



The WORD

October 2022

Dear Parish Family,

A recent Sunday produced three astonishing moments from some of our youngest members. I thought that I would share them both for their intrinsic value but also as response to that perennial question: “Are children listening in church?”

To set the context, it was Welcome Home Sunday and the Old Testament reading that day included these lines:

*‘For my people are foolish,
they do not know me;*

*they are stupid children,
they have no understanding.*

*They are skilled in doing evil,
but do not know how to do good.’* (Jeremiah 4.22)

Now I try to listen to our magnificent lay readers, but I cannot say that I remember those lines as they were being read during the service. Immediately following the service, however, one of our young people came up to me directly, bulletin-in-hand, as I was waiting for folks in the Narthex. He asked me:

“Is this (pointing at the above lines) talking about *atheists*? Are the “foolish people” atheists?”

What a question!

Your priest-in-charge was taken aback... so happy that this young man had indeed been paying attention, so thankful that he had entrusted me with this query. I hemmed and hawed and had to promise that we could discuss this later. I wrote him the following week and, in typical Episcopal fashion, asked *him* what *he* thought. I also offered him the thought that “foolish people” tend to show up in every church, and in every non-church, in fact they show up pretty much everywhere that there are people. I also tried, ever so gingerly, to suggest that that word (“atheists”) would have been completely foreign to the author of these lines from the Book of Jeremiah. Again, what a privilege to engage in such a conversation.



Our young people, though, were not done with our Old Testament lesson from Proper 19, Year C. I was later told that, during the Jeremiah reading, that two children, this time ages 4 and 7, had audibly gasped at the line “stupid children” and looked to their mother at that moment for clarification.

Again, what a privilege that we have to be “the church”—which is one of the last vestiges of an intergenerational group in our society. What a privilege that children are “required” (really “respected”) enough to hear the Word of God... which often can be difficult or down-right bewildering for even the most experienced of church-goer! What gifts they bring in interpretation.

The experts will always debate the wisdom of children in the church sanctuary during the “boring parts.” I can see the benefits of children having dedicated time to break-away during the church service. I also treasure having them in the pews, squirrely or well-behaved, attentive or the opposite. God is *always* working on them in ways that we cannot explain. Just as important, God is also allowing the children to work on us, the adults.

One more instance, from that same Sunday: you will remember that we had a guest preacher, the Reverend Ralph Bayfield, the former rector at St. Timothy’s for many years. On that Sunday, Ralph opened his mouth for the sermon and emitted that familiar powerful cadence of Episcopal preachers from time immemorial. After hearing that voice, one particular young person in the congregation is said to have asked this of his mother: “Is that Jesus????”

So, with apologies to Jeremiah, I will rewrite Chapter 4, verse 22:

*For our children are wise,
they know God*

*they are often wiser than adults
they understand more than we give them credit for.*

*They offer much to this church,
and we are wise to pay attention.*

CHARLES+

Report from the Vestry

Dear Friends,

The Vestry held its monthly meeting on September 20, at 7:00 p.m. at the church, with Charles presiding. Kathy Lombard, Treasurer, and Rose Berberich, Registrar, also attended.

Kathy gave the monthly Treasurer’s Report. In August, we received \$30,820 in offerings to the General Fund, which lagged behind the monthly budgeted amount of \$35,000. However, our

year-to-date giving is 121% of our budgeted income for 2022 and our spending is 97% of the budgeted amount. Kathy, Charles, and the Wardens also reported on efforts to receive \$38,877 from the IRS for our Employee Retention Tax Credit for keeping staff employed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Charles updated the Vestry on the first weeks of Deb Stolar as our new Parish Administrator. Welcome Deb! Charles reported on planning for this year's Stewardship Campaign, which will begin the first Sunday of October. After discussion and a motion, the vestry voted to increase the 2022 pledge to the Diocese from \$7,000 to \$8,500 and reduce the pledge to Region V of the Diocese, the administrative association of Episcopal churches in our area, by the same amount, from \$3,000 to \$1,500.

Regarding Buildings and Grounds, Charles and the Wardens noted the new replacement lighting installed in the narthex and hallways around the church offices. Charles also reported on discussions to upgrade the security of the church premises. Jim Showalter was thanked for leading a project to refurbish the Upper Room with a Boy Scout seeking his Eagle badge.

Charles and the vestry noted that August and September were busy months, including Welcome Home Sunday and the ministry fair, the annual parish retreat at Shrine Mont, and the Haiti Agape campaign. Looking ahead, the Vestry discussed preliminary efforts to apply for grants and the rental rates for outside groups, among other matters.

The meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m.

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

LINK Food Drive - Sunday October 23

The annual LINK Food Drive will be held on Sunday, October 23 from 8:30 am -Noon. Donations of non-perishable food and personal hygiene items will be collected across from the preschool entrance. When dropping off donations look for directional signs. Service Ministry volunteers will unload donations.

Most needed items include: white rice, boxed mashed potatoes, mac-n- cheese, canned meat and fish (no Spam), cereal, jelly, canned soup, dried and canned black, navy and kidney beans, canned tomato products and diapers (particularly size 6). For more info contact tombosworth1338@gmail.com or shonbeury@aol.com. The Service Ministry thanks you for *putting your faith to work to serve our neighbors*.

Respectfully Submitted by Tom Bosworth on behalf of the Service Ministry

Sing a New Song!

The Piedmont Singers, musical outreach ministry that includes some of our own friends, had a very special choral pilgrimage in northern England, leading worship and singing Choral Evensong and Holy Eucharist services in Durham Cathedral, St. Lawrence Parish Church in York, Beverley Minster, Ripon Cathedral and Selby Abbey. They were privileged to share the historic time of mourning and remembrance for the late Queen Elizabeth II, an unexpected honor.

On Sunday, Sept. 18, they joined the choir at Selby Abbey for the morning service of Holy Eucharist.

They also visited several sacred sites with rich histories in the Celtic Christian tradition, including Whitby Abbey which was founded by St. Hilda and is known for the Synod of Whitby in 664 AD, when the attendees sought to unify the Celtic and Roman churches.

Todd Grivetti served as organist (and sometimes a singer) for the choral pilgrimage. He had a great time playing organs in the beautiful holy places! Here he is sitting at the organ in Selby Abbey.

It was, indeed, an honor to represent Clarke Parish, Grace Church The Plains and St. Timothy's on our pilgrimage. There are lots of wonderful stories we are glad to share! Feel free to ask. Thanks be to God for such special spiritual and musical experiences!



Respectfully Submitted by Wendy Oesterling & Jim Greene of the Piedmont Singers

Service Ministry Events: October – December, 2022

Look for news about the following events in the weekly eNews and Word.

Questions? Write to service@saint-timothys.org

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|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Stuff-A-Truck/LINK Food Drive | October 23 |
| Angel Tree Gift Cards for Kids | November 13 – December 4 |
| Mittens, Hats & Gloves Collection | December 1 – December 31 |

Thank you for putting your faith to work!

Update on the Haiti School Agape

Donations continue to come in for our Haiti School Fund; to date we've collected \$16,577 to send to St. Mathieu's school in Chapoteau. The Episcopal Diocese of Haiti has a Partnership Program, set up expressly to help churches in the US work with schools and churches in Haiti. We send the money via wire transfer, a few times each year, to the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti. We are then notified when the money has been received by the Diocese, and we receive additional confirmation from the Priest in Charge of the school. Thank you for *putting your faith to work* for our children in Haiti.



Respectfully Submitted by Carolyn Hamm on behalf of the Service Ministry



Photos Courtesy of Craig Dubishar

HOPE

Hope does not disappoint.
It blooms in the desert of our distress.
Hope nourishes our audacity
To believe in the promise
Of a future grace.
Bold seeds of hope grow gradually,
Withholding their abundant harvest
Even our generation... and perhaps the next.
Still, we persist trusting in hope.
Prospects for the future appear gloomy.
We bequeath our children and ailing planet
Rife with greed, wars, exploitation and lies.
Yet, we know how to be hopeful.
For once again, the Prince of Peace appears
Binding up our wounded hearts and weary souls,
Restoring us with His justice, truth and mercy.
Our hope is not in vain.

Respectfully Submitted by Jill Cox



2022 Vestry



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David Dopsovic (2024) – *Stewardship/Finance Ministry*
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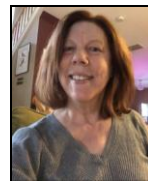
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Rose Berberich (2022) - Registrar



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**Submission deadline for the November issue:
 Wednesday, October 26, 2022**

<u>Service Times</u>		
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) or fill out the Parishioner Information Form: 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.

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). Copies of *The Word* are also available in the office.

Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.

From the Book of Common Prayer