

Rector's Article

Hello friends,

Everything is going strong. We have some great experience and opportunities in store for October and November and have had a moment reflect on our ministry in September.

Back to September

Thank you for Welcome Home Sunday

A big shout out goes to Michelle Fey for her amazing leadership on Welcome Home Sunday. She pulled together an excellent team for great food and fellowship. Thank you to all the ministry leaders at the fair, and no thanks to me for my corny jokes.

Disaster Preparation Team

In church, during September, Allen Hirashiki gave us great, actionable information about preparing for disasters.

Rise Against Hunger rocked on Saturday September 24th in the Parish Hall

A huge thank you goes to Joann Oliver for the tireless planning and public work to make Rise Against Hunger happen. See inside for more details and pictures.

October

Stewardship Season - the whole month of October

In church you will hear people sharing stories of why stewardship is important to them, and we will offer in-depth information to you on great ways to support the ministry through our stewardship packets. See inside for more details

Coming in November!

November 3rd – 24th

Sign up to fill a food box for Monument Crisis Center clients

November 3rd

All Saint's Sunday – lots and lots of baptisms

November 10th

Rev. Maurice Turner and Carol Glover are getting married! In church, on Sunday at 10am! (Yes, you heard that correctly!) This Sunday will be a regular worship with the marriage liturgy embedded within the first half of the service. You

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don't have to know who they are, but Maurice and Carol consider the whole St. Timothy's family their family. Please come.

November 17th

Rice and Beans packaging in Parish Hall for Christmas Food Boxes

Saturday, November 30th

Fill My Box for Christmas Food Boxes @ Safeway in Alamo

November

Jim Coleman will be offering a four week education event about the work he is doing with Invite, Welcome, and Connect.

Todd



Nursery, Children's Liturgy, Sunday School and MORE!

Sunday School in October

We would like to try periodic offerings that expand a focus on young families. We are noticing that there is an opening to offer formation for middle elementary aged children. We will continue Children's Liturgy throughout these offerings. See how we are shaping up in the Parish Hall. Huge thanks to Tom Linari for sprucing up our education rooms

Sunday Oct 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th at 10am in Parish Hall

You will drop off your children in Parish Hall right before 10am church. Nursery for wee-ones and children's liturgy will continue as always. In this new class, your middle elementary child and above will be part of a series with biblical storytelling and age appropriate activities. All kids (nursery, children's liturgy and older kids) will rejoin you for communion. We will take a break with older kids in November and start back up with an Advent series in December.

Children's Worship Bulletins

Did you know we have 2 children's bulletins for ages 3-6 and 7+ every week? They are lectionary based and contain puzzles, matching and "what's different" kinds of questions. (Even some of our adults love them!) They are in the narthex and in the Worship corner set aside for children on the left as you walk into the church.

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy takes place every Sunday during the first part of worship offering our little ones, pre-school to first grade, an opportunity to participate in worship, hear Bible stories and pray for one another, the people in their lives, and the world. Sometimes we use lectionary-based curriculum to tell the stories of our faith and sometimes we tell the story with Godly Play, a way to tell Bible stories and invite children to reflect. Children join us at the time of the Peace and bring their offering of Bread to the Eucharistic table. John Geraci-Novy leads this very special ministry. Would you like to learn more and be part of our team?
johnfgeraci@gmail.com or sgeissleroneil@sainttimothysdanville.org

Sunday School for our Older Elementary Children

Sunday school for our children grades 3-5 will take place during church in our new classroom in the Parish Hall. We are planning “units” beginning with 4 weeks in October and will learn about prophets, beginning with Elijah! Children will join their parents and the younger children from Children’s Liturgy in church at the Peace. During November, our elementary children will be in church and our pre-school through first grade children will continue to be part of Children’s Liturgy. Sunday School will resume in December with another 4-week unit.



Sunday School will be an opportunity to learn more about our faith as Episcopalians; we will be looking at the larger story of the Bible, not always based on the lectionary — the lessons we use in church on Sunday. The curriculum we are using is called Weaving God’s Promises and hopes to offer a way for children to reflect on the Bible, know more about our Episcopal story and “foster the spiritual formation and growth of our children in Christ’s love and mercy.” We will continue with the theme of “God’s love for us and how God stays with us, no matter what, to bring us back to God’s divine love.” (p. 6)

We will have fun! **Would you like to be part of a team of teachers?** Our curriculum offers all the lessons plan and possible activities and leaves room for your special way of sharing God’s love. Let’s explore God’s story with our children as they encounter God in story, Scripture, worship and service,

Child Care during Worship

Our littlest ones, babies — 3 years, are welcome in our Nursery in the Parish Hall where Anna Vila greets them with a smile! You will be asked to sign in your child, and children may not leave until you pick them up after church. If they are ready for Children’s Liturgy, they are welcome and then may return to childcare and play or join you in church. Children are always welcome in church.

Baptism

Our next special day for Baptisms is November 3rd, All Saints Day. We are planning a wonderful celebration for the 8:30 and 10:00 service. If you, or someone you know is interested in Baptism, please let us know. We would love to meet with you. Baptism continues a journey that God has already begun in our hearts-- and we will all renew our own Baptismal vows as we celebrate with God’s children of all ages.



Questions? sgeissleroneil@sainttimothysdanville.org

Visit <https://www.sainttimothysdanville.org/milestones/baptisms/> for more information and for the baptism application.

Confirmation

Are you interested in Confirmation and learning more about your faith? We are in the process of setting up class and planning for confirmation. We would like to plan, incorporating the schedules of our young people.

Contact Pastor Susan sgeissleroneil@sainttimothysdanville.org if you are interested in learning more.



St. Timothy's Garden Ministry?



A few months ago, when Pastor Todd met with the congregation to talk about the urgent need to discuss our ministries, I realized that I had been thinking about this for some time. I have been a member of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church since the Fall of 2011.

When I arrived, I saw that the congregation had many ministries. We were invited to go to other churches or agencies to assist in various activities during the week. These were all worthy causes, but because I was employed full-time, I was unable to participate in any of these activities. I retired 6 years later and became active in as many activities that I felt I could handle. During that time, I discovered that others before me not only developed these contacts but they also helped build the campus as it now stands. Some of these people are still active members, but I felt compelled to look into ways that I could contribute in a meaningful way as they did.

What came up for me was to build a garden on St. Timothy's land. There is so much land on the property that building a beautiful garden could be a way of getting the congregation together. People of various ages could participate in the care of the gardens. We could involve the congregation of young people including boy scouts, working congregation members as well as older people. It would be open to people on weekends as well as on weekdays. People within the community at large could also be invited to participate in maintaining the gardens. (neighbors, bike riders, etc.) This would provide another way for newcomer members to be able to get to know other people without having to travel to other locations. Growing fruits and vegetables would be a way to support those in need including local programs that provide meals to the homeless and others in need. We could also use the food for events sponsored by the church. So many readings from the Bible involve planting, growing and harvesting as messages for us through Jesus parables. I feel there is definitely a spiritual component to understanding God through being close to the earth.

Finally I want to speak about youth and the benefit they will receive from having a garden. When my daughter was younger I was shocked to see that she had so little knowledge of where vegetables came from or their names. On one of my vegetable shopping trips, I was pleasantly surprised to see children looking at and touching the red peppers. It took me a while to be able to get some myself, but I was thrilled to see that these children had a love for these vegetables. I would love our church to be able to provide opportunities for children to be able to grow up having a greater appreciation for food that comes from the earth through their own labor. Not only would this give them a greater appreciation for fruits and vegetables but also a sense of responsibility to care for other living things. Although I know that many hands are needed to accomplish this task and I am only one (maybe 3/4ths) of a person. I feel that in the best interest of our congregation, I would like to propose that we consider building a garden. I have already spoken to a few people and have the possibility of involving the Eagle scouts of Troop 36 work on building the garden. I'm hoping to call a planning meeting for individuals who are interested or who have expertise so that we can come together and discuss the feasibility of making this St. Timothy's garden a reality.

I never mentioned increasing the size of our congregation, but I'm a firm believer that if you give people what they want they will come.

Yours truly,
Nora Hudson

Rise Against Hunger

Rise Against Hunger – We Packaged over 17,000 Meals!



On Saturday, September 21, over 100 volunteers from St. Timothy's and the community helped bag 17,280 meals which will be distributed to schools, orphanages and disaster sites world-wide through the non-profit Rise Against Hunger. Since we first starting hosting Rise Against Hunger in 2015, we have packaged over 100,000 meals!

It was a fast-paced morning filled with music, lots of laughs, a little dancing and plenty of good will and because the congregation is so experienced, we hit a new record and had everything cleaned up by 11:30! A big thank you to Boy Scout Troop 36, SRVUD Interact Club, all the volunteers, the many generous donors and to the congregation for supporting this effort to end world hunger.

"After the verb 'to Love,' 'to Help' is the most beautiful verb in the world." Bertha von Suttner, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate



Coffee Hour Hosts: Needed and Thank You!

We offer coffee hour and fellowship between the 8:30 and 10am services and often after the 10am service. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to host. We always need more help! Here are the dates that still need to be filled:

October 6, 13, 20, 27

November 3, 10, 17, 24

To sign up and find more details, go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4cacac23a64-coffee>



The Comfort Cub Program

Saint Timothy's Outreach Ministries Newest Member

If you were at the Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 8th, you may have seen The Comfort Bear on the Outreach Ministries table. We would like to introduce you to the newest member.

THE COMFORT CUB PROGRAM

Mission: To bring comfort to anyone experiencing a broken heart as a result of a significant loss or trauma.

The Comfort Cub is a therapeutic teddy bear that was created by a grieving mother after her infant son passed away. Her hope was to help others who had experienced the loss of a child. This teddy bear is ***specially weighted*** and is intended to feel like a newborn.

Evidence shows it **provides profound relief for any traumatic event** such as loss, trauma relief, and life changing events. This includes the loss of a spouse, parent, loved one or pet. It has also been effective for occupational and autism therapy, adoptions and those experiencing divorce.

Due to deep touch pressure, holding the Comfort Cub triggers the brain to release the neurotransmitters dopamine and serotonin, which causes the body to relax and feel comforted. The Comfort Cub has been scientifically proven to decrease heaviness in the chest and aching in the arms, as well as other physical manifestations of a distressing loss.



We welcome The Comfort Cub Program as one of Saint Timothy's ministries to help anyone in need of comfort. The Cubs are offered to hospitals, counseling centers, individuals, and many other organizations that deal with mental health and therapy. This program could be a great support to some of our existing ministries such as Discovery Center Counseling, Options Recovery Services, counseling services at Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, and our own pastoral care here at Saint Timothy's.

For more information, visit TheComfortCubs.org
Liaison: Nancy Lucas [Nancy@The ComfortCub.org](mailto:Nancy@TheComfortCub.org)
Nancy attends the Wednesday services at Saint Timothy's.

Shawl Ministry

Saint Timothy's Shawl ministry is composed of individuals who enjoy knitting and crocheting Shawls, Scarfs, Caps, Afghan's, Baby blankets and other items for those in need or would just enjoy a handmade article. Items are blessed during a service before they are delivered. We make Scarf's and caps for the Seaman's Church Institute's (SCI) "Christmas at Sea" program. The SCI Ministry is a part of the International Maritime Center (IMC) in the Port of Oakland. The center is a gathering place for Mariners coming through the Bay Area and Port workers where they can send and receive email play games, visit with volunteer's and get transportation to go shopping. Mariners are on their ships 9-11 months per year and can go for months without setting foot on land.

The center also responds to the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of seafarers through the chaplaincy program. The Oakland center has a lovely chapel and chaplains from different denominations visit on a regular schedule. Today men and women of the maritime industry improve our lives with the sacrifices thy make to deliver goods from around the world to our homes and workplaces. As in past days hazards and difficulties remain characteristic of the mariners' unique work and way of life.

All are welcomed to be part of this ministry. We always need scarfs, caps, and shawls' I have yarn and patterns. If you find extra yarn in your closet, which is not being used, we would be delighted to accept yarn donations.

Blessings to all who stitch and donate yarn for this effort.
Please contact Mary Louise Gotthold for more information.

Fair Trade Festival – On Break

For many years the former Justice and Peace Ministry has been sponsoring an annual Fair Trade craft Festival in Nov./Dec. with proceeds going directly to villages / towns in developing countries where the crafts created help to empower women.

This year we are taking a sabbatical / jubilee year, as it has been a "poor health" year for some of us. We plan to have a Fair Trade Festival again in 2020. We need many helpers so hope you will think about this for an activity for next year.

Treasurer's Report – September 18, 2019

Financial Highlights

- 2019 budget of \$608,416 was based on 144 pledges. An additional 13 pledges have been received since the budget was approved, for a total of 157 pledges and \$640,206.
- As of 8/31
 - 31 families have fully paid their pledges for a total of \$121,667.
 - 12 families have not yet made any payments (down from 15 last month) on their pledges of \$30,820. Usually paid in Q4.
 - Adjusted or lost pledges of -\$5,920.
- 2019 budget vs actual results, through the end of August, are:

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Pledge Income	\$405,611	\$398,608	\$(7,003)
Other Income	\$ 84,618	\$ 49,523	\$(35,095)
Expenses	\$508,740	\$487,398	\$ 21,342

Income – Pledge Income difference due to:

Pledges received after budget was prepared \$21,193 over budget.
Pledges with no payments through August \$(20,547) under budget.
\$(3,947) adjusted or lost pledges.

Other Income difference due to:

Contributing income was \$37,071 under budget of \$60,667. Estimate it will be about \$55,600 under budget for the year.

Expenses – Operating expense difference is the sum of several small over and under budget items, with main ones being:

Personnel expenses \$3,989 under budget.
Christian formation expenses \$871 under budget.
Children & Youth Ministry expenses \$1,406 under budget.
Fellowship expenses \$2,036 under budget.
Administrative expenses \$1,263 under budget.
Facilities expenses \$778 under budget.
Finance expenses \$3,871 under budget.
Contingency expenses \$6,680 under budget.

Neal Matsunaga

Vestry Meeting Highlights – September 2019

The vestry met in Grace House on Wednesday, September 18, at 6:30 pm.

MOTIONS:

- The revised Noah's Ark budget report for 2018-2019 was approved. The money raised at the spring fund-raiser was assigned to a reserve account instead of classified as income.
- The minutes of the August vestry meeting, the Treasurer's reports, the rector's report and the several submitted commission reports were approved as submitted

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- Steve Mason attended the vestry meeting to discuss the Trinity Center Evening Program – St. Paul's Episcopal Church has volunteered to host the program over the weekend of January 10 – 12 when the National Guard Armory in Walnut Creek is being used by the Guard. He discussed St. Timothy's helping them with that activity.
- Pastor Todd has drafted a revised website for review by the vestry. The new website will focus on being used on cell phones and prominently displaying information for perspective members. Dani Scoville, Communications Project Manager from the Diocese of California reviewed our current website and suggested areas for change and improvement.
- Neal Matsunaga, Treasurer, informed the vestry that current pledge receipts are about \$21,000 behind what is budgeted for the year. Several pledge families usually pay their pledge at the end of the year.
- Neal Matsunaga, Treasurer, informed the vestry that the vestry and the parish are covered by our current insurance policy should there be a leak of financial information.
- Tom Linari, Junior Warden and Property Commissioner discussed the current work on the bathrooms in the rectory, the new Sunday School room in the Parish Hall and the roofing project for the breezeway and the Parish Hall flat sections.

Parish members are welcome to attend Vestry meetings. The next meeting is on Wednesday, October 16, 2019.

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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