, in whom meaning can be both made and found. The malleability of his holiness also asks those of us in North America to open our hearts and minds to South America—the diversity of religious experience, the complex legacy of colonialism, and the power of the love of Jesus Christ to break into the world in unexpected, even unrecognizable ways.

**For Jose Gregorio Hernández, perhaps there are not many quirks and quotes *as such*—as much as the essential quirkiness of sainthood itself. — [Eva Suarez](#) Lent Madness**

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If you would like the Easter dedication list, please collect the thanksgivings from the office.

# VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**April 2022**

The vestry met on Wednesday, April 20, at 6:30 pm in the Conference Room in Grace House

## **MOTIONS:**

- The vestry approved the addition of Linda Clark, 2021 Rector's Warden to the Finance Committee.
- The following documents were approved as submitted prior to the meeting: treasurer's reports, Rector's report and the Administration, Adult Formation, Fellowship and Worship commission reports.
- The minutes of the March vestry meeting were approved with the addition of a note that the Vestry Handbook created by Ade Adekunle was distributed to vestry members

## **PARISH FINANCES – Treasurer – Dick Firth**

- As of 31 March, we have 146 pledges for \$630,000+. This includes almost \$12,000 in pledges because of the current pledge/donation campaign. As of the Annual Meeting there were 141 pledges. In 2021 there were 158 pledges.
- The pledge/contribution campaign has raised approximately \$34,000 in new and increased pledges and one-time contributions.
- As of the Annual Meeting, the budget projected a deficit for 2022 of almost \$127,000.
- Due to the heroic efforts of Neal Matsunaga, the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District has reduced our 2022 bill from \$15,500+ to \$5,000. **THANK YOU, NEAL!**

## **OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Pastor Todd discussed the plans for Bishop Marc's visit to St. Timothy's on Sunday, May 1. There will be one service at 10:00 am on that Sunday. The current plan is to have a patio reception with food after the service.
- Plans for Pentecost Sunday were discussed. There will be one service at 10:00 am followed by a BYOL lunch on campus. Parish members are invited to bring cookies to share with others.
- Pastor Todd discussed the current maintenance issues at the rectory related to fencing and the pool.
- Tentative plans for summer events were discussed.

Parish members are welcome to attend Vestry meetings. The next meeting is on Wednesday, May 18, 2022.

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

## CONTACT US

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

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**Steve Zimmerman – Bookkeeper**

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**Myles Ellis – Director of Music**

**(925) 837-4993 x115**

[musicdir@SaintTimothysDanville.org](mailto:musicdir@SaintTimothysDanville.org)

**Dick Firth– Treasurer (Volunteer)**

**( 925) 837-4993 X117**

[Treasurer@SaintTimothysDanville.org](mailto:Treasurer@SaintTimothysDanville.org)

**Shipra Rastogi –**

**Noah's Ark Preschool Director**

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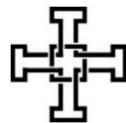
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**Carleen Carns – Pledge Secretary  
(Volunteer)**

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