

Rector's Report: Looking Back on 2014

by the Rev. Brad Rundlett

I am always in awe of the magnificent Christian Community we call St. Timothy's. And what a wonderful gift it is to worship and serve with you! While people from some other Church's in Northern Virginia seem to think we're doing something special, I think we are simply being true to the Gospel. We worship and we serve.

We continue to have guests from our community who are homeless or who cannot afford to support themselves and their families. We refer people to Cornerstone and other agencies with greater resources. But we do not set day or time limits for our neighbors. They are always welcome in this house of God. I have known some of these individuals for twenty-one years! At every Baptism we vow "to respect the dignity of every human being" and we do that.

Every year we send teams of people to Scott County (the poorest area of Virginia), to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota (the poorest area within the United States, and to Haiti (the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. These are long-term missions. Change takes time and dedication. We have made very significant relationships with residents in these places. They know we are their friends; we really care. They don't give up; we don't give up.

We have an extraordinary Preschool! Some of our teachers have been on our faculty for twenty or more years! And some of them have advanced degrees! Our Preschool Director Helen Guest has been with St. Timothy's Preschool since 1974, and she is simply the very best. The children come from all over the world and learn many things, in-

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Organ & Sanctuary Renovations to Begin

Are you planning a mid-winter trip to a spa or a visit to sunnier climes for some renewal? Our 1870 Tracker Pipe Organ will soon be off for about 14 months of R & R—or Renovation & Rejuvenation—in early February. Come and say 'au revoir' to our beloved organ as our Music Director, Ms. Filippa Duke gives extended postludes in bon voyage after the 9:30am and 11:00am services on February 1st, prior to the organ's removal.

The congregation may have already seen some of the preparations for the removal of the organ, as the choir pews have been moved. The pipe organ case, console and pipes will make their trip to J. Allen Farmer, Inc. near Winston-Salem, NC (www.farmerpipeorgans.com), leaving a large hole literally (but not musically). The pit, as it is known, will be structurally covered and the piano and additional musicians will be engaged to keep St. Timothy's full of beautiful music while the organ is "on retreat." While the organ is away we will carry out the Vestry-approved improvements in the sanctuary including a slight repositioning and shortening of the pit and new flooring. Additional funding is still needed for new flexible seating for the choir, narthex flooring and sanctuary doors, so consider continuing to contribute to the GTGTL campaign for these items! +

Mission Trip to Chapoteau—Part 2

by John Druitt

It is Monday morning, our first full day in Haiti. I'm pleasantly surprised the compound has running water and power, for now. The water is so cold in the mornings it's hard to breathe, even though it's just a trickle from the shower head. With the amazing landscaping, mountain views, palm trees, ferns, and carefully maintained concrete steps and walls, this place could be a luxury resort. Instead, it's designed to show what a community in Haiti can be.

As soon as we emerge from our residence we are met by Angeline, a university student that the Zetlans and Betsy Knoizen's college scholarship help to sponsor. Word of our arrival has spread, and old friends have shown up to meet us. Angeline's high cheek-boned face is a study in hope and confidence as she shows us a copy of her diploma and test scores. She has thoughtfully made each of the Zetlans a necklace with the first letter of each family member's name. She hands them reverently to Genevieve. Genevieve immediately puts on the necklace with the G as Angeline explains what she needs to finish her Accounting degree.

In many conversations I am using French to help translate. At first I assume my French is somewhat rusty, but I discover that Haitians frequently substitute Creole when they don't have the French word in mind. Context is everything in these conversations, and I need to know which unfamiliar words are proper nouns and which are Creole before I can be sure I understand perfectly. There are a lot of names I need to learn quickly. Later in the trip, I find myself thinking first in French and then in English. Eventually I am at a loss for words in both languages.

Travel to Chapoteau requires a trip across Lac Péligre. Parking by the side of Highway 3, we descend steep stone



steps past goats and chickens down to the lake shore. The wood canoe is perhaps 18 feet long, made of a combination of planks and dugout tree. It has several wooden seams and tiny handmade benches for passengers. Up front, a layer of six inch diameter bamboo on the floor of the canoe keeps the water from reaching cargo, including our 100 pound bag of children's vitamins. However, the canoe leaks profusely and Melanie gallantly bails using half a hollowed out gourd

designed for the job. With the mission team, the boatman, Victoria, Hermane, Hermane's brother, and the year's supply of children's vitamins we are carrying, the side of the canoe is only a few inches higher than the lake. Our boatman regales Victoria with stories of how important he is – he owns a plantation and has seven children, so this boat thing is just a sideline. Water from his paddle drips on my neck and shirt with every stroke, creating moments of cool in the heat. In this waterlogged canoe, in the middle of the lake, Victoria calmly answers a call on her cell phone. On the other side of the lake, there is a woman washing herself and her clothes. A man with a donkey watches us land with amusement.

We begin hiking up a steep slope, using a path that must be a stream in the rainy season. The bag with the vitamins has never felt heavier. Above, silhouettes of curious school children suddenly crown the hill we are climbing. We enter a clearing in the tropical mid-morning sunlight. Packed earth, yellow concrete buildings and haphazard trees are charming with sounds of school children playing.

Immediately it's clear that St Mathieu's church and school are facing serious erosion here in Chapoteau – they sit on exposed foundations that should have been covered by topsoil. Steps end a foot higher than ground level, and much of the concrete is discolored or crumbling. We meet Renaud, the Directeur (Principal), and the 10 teachers. We congregate in the church. Class by class, the entire school of 225 students fill the benches.

Amazingly, they have a song prepared: "Welcome, welcome, welcome chère visiteurs". Genevieve has brought the



Godly Play story of Moses and the Red Sea, and presents the story as a gift from our Godly Play class at St. Tim's, while Victoria translates. The children surround them completely, and they are spellbound with Genevieve's story and Victoria's embellishments. After the story, Craig takes pictures

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Pine Ridge: From Broken Homes to Broken Systems

by Tina Pinkard

Friends at St. Timothy's, a loving touch, a kind word – such a small gift can change a life. In these times of mega everything, we often overlook a small, simple and most easily given gift of all – the gift of love. That gift comes in so many ways and is needed globally. We turn on the news each day to hear of the terrible situations in many countries, including our own.

Now, during this time celebrating the birth of Christ and preparing for the Lenten season, many still go without basic needs – food, shelter, clean water and love. Many of them are in our country and are American citizens. You've often heard from me and other team members about the hardships faced on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation, about the dire needs of the families, the terrible statistics regarding lifespan, illness and death. What we haven't spoken about so much is the need of the children. Each day the team spends a few hours with the local children who are generally between 3 and 12 years old. They come on different days, the little ones on Monday and Tuesday, the older on Wednesday and Thursday. We play, giving them time to be in a safe and loving environment, provide a snack and on one afternoon for each group, Pastor Rupp, our host, provides a simple church service. After service, we make them a meal – often the only food they will have that day.

Last year it struck me that there were programs across the reservation for the younger children, and the elders, but there were no programs targeting the teens and young adults that I was aware of. While we need to help the

children so they have an opportunity to grow and make a difference in the world to come and we must care for our elders who have cared for us - what about those in between? With little to do on the reservation, no work and few social programs, the teens and young adults often succumb to drugs and addiction as a means of dealing with the struggles of reservation life.

The [Washington Post](#) recently posted an article about the issue of the juvenile correction facilities on the Pine Ridge; the fact that the young adults are sent to facilities in a reservation juvenile detention system that is cash-strapped and that cannot afford to provide the kind of rehabilitative services afforded to most young offenders in the United States. It is sad and disheartening to know that because of funding issues lives are being wasted. When those who are sent to juvenile detention centers where there are no rehabilitation and development opportunities, a vicious circle continues unbroken.

However, it is good to know that there are those who care and are trying to correct a terrible and complicated situation. The Post article references the Wanbli Wiconu Tipi Youth Wellness and Renewal Center on the Rosebud Reservation. Also, I have just recently heard about the Oceti Wakan, a healing/educational center on the Pine Ridge Reservation for the Lakota people. I hope to learn more about both and will share what I find out.

Even with these two programs and what I hope are many more, the road to recovery for the teens and young adults is long and fraught with adversity as is life on the reservation as a whole. But for now, I leave you with a request: remember those less fortunate, those often marginalized in today's society in your prayers; share a little of God's love and live his command to love our neighbors as ourselves. The smallest gift of a smile, a kind word, a gentle touch can make all the difference in someone's life and may start them on a path to healing grace. +



of each of our 25 sponsored children. Craig cajoles, plays games, and gets each to laugh. “Souris, souris!” becomes the refrain for each child to smile.

We move to a concrete classroom for a serious discussion with Renaud and the teachers. The air inside is heavy and still. Light comes in through a single large window framed in wrought iron. Children listen at the window, using the iron bars as comfortable hand holds. Victoria’s fluency in Creole and English, combined with her background in education and charitable giving, makes her uniquely capable of conveying the nuances in this conversation. The teachers haven’t been paid in a year. They are holding on, just barely. Laptops would also be nice.

“Formation” is French for class. Classrooms are perhaps 12 x 14ft with natural gray concrete walls and floors. There are holes in the metal roofs. Each chalkboard is just the concrete wall with a rectangular wooden frame. Most classes have two or three wooden benches and absolutely nothing else. There is no electricity. Outside in the courtyard formed by the L of the school buildings, children suddenly swarm around a new soccer ball Melanie has brought, yelling with excitement. As the weight of the teachers’ discussion is counterbalanced by the children’s exuberance, an ancient woman hands us each a freshly chopped coconut full of sweet milk. After the milk is gone, Hermane’s brother helps us crack open the fibrous shells on a rock.



Hermane is an agronomist - a Chapoteau child who achieved an education and has returned to use his skills to help his village. He has started a garden, which is our next stop, at his home halfway

down the hillside from St. Mathieu’s. We pass over a small threshold in the vegetation to find a nursery and a patch of grass that is as well maintained as a golf green. A sign welcomes us by name in English, although the words have no separations and the chaotic spelling makes it a little hard to tell when one word ends and another begins. Hermane has implemented an ingenious irrigation system for the garden and the results are growing in the nursery. He hopes to give

other families starter plants from this nursery and teach them how to tend their own gardens - starting with the 25 children we sponsor. We meet Hermane’s parents and Genevieve gives him cloth diapers for his newborn son, expected in January. His mother refuses to crack a smile until Craig gets her laughing.

After the canoe ride back across the lake with Chris in the role of bailer, we meet with Hermane again for a more formal business presentation. We talk with him about expanding gardens, and a new plan he is most passionate about: standing up fish farms. His business plan is for four cages to raise fish in the lake, each cage supporting five families. He is promising to train families on how to market fish to hotels as it is not legal to sell them in markets. His French is great, his presentation style is clear, and I can hear his heart as he talks about being one of the few who want to give back to Chapoteau. He wants to bring sustainable life to the community, not just provide a quick fix. His intent is clear, indicated by the fact that no matter what we help we can provide, he will continue work the garden project for parents to feed their children. Later that evening he brings his daughter Darlie, one of the 25 students we now support, to meet us at Chart House.

Late Monday afternoon Bob and Genevieve try to help Wilpha, the college student St. Timothy’s sponsors, to restore his troubled Mac laptop. Bob is a ninja with operating systems and Genevieve knows Macs inside and out. In spite of their best efforts, the patient cannot be resuscitated and they make the decision to take the laptop back to the States for a new hard drive. Wilpha is truly gracious with his patience and understanding. Later I learn that others call him “president” since he is head of his class, and that he leads the all acolytes at Bon Sauveur. Understated overachievers seem to abound here.

At dinner that night we talk more with Steve, the Clemson civil engineer who keeps everything running. Today, someone dropped a bucket on the packed earth right over a pipe, and the waterline broke. Tomorrow he plans to fix one of the bio-digester toilets (twalets). After six months in country, he explains that Creole is easy to conjugate. “Mwoi ap aller” is I am going. “Mwoi et aller” is I have gone. “Mwoi pral aller” is I will go. I wish that the rest of the language, and the other problems we face, were this simple. But hope abounds, and tomorrow we will visit the trade school that will help us build toilets at St. Matthieu’s. +

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cluding how to respect each other.

You don't see them very often but our sextons Phyllis Hogan and Josephine Martin work very hard to keep our facility clean. However they continually remind me that with the building in use from 8:00 AM to 10:00 pm there isn't enough time to do everything. They are usually here three times a day, seven days a week. Phyllis has been with us for more than three decades.

Our nursery is a safe place for parents who want to leave their child while they worship. Alba Padilla has been with us for many years. She and all our other childcare experts are required to take every kind of training that will help them offer the very best care for our children.

Kevin Hamilton is our Parish Administrator and the kindest, smartest, best administrator we could have. The staff of St. Timothy's could not function without him, and that is a very fulltime job. He is a blessing to all of us.

Christine Hoyle has oversight of our youth ministries. She is experienced, energetic, devoted, strong, and has a ready smile. Officially she works halftime but she gives so much more. She is terrific.

Our music is the gift of soon to be Dr. Filippa Duke. And she can make our 140 year old Tracker sing! She has extraordinary gifts. With her experience and support we are going to restore our Tracker organ. It will be dismantled in February and every pipe, every working part will be painstakingly reproduced. The exterior will remain as it is (though carefully restored). The "rebirth" of the Tracker will take approximately fourteen months. While that work is being done we will make a few changes in the Sanctuary to improve light and sound. The improvement in sound quality (vocal and instrumental) will amaze you! And we could not hope for a better Music Director!

Our Associate Rector Leslie Chadwick is among the finest Priests I have ever known. She is supposed to be half time, but (like everyone on the Church staff and all of our volunteers) she gives her heart and mind to her service of God and God's people far more than that. She and all of our staff have my complete confidence. I think we have the very best people God ever created! I thank God for each of them every day.

I thank God for all of you too – our Chief-of-Staff Michael Cook (he starts our every week staff meeting with a prayer), vergers, Altar Guild, volunteers, ministry leaders, our Treasurer and Finance Committee, our Vestry and Wardens, Building and Grounds crew, office help, and others too numerous to mention. I am thoroughly in awe of you!

And we now have bilingual services (Spanish and English)! A few people are giving and lot of time and expertise to support this ministry. I invite you to attend a Spanish/English worship service. It will fill your soul with light and lift you up!

Your Priests have arranged to have a professional person guide us through a process to discern how we will respond to the challenges ahead. We will be praying, listening, and sharing inspirations about the future of St. Timothy's. Please participate, pray, pledge, and offer your time and talent to God's will for this Church. I believe St. Timothy's is the greatest legacy we can leave the generations that follow us. And what a legacy this Church is!

It is the greatest honor of my life to worship with you and serve God's people with you. I am blessed so far beyond anything I ever imagined. Thank you for that honor, for your faith, and your support. May the peace of God that surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and God's Son Jesus Christ. And the blessing of God Almighty lives within you, and will remain with you forever. +



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The Word is published monthly and emailed to members and friends on the first weekday of each month. It also appears on the website (www.saint-timothys.org). If you wish to receive a copy by mail, please notify the church office (office@saint-timothys.org). Copies of The Word are also available in the office.

Submission deadline for the next issue: Friday, January 30, 2015

Questions, articles, or ideas, and comments for The Word are always welcome. Send materials via email to wordeditor@saint-timothys.org and put "The Word" in the subject line. Photos are also welcome; please identify key people in photos. Articles or letters may be edited.

Welcome, New Registered Members

Callie Elizabeth Segal

Gabriel Jacob Segal

Carrie Ramos Mesa

Orlando Ramos Mesa

Filippa Mackenzie Duke

Please don't let St. Timothy's be the last to know if you move! If you receive offering envelopes it is essential that we have the most up to date information so we are not charged when the offering envelopes are returned to St. Timothy's. Further, if we don't have an email address for you and your family, or if your email has changed, update your information at www.saint-timothys.org or send the information to office@saint-timothys.org. To transfer your membership to St. Tim's, or to find out if you are a registered member, fill out the Parishioner Information Form: www.saint-timothys.org/uploads/docs/info-form.pdf. Email the completed form to office@saint-timothys.org, or print the form and mail it to St. Timothy's, or place it in the collection plate. Questions? Please don't hesitate to call 703 437-3790.

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For appointments, please call

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Service Times

Sundays

8:00 a.m.

Eucharist, Rite I

9:30 & 11 a.m.

Eucharist, Rite II

Godly Play, ages 3-8

SPARK+, 3-6th grades

Nursery Care

9:45 am

Journey to Adulthood

Rite 13, 7-12th grades

4:00 pm

Misa en Espanol

Wednesday

12:15 P.M.

Eucharist and

Healing Service

Saturday

7:00 P.M.

Oracion y Alabanza