

TIDINGS



Epiphany and Early Lent 2023
Newsletter of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Danville, CA

Happy New Year

I am so glad to start again with you all. I want to think about our liturgical life together, as well as some of the good things in store at St. Timothy's.

Epiphany Season

I just preached on Epiphany and think it is helpful to liturgically frame our January / February together. Epiphany can be understood three ways – the dictionary definition, the actual day, and the season.

The dictionary definition of Epiphany

An insight – “Aha, I had an epiphany!”

The Day of Epiphany

“The Epiphany” is the second flavor. The Epiphany (Jan 6th – a Thursday) ends the 12 days of Christmas. If you sing the song “The 12 days of Christmas,” you will get to 12 drummers drumming. After all the money I spent on presents, I would be insolvent by the third day of Christmas - using that model. The day is about celebrating the three Magi who discover Jesus and give their best gifts to him.

Matthew never leaves anything to chance because the gift of gold is for Jesus the King; the gift of frankincense is for Jesus the Priest; and the gift of Myrrh is a funeral spice for when Jesus gives his life. We celebrated the Epiphany on Sunday, January 6th, which by happy chance is the actual day. But the main reason for Matthew's story is to remind us that God revealed love in Jesus for all people, especially foreigners, outsiders, and anybody who wants more from God.

The Season

The Epiphany Season is the third flavor. It starts on January 6th and goes through February 21st (Ash Wednesday is February 22nd). As we embark fully into 2023, please pray for St. Timothy's vitality and pray for all our ministries as we give of best “aha's” to God.



Lenten Lectionary – sign up by the end of January

If you are a biblical scholar or can't remember what an epistle is, we want you to sign up to write a meditation. The schedule is based on one of the 40 daily readings during Lent. The sign up is in the back of the church or reach out to Helen C (she is in directory) to see what slots are open.

Financial Questions?

Join us on **Zoom on January 22nd at 11:30am**. Your rector, senior warden and treasurer will field any questions you have.

Annual Meeting

February 5th after 10am service

We present the coming year's budget, celebrate our ministries, elect vestry, and elect delegates. The annual meeting will be online, but to vote on anything, you must be present in church. During Q and A, we will monitor YouTube for any questions you might have if you are watching from home.

Fellowship Luncheon

We have another opportunity for fellowship on Wednesday, February 8th at 11:30am. Join us for lunch in Parish Hall and visit with new friends and old ones.

Prayer for Lent

Ash Wednesday is February 22nd

From the Book of Common Prayer

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, study, fasting and self-denial, and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

For some of us Lenten observance means taking something out of our lives — “giving something up”. For others, it means adding a spiritual practice or discipline. For all of us, it is a time to reset and return to God. Throughout the forty days of Lent, return often to the well of grace that your church offers. With every step you take, may you offer that same grace to others.

Looking Back to Christmas and the Epiphany

I am thankful to all of you who made Christmas so special. Thank you for all your dedications and donations for Christmas Services. Thank you worship team, cookies bakers, the liturgical art team, St. Nick, choirs, Altar guild, and our resident artist. I was a great December and early January.

Todd

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Water

Epiphany and Martin Luther King, Jr.

As the rain pounded the window from the gutter where it is separated from the roof, I literally could not hear anything else. Outside on the street the drops splashed into large puddles where an occasional car passed braving the afternoon darkness. I welcomed the rain; all I could think about was the thirsty ground and the greening hills.

As the creeks rose and ditches filled, I realized I forgot about the power of water--the mud, the flooding, the broken branches, the fallen trees, and the slump of the hills. The turbid waters filled with debris is easily shut out in my mind by the clarity and stillness of spring vernal pools in my memory. Pristine lake water and calm sunlit oceans do not even look like the same waters I see now. The wild waters carving the mud banks, moving debris and leaves-and even bringing fear-is the same water that blesses and quenches thirst. How is this so God?



Where is the whisper of rain where we laugh and play face up to the droplets and children splash with yellow, pink and polka dot boots? How could I forget? Can you take away the detritus of my soul, oh God? Christ, can you help me help others where there is brokenness and debris and injustice?

It is Epiphany now, and we turn our faces to find the power of your revelation near us, and in our neighbor, giving thanks for the rain but at a loss to explain how this is the same water that baptizes us and blesses us, bringing us closer to your Love. Is this truly the same as the waters of baptism, where Jesus heard your Voice.? Are we named as Christ's own forever, beloved of God, by this water immersing our body, mind, and soul in an immeasurable flood of mercy and Love? For me, it seems too vast and inexplicable—and uncontrollable.

We think we know what it means that we long for God's justice to move through the streets of the poor, but we forget the broken sewer system of disenfranchisement and the muddy hollows that frequently flood. To bring justice means change, disruption, and displacement.

The giant oak trees now carry their heavy load of mossy branches, the moss growing with the first glimpse of sun; the hills are green. The rain pauses, the sun shines and I find that I am still parched and long for You. Help me hear in the thunderous water your Voice that makes me respond to your Word.



*Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
Amos 5:23-24*

God, help me to walk in the waters of your Love. When I cannot walk, help me to float, when I cannot float, send me a raft, when the torrents surround me, carry me on your breath that I may walk another day. Give me the wisdom to walk with others that we may praise your name in all Creation in the colors of your rainbow. *Amen*

Prayers for all the people and creatures affected by this immeasurable rainfall, especially for the vulnerable. Remembering the power and the witness of Martin Luther King, Jr. for all the vulnerable and poor.

Pastor Susan +

ANNUAL MEETING

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January 22nd Zoom

If you have financial questions, join us on **Zoom on January 22nd at 11:30am**. Your rector, senior warden and treasurer will field any questions you have.

CARE PACKAGES FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Let's show our college students some love! Do you have a college student whom we could surprise? Can you donate items? Please consider signing up to donate items that we can box up and surprise our students with. Be on the lookout for an email regarding items needed and quantities. More information will be coming. Contact the office to let us know of your college student. Email: parish@sainttimothysdanville.org. Thank you!

HAPPENINGS AROUND CAMPUS





CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATIONS

WINTER NIGHTS FAMILY SHELTER

WINTER NIGHTS FAMILY SHELTER

January 23 – February 6, 2023

**The shelter families will be coming to stay in our Parish Hall soon.
Please consider helping support these families in need.**

Family Shelter: 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.) St. Timothy's has hosted Winter Nights families since 2005.

How Can You 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.

To learn more about the volunteer opportunities and signup online go to:
the links below or the St. Timothy's website under the [Outreach Menu](#)

[Setup & Takedown](#) – Help get the Parish Hall ready for the families by setting up tables & chairs, unloading the shelter truck, organize the food and supplies and/or help put everything away when the families leave.

[Food & Supply Donation](#) – Donate food & supplies to help us run the shelter for two weeks (i.e. breakfast/lunch fixings, snacks, paper plates, cups, cleaning supplies). Donate money for laundry expenses, purchase of BART tickets or gas cards, or to replenish supplies.

[Meal Team](#) – Work with a team to donate, prepare and serve dinner or weekend breakfast. Onsite preparation or restaurant purchased/delivered meal is welcome.

[Children's Activities & Homework Help](#) – Help with homework, play games, read books or organize a craft project. Cleanup the play areas before bedtime.

[Weekend Coverage](#) – Open & monitor the playground, organize games/crafts (not required). Morning volunteers set out lunch fixings and afternoon volunteers set out snacks (all food provided on site.)

[Overnight](#) – Shelter staff is on site at all times and responsible for the guests. The overnight volunteer locks up at night, puts out the breakfast fixings and tidies up. Overnight volunteers sleep in the Library in Grace House.

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/>

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

Contact Joann at joannmarieoliver@gmail.com
Signups will also be available on Sundays



*"Our clients may be homeless, but they are not without hope.
Thank you for hosting the Winter Nights Family Shelter."*

Dan Swander, Board President



WARM WINTER DRIVE

for Loaves and Fishes & Trinity Center



Collection of warm clothing and items for
Loaves & Fishes & Trinity Center ENDS JANUARY 15th 2023

Imagine if you were homeless outside in this weather. Please help keep our brothers and sisters warm.

When we asked Loaves & Fishes what was most needed, they asked for plastic ponchos and emergency thermal blankets to put in their rain kits to give out to their clients. Trinity Center needs many items but we are focusing on casual warm pants or jeans in good condition.

Thank you for anything you can give.

- * **Socks: wool or wool blend, and/or cotton socks**
- * **Knit caps, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens**
- * **Small toiletries**
- * **Warm pants or jeans: casual, new or used in good condition**
- * **Plastic ponchos and emergency thermal blankets**
(see ponchos and thermal blankets on Amazon)

LOOK FOR THE BLUE COLLECTION BOXES

They will be in these locations on Sundays:

1. If raining, the box will be in the church entry.
2. Parish Hall entry or under the Outreach Bulletin Board
3. Grace House entry until 11:00, and during weekday business hours

Two volunteers needed to help with the drive.

Info: Leslie Firth, lesliefirth@comcast.net, Steve Mason, stevemason200@gmail.com
Nora Hudson, noramhudson52@gmail.com

LENTEN LECTIONARY WRITERS NEEDED

2022
Lenten Lectionary



St. Timothy's Church
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www.sainttimothysdanville.org
parish@sainttimothysdanville.org
925-837-4993

Calling all writers! And non-writers! And those would-be authors, and children, and basically everybody at St. Timothy's. It is time to sign up to write a page in the 2023 Lenten Lectionary.

What is the Lenten Lectionary? It is a series of short meditations written by parishioners for parishioners to help us find meaning in our Lenten Journey. And this year, you could give us the gift of yourself—your thoughts, inspirations, joys, worries, or fears—that have helped you to grow into the person God wants you to be. No one is too old or too young to contribute.

Because so many of you are not yet worshipping in person, I am worried about having enough volunteers. Please make this the year you decide to write for us. You will be surprised by the way your meditation will help others find God during Lent.

Ash Wednesday is February 22 this year. (That's 3 weeks earlier than last year!!) Please plan to turn in your Lenten meditation by February 1. That will allow me a few weeks to edit and a week for publication.

To volunteer, please contact Helen C today! colemanhelen@pacbell.net

A PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF THE RECENT STORMS IN CALIFORNIA

Shared by Canon Debbie Low-Skinner

Gracious God, for the victims of the recent storms (and also floods, atmospheric rivers, bomb cyclones, and landslides), we pray that you would comfort the lives that were spared, and that you would take care of those who perished.



Lord, please bless those who are doing everything they can to help these people and also make sure that things run smoothly in repairing their communities.

Please help the victims to have patience and help family members to be reunited. Lord, we pray that you will ensure that the victims do not come under any illnesses or injuries from this disaster, and we also pray that they get enough food and clean water and proper shelter for everyone.

Lord, please touch the hearts of us all to continue to pray for those people affected by the storms and also to donate whatever we can to help recover and rebuild.

Lord, only you can make miracles happen and we are asking for one now. Amen.

UPCOMING BAPTISM DATE

Are you thinking about baptism? We are planning a baptism on the Presentation of Jesus on **Sunday, January 29th.**

Contact Pastor Todd (rector@sainttimothysdanville.org) or Pastor Susan (sgeissleroneil@sainttimothysdanville.org).



SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

December 11, 2022 Social Justice Ministry held the first discussion forum in the Mental Health series. The topic of discussion was Managing & Coping with Stress during the Holidays. The session was opened to all and was well attended. Discussion centered around what are some of the stressful things that we face during the holidays and how do we manage them. We identified some of the triggers such as:

- Spending more time shopping for gifts.
- Attending events that we don't want to go to but we show up because we have to.
- Keeping up with the "Joneses".
- Not having families around during the holidays.
- Unable to say no to requests for time or money.
- Gifts giving when we do not want to.
- Eating and drinking too much.
- Trying to do it all.

The group then discussed ways to manage and control these triggers by doing the followings:

- Learn to say "NO".
- Volunteer your time to other causes.
- Limit gift giving if you do not have the resources or time to go shopping.
- Visit friends and families and check on your neighbors.
- Limit over eating and drinking.
- Understand that you can not do it all (it is a myth).

Session concluded with the understanding that the meaning of Christmas is to welcome baby Jesus and not all these other distractions.

FROM THE EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Episcopalians can participate in these virtual and in-person celebrations



[Episcopal News Service] Dioceses and parishes across The Episcopal Church will honor the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on the holiday weekend of his birthday, Jan. 14-16, with services and other events both in-person and online.

[Episcopal News Service] Dioceses and parishes across The Episcopal Church will honor the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on the holiday weekend of his birthday, Jan. 14-16, with services and other events both in-person and online.

[King](#), who would have turned 94 this year, spearheaded the national movement for racial justice and civil rights as a Baptist preacher in Montgomery, Alabama, and Atlanta, Georgia. In the last years of his life, he focused more on economic injustice and the Vietnam War. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968, during a trip to Memphis, Tennessee, to support city sanitation workers who were striking for better pay and working conditions. He [is honored](#) in The Episcopal Church's Lesser Feasts and Fasts calendar on April 4.

Here are a few events Episcopalians can participate in. All times are local.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry [will visit Los Angeles, California](#), to give the keynote address at a "Power of Love" service – connecting King's message with the Way of Love Curry has promoted – [at 3 p.m. on Jan. 15](#) at Christ the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church. The service will feature music by the Episcopal Chorale and a liturgy planned by the diocesan Program Group on Black Ministries.

Grace Cathedral, seat of the Diocese of California in San Francisco, will host an interfaith even-song service at [3 p.m. on Jan. 15](#), gathering local and national interfaith leaders around the theme "Freedom, Justice, and Beloved Community."

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

A small but mighty contingent of St. Timothy's parishioners volunteered at the Habitat for Humanity Unity Build Day at the Esperanza Place in Walnut Creek on Sat Dec 17, 2022. See attached pictures (Camille and David K and Joann and Mike O).

The site will include 42 houses in 4 buildings.

The St. Timothy's volunteers assisted in cutting and putting up drywall in one of the houses.

As one of the recipients of grant funds from the St Timothy's Outreach Committee, Habitat for Humanity is extremely grateful for the annual donations, as well as the volunteers who participate on build days.

The **next build day is February 25, 2023**
(8:30am - 4pm).

If you are interested, please contact David K, St. Timothy's liaison to Habitat for Humanity, at kutroskyd@gmail.com.



VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The vestry met on Sunday, December 18, 2022 at 11:45 am in the Overby Conference Room

MOTIONS:

- The vestry unanimously approved a **COLA for parish employees** for 2023 of 6.8% - per the recommendation from the Diocese of California
- The vestry unanimously approved the **2023 housing resolutions** for Pastor Todd B and Associate Pastor Susan G.
- The vestry voted unanimously to approve **2023 Budget framework** as outlined by the treasurer, Dick F.
- The **minutes** of the November 2022 vestry meeting, the **treasurer's report**, the **rector's report** and the several submitted vestry **commission reports** were approved as submitted.

OTHER ACTIONS:

- Potential candidates for **election to the vestry** at the Annual Meeting on February 5, 2023 were discussed.
- The preparation of the **2022 Annual Report** was discussed. The report will be available for distribution at church on Sunday, January 29, 2023

Parish members are welcome to attend Vestry meetings. The next meeting is on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm in Overby Conference Room of Grace House.

The minutes of the vestry meeting will be filed in the Parish Office after they are approved by the Vestry.

Submitted by *Sally P*, Vestry Clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT

December 18, 2022

Financial Summary, YTD January through November

	Actual	Budget
Total Income	\$725,801	\$608,019
Total Expenses	<u>\$651,071</u>	<u>\$724,327</u>
Net Operating Income	\$74,730	(\$116,309)

- November financials show the following:
 - Pledge income was 45.3 k versus plan of 55.3 k. Expenses were 7.4 k below plan.
 - As a result, November net operating income was (14.1 K) versus plan of (\$10.6 k).
- For the YTD through November, the Parish continues to be in decent financial shape. This is because income is higher than plan, partly as a result of the parish's response to our fund-raising request this past spring.

CONTACT US

The Rev. Todd Bryant - Rector

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Rector@SaintTimothysDanville.org

The Rev. Susan Geissler-O'Neil -

Associate Rector

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Sgeissleroneil@SaintTimothysDanville.org

Myles Ellis - Director of Music

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Shipra Rastogi -

Noah's Ark Preschool Director

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Facilities@SaintTimothysDanville.org

Steve Zimmerman - Bookkeeper

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Bookkeeper@StTimothysDanville.org

Dick Firth - Treasurer (Volunteer)

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Treasurer@StTimothysDanville.org

Kimberly Bryant - Parish Administrator

(925) 837-4993 x110

Parish@StTimothysDanville.org

Carleen Carns - Pledge Secretary
(Volunteer)

Pledges@StTimothysDanville.org