



# The WORD

September 2022

## Dear Parish Family,

The classic children's story *Millions of Cats* (Wanda Gág, 1929) features this refrain:

*Hundreds of cats,  
Thousands of cats,  
Millions and billions and trillions of cats.*

I kept hearing those lines over the last couple of weeks, but not about *cats* but instead about *backpacks*.

We began the month with our Back-to-School Drive for Cornerstones. During that time, backpacks were dropped off, gift-cards were delivered to purchase more backpacks... and thus backpacks piled up delightfully in the office area. Whenever I thought it was "over", more backpacks would arrive and create a new stack. I began to know what the couple in *Millions of Cats* felt like regarding feline visitors, only instead about school supplies! In the end, we turned in over 50 backpacks and \$850 in gift cards for new shoes. Thank you to all who donated, our brothers and sisters in this area will benefit from your generosity. The Service Ministry thanks you for putting your faith to work.







Backpacks were in the air again during our weekend of Back-to-School Blessings (August 20-21). St. Timothy's Preschool got things started with an opportunity for Blessings of the Backpacks after their third and final play date on the playground. These play dates are a great opportunity to meet new families and check out the playground equipment. This was the first year we offered the backpack element and I was thrilled to bless so many *Minions*, *Paw Patrol*, *Frozen*, and *Spiderman* backpacks. The Preschool starts its year after Labor Day, all our blessings to the backpacks and their carriers!

Later that same day, our Annual Spanish Service Picnic took place and.... you guessed it... we had another Backpack Blessings! Kids and youth from 4 to 14 were good sports about receiving a blessing from Father Franklin and me. The backpack style might change as one gets older, but it was a blessing for me to see the excitement, the nervousness, and the expectancy on our young people's faces as they got ready to start the new school year.

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We were still not done, however, as we had Backpack Blessings at both of the Sunday services prior to Fairfax County Public Schools starting. This time, we even had some brave teachers come forward (*sans* backpacks *per se*) and receive Blessings for the school year. On that day, and throughout the weekend, I had handed out stickers that read "St. Timothy's Church—Blessings to be Blessed." I felt like, with all the blessings that I had offered as your priest-in-charge, that I was blessed in this relationship and in all the work and play to be done in the upcoming school year.



Finally, just yesterday at the time that I write this, we had the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of our Haiti Agape. We were blessed to have the Reverend Roger Bowen, an Episcopal priest and educator with deep ties to the country of Haiti, as our guest preacher. I commend his sermon to you to read/watch (or re-read/re-watch), either via text or video link, and cannot pretend to add anything to it. I will say that those images of the children of St. Mathieu's school in Chapoteau, with their school uniforms and, indeed, their backpacks, have nestled themselves into my soul.

After Roger's sermon on Sunday, many of us were left in tears, including our intercessor who had the responsibility of reading the Prayers of the People shortly after the sermon. From my seat in the altar area, I was worried that she might not be able to do so given her emotional state. She managed to gather herself and read the Prayers, through the pain of the reality of the situation for school children in Haiti. During the Peace, I got the chance to check in and ask her: "Are you okay?" And she said, so honestly, "No."

*Hundreds of backpacks,  
Thousands of backpacks,  
Millions and billions and trillions of backpacks.*

I am so thankful for the generosity of our congregation to support the education of those far and near. I am proud to be a leader of a parish that commits itself to lending a hand to those in need. I pray for all children as they begin the new school year.

CHARLES+





## ***Report from the Vestry***

Dear Friends,

The Vestry held its monthly meeting on August 16, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Betsy and Tom Bosworth, who hosted the group for dinner before the meeting. Thank you, Betsy and Tom! Kathy Lombard, Treasurer, and Rose Berberich, Registrar, were present. Fr. Franklin Morales also attended.

Kathy gave a positive report on St. Timothy's finances. To date, we have taken in 125% of budgeted income from offerings and our expenses are 97% of the amount budgeted this year. The increased offerings that we receive each month greatly help to reduce our overall budget deficit for 2022.

Charles reported on interviews for a new parish administrator and replacement lighting for the halls outside the church offices. Fr. Morales updated the Vestry on the Spanish-speaking congregation and the Spanish language services at St. Timothy's every Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Morales noted that English-speaking parishioners are welcome at the Spanish services. Attendance is encouraged to build relationships within the entire St. Timothy's community.

The Vestry also discussed upcoming plans for Haiti Agape in the coming weeks, Back to School events, and the Welcome Home Sunday and Ministry Fair on September 11. Paige Williamson gave an update on the St. Timothy's Calendar project.

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:25 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted by Betsy Bosworth and Carolyn Hamm, Co-Senior Wardens*

## ***Upcoming Church Events***

- September 4 – Final Sunday of “Hope for Haiti” Agape
- September 11 – Welcome Home Sunday and Ministry Fair
- September 16-18 – Shrine Mont Retreat Weekend

## ***Preschool Fall Fundraiser***

Looking for wrapping paper or maybe a Christmas gift? St. Timothy's Pre-School is selling items from Midland Fundraising's Holiday Wishes catalog from September 9<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>. Look in the Narthex for a catalog, or contact the school at [sttimothypreschool432@gmail.com](mailto:sttimothypreschool432@gmail.com) or 703-437-4767 for more information.

*Respectfully Submitted by Allyson Showalter*

## ***St. Timothy's in the News!***

Check out the article in the local Connection Newspaper about St. Tim's recent block party.

## **Parishioners and community members rock in the sunshine.**

**By Mercia Hobson**  
The Connection

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in the Town of Herndon rocked the church grounds with a block party full of music, games, food trucks, friendships, and joy. St. Tim's Block Party ran from late afternoon to early evening on July 28, highlighted by a performance by Big Al's Garage. According to the Rev. Charles Cowherd, Pastor-in-Charge at St. Tim's, despite the oppressive heat, over a hundred people attended the event, including parishioners from the English- and Spanish-speaking congregations as well as community members. Free and open to the public, the crowd of young and old enjoyed the moon bounce, games, dinner and icy treats from local food trucks, and picnicking beneath the shade trees as the oldies band played. With temperatures exceeding 90 degrees, the numerous kiddie splash pools were extremely well liked among children.

The Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department's Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Station #12 deserves special recognition. As a community service, Robert Ferretti, Rudy Corado, and Sarah McMichael arrived at the block party in emergency vehicle 412. They opened the doors and invited the children and adults to explore and ask questions. A second recognition goes to Block Party organizer Melissa Drutt and the volunteers.

The next event at St. Tim's is Family/Community Day, which takes place on Aug. 20 and is hosted annually by the Spanish-speaking congregation. The picnic and games begin at 4:30, and end before the 7 p.m. Bilingual Eucharist. Bring backpacks and laptops to the three weekend services to be blessed.

St. Timothy's, established in 1868, is located at 432 Van Buren Street, Herndon.

The entire paper can be found [here](#). The full article, as well as some amazing pictures, begins on page 4 of the paper.



## *Preschool Corner – A Space Transformed*

Classes for the 2022-2023 school year at St. Timothy’s Pre-School start on September 6, and we have been busy over the summer making preparations! The school is very nearly at full capacity, with completely full 2½-year-old and 3-year-old classes. As we made plans to return to our regular pre-pandemic operations this year, we realized that there was a need for some additional classroom space to accommodate the 2½-year-old students during the Open Time portion of our school day. The Church graciously has allowed us to convert the currently unused/underutilized Sunday School office for preschool use.

St. Timothy’s Pre-School offers a huge “Thank You!” to Ainsley S., a former Pre-School student and now an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, who donated her time and talent to transform the Sunday School office into the “Owl’s Nest” as her Girl Scout Silver Award project. Ainsley worked tirelessly helping to clear out space for the Christian Education materials, moving and organizing art supplies and other materials, helping move furniture, cleaning carpets, obtaining donated toys and furniture, sewing curtains, and decorating the new classroom. The results are AMAZING! The timing of Ainsley’s offer to help the Pre-School for her Silver Award is nothing short of a Godsend, and we are most grateful.



*Respectfully Submitted by Allyson Showalter*

## ***Thoughts Upon Reading A Passage Of A Letter***

As you might know, I often quote the writings of William Barclay who authored separate volumes of commentaries on the contents of the New Testament which are read Sunday by Sunday and, hopefully, at other times too! I will leave it to you to seek the biographical details of this writer, whom I find easy to read and offers thoughts easy to comprehend.

On Sunday, August 21, 2022, the second lesson at Morning Prayer was taken from the Letter to the Hebrews – author unknown, but very likely to have a Jewish background. The words stated in verse 12 exhort us to “lift up our slack hands, make straight the paths our feet take and to make peace our aim and do it all together and make sure that no-one misses the grace of God.” (Please read Hebrews Ch. 12: 12 – 26 for a full account).

I will not summarize Barclay’s analysis and commentary although I would be willing to share it upon request. One small section jumped out to me though and I found the short verse quoted from the poet Rudyard Kipling to be quite touching and thoughtful:

“One thing remains to be noted – that kind of peace is to be *pursued*. It requires an effort; it is not something which just happens. It is the product of mental and spiritual toil and sweat.”

Rudyard Kipling also writes:

“Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made  
By singing – “Oh, how beautiful!” and sitting in the shade;  
While better men than we go out and start their working-lives  
At grubbing weeds from gravel-paths with broken dinner knives.”

The gifts of God are given, but they are not given away, they have to be won, for they can be received only on God’s conditions – and the supreme condition is obedience to himself.

Subsequent paragraphs have the following introductory “headings”:

1. He must aim at holiness. (I must admit that Barclay makes few references to women and their opinions etc!)
2. The writer of Hebrews goes on to point out the dangers which threaten the Christian life.
3. There is danger of missing the grace of God.
4. There is danger of “a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit.”

There is reference to the story of Esau and his bargaining with Jacob and the final paragraph of Barclay’s commentary ends with:

We do well to remember that there is a certain finality in life. If, like Esau, we take the way of the world and make bodily doings our final good, if we choose the pleasures of time in preference to the joys of eternity, God can and will still forgive but something has happened that can never be undone. There are certain things in which a man cannot change his mind, but must abide for ever by the choice he has made.

*Respectfully Submitted by Jill Cox*



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**Service Times**

Saturday:	7 pm	Spanish Service/Rite II
Sunday:	8 am	Rite I (English)
Sunday:	10 am	Rite II (English)

Also available via Zoom  
(Livestream on YouTube/  
Facebook/Website)

Please check the website for up-to-date information about opportunities to worship

***Welcome New Members***

To transfer your membership to St. Timothy's or to find out if you are a registered member, contact Mindy Rohrbaugh ([blessed2boma@gmail.com](mailto:blessed2boma@gmail.com)) or fill out the Parishioner Information Form: [www.saint-timothys.org/uploads/docs/info-form.pdf](http://www.saint-timothys.org/uploads/docs/info-form.pdf)

If we do not have an email address for you and your family, or if your email has changed, send the information to [office@saint-timothys.org](mailto:office@saint-timothys.org).

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

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**Submission deadline for the October issue:  
Monday, September 26, 2022**

## ***Holy Cross Day***

*Celebrated on September 14th, Holy Cross day is a day which honors and commemorates the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made on the cross for our salvation.*

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world unto himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

