



# The WORD

November 2022

## *Dear Parish Family,*

Throughout the month of October, we have been celebrating all the gifts that we offer up to God as a congregation. Our collective “Time, Talents and Treasure” are considerable here at St. Timothy’s and my personal thanks goes out to all those who have given: all the volunteer hours, all the unique gifts of our parishioners, and indeed all the pledges for 2023.

One particular ministry area that I would like to highlight this month is our St. Isidore’s Guild, as it neatly encapsulated the three “T’s” of Stewardship:

- 1) First, in the midst of the pandemic, so many gave of their **treasure** as the congregation swiftly raised \$44,000 to purchase and install audio-visual equipment to provide live stream capacity for our worship services. The generosity of so many was truly a “Gift to the Glory of God” (to echo a previous worship-related campaign!) In the uncertainty of those times, that so many stepped up so that others could participate in our common worship is stewardship at its best.
- 2) Second, visual and audio engineering is hard. Churches usually struggle mightily to install these modern technologies into buildings not designed for newer forms of communication. Since my arrival at St. Timothy’s, I have been so impressed by the **talents** of our St. Isidore’s Guild. They make something that is really hard, look easy. I often forget, in fact, about the talented crew working diligently behind the scenes to make our service sound and look good.
- 3) Thirdly, St. Isidore’s Guild demands a tremendous amount of **time** to execute properly. Not only are the Sunday morning duties time-consuming (in addition to any special services and rental usage), but the training and modifications and practice and trouble-shooting add up to of a lot of hours in the Volunteer Office. That having been said, I am consistently amazed by the *esprit de corps* of the team: they always seem to be having fun amidst their efforts.

So, thank you to Tom Davis, to John Druitt, to Eric Gomez, to Andy Hamm, to Keith Sinclair, and to Paige Williamson for all the hard work that you put in for this ministry. Thank you to everyone in the congregation who participated in the giving campaign to make this happen. Thank you to all the online



worshippers who make up this vital community of St. Timothy's.

Speaking of the latter, did you know that we average around 15-20 watching live via ZOOM every Sunday? Did you know that our services are then watched via our YOU TUBE by an average of 60-80 folks? Or that our subscribership is up by 30% over last year, with 130 people now following our channel? All of those numbers constitute important elements of our community at St. Timothy's and we should be making sure that they feel welcomed!

Finally, please check out the below message from St. Isidore's Guild as they seek out ways to do their ministry better and to continue to lift up our Time, Talent and Treasure to God.

God Bless,  
CHARLES+

### ***St. Isidore's Guild: How are we doing?***

*We have received many positive comments on the streaming. Now we are asking for some critical comments. How is the video and audio presentation? Is there anything that you would like changed, added, or deleted?*

*Also, do you have comments on the in-person services, particularly the audio?*

*Please send your comments to [stisidore@saint-timothys.org](mailto:stisidore@saint-timothys.org)*

*Did you know that, besides Zoom, the services are streamed live and stored at [St Timothy's YouTube Channel](#)? So you don't have to watch the services on a tablet or computer, you can watch them in higher definition on your smart TV.*

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

Dear Friends,

The Vestry held its monthly meeting on October 18, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Charles presided and Kathy Lombard, Treasurer, and Rose Berberich, Registrar, also participated.

Kathy provided the Treasurer's Report for September. The church's overall financial condition is good, although there was a dip in giving this month. In September, St. Timothy's took in only 79 percent of the amount budgeted per month for income from pledged offerings (\$35,000). However, pledged giving has exceeded the budgeted monthly amount in five of the past nine months, meaning that we have taken in 116 percent of anticipated pledged income through September. The vestry discussed the reasons for the drop in

giving this month, one of which is that a few parishioners pay their entire pledged amount in a lump sum early in the year. It was good to hear that St. Timothy's received the total amount due from the IRS (\$38,455) for the Employee Retention Tax Credit for keeping staff employed during the COVID-19 pandemic. With this payment, the church's projected deficit for 2022 has been reduced to just under \$2,000.

At the meeting, the vestry conducted a review of the 2022 budget and made some adjustments in income and expense line items. With much discussion, the vestry also created a Vision Budget for 2023 to provide the vestry and the 2022 stewardship ministry with projected budgetary goals for next year.

Charles and the wardens reported on planning for the vestry election in 2023, applying for grants, and progress of the 2022 Stewardship Campaign, "St. Timothy's is Back!" Among other matters, Charles noted that the Reverend Canon E. Mark Stevenson, the newly elected Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, will be consecrated on December 3, 2022, at The Saint Paul's Baptist Church, Henrico, VA.

Members provided updates on various buildings and grounds matters, including Henry Hall upgrades, and activities of other ministries.

The meeting concluded at 9:15 p.m.

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

## ***Some Reflections on "St. Timothy's is Back!"***

*Note: Ideally this article would have been in the issue of The Word to coincide with the kick-off of the Stewardship Campaign. Unfortunately, I did not realize that the simple phrase, "St Timothy's is back", would be adopted as its theme. Hopefully, in coming rather at the end of the campaign, some part of it might convince a few switherers to finally decide to pledge!*

"St. Timothy's is back!"

That is the theme chosen for the ongoing Stewardship campaign.

As the person who coined the phrase, I was tasked with explaining how it came about, what reflection upon it meant to me, and perhaps to inspire you to also ponder the value you place upon the gift that is St. Timothy's. The aim, of course, is to encourage your participation in forwarding St. Timothy's mission by making as generous pledge as you can.

On August 21st I attended the 10:00 a.m. service for the first time since before COVID. Though the attendance seemed sparse, the singing was as enthusiastic as at Christmas. Following the service I went for coffee and, unlike some recent years, it was well attended and full of animated chatter. As I was talking with some folks I commented, "St Timothy's is back!"

That was it! A spontaneous remark made without any forethought.

It apparently resonated with some folks who brought it to Fr. Charles' attention. He in turn presented it to the Vestry for their discussion as the Stewardship Campaign theme and approval.

Accordingly, I take little or no credit for this theme.

Now, just as the adoption of this theme was not the usual product of intense discussion by those in the Stewardship Ministry, the theme itself does not carry a direct message of the intent of the campaign. It differs from that model in that it has an abstract dimension; upon reading it questions immediately spring to mind. Examples could be:

- Back from where?
- Why would we want to go back?
- Shouldn't we be moving forward?
- I'm quite new to St. Timothy's so I have no idea what they are talking about.
- Do you mean back from COVID? Perhaps not; fall and winter may still take a large toll.

So, is the choice of such a theme a risky one? Those of us who are long term members have seen themes that have been successful and those which have not. Does the intangible aspect of this phrase mean it confuses rather than produces the clarity of message one normally expects from such a theme?

While the phrase came to me out of the blue, I felt obliged to reflect upon what it means to me and whether I considered the concerns noted above would impact its potential effectiveness.

On the first part, my first thought was the complete sentence would have been, "St Timothy's is back to how it was in the early 2000's." This was when both the congregation and the building were expanding. There was a liveliness about the church and an encouragement to be involved.

Well, we cannot go back. To think we can is foolish. So it had to be something deeper, more cultural.

So upon further thought, I concluded that what was back at its full volume was the Spirit of St. Timothy's.

So, to return to the potential effectiveness of the phrase! I eventually concluded it has the strength to be successful. The advantage of the more usual pointed and direct themes is that they require little thought to respond to them. They are, however, essentially impersonal. This theme allows each of us to make it personal; to decide what "St. Timothy's is back!" means to us and thus what we can do to make it happen.

St. Timothy's mission is summed up in our mission statement as follows:

*Our Mission:*

*As people of God, we joyfully worship God, spread the WORD of God's love, treasure all people, and serve others everywhere in the name of Jesus Christ.*

*Therefore, with God's help, We:  
Open our doors to everyone,  
open our hearts in worship,  
open our eyes to the Spirit's gifts and  
open our arms to embrace God's work.*

It is the function of St. Timothy's to fulfill that mission and the responsibility of the people of St. Timothy's to make it happen.

Now I have introduced another concept; the Spirit of St. Timothy's. So, what is my concept of the Spirit of St. Timothy's?

I perceive it has three components:

- It is a church that maintains the right balance between the "social" and "spiritual" aspects of its activities and worship.
- It has always been a "Can-Do" church with a congregation that always seems to rise to the occasion.
- There is a culture that encourages one to look for the best in one's fellow congregants.

So, how do we harness this Spirit to further St. Timothy's mission?

It helps me to envisage this mission as an old fashioned sailing ship. The Spirit of St. Timothy's as the sails and the resources available the wind that fills those sails and allows the church to fulfill its mission. The Priest-in-Charge and the congregation are the captain and crew.

When my family first came to St. Timothy's in 2000, the ship was speeding along on its set course; the major extension to the building was about to start, membership was up and the budget was increasing by the year. In other words, there was a following wind and the sails were full. You could sense it every week.

Over the past few years, as with all long voyages, the ship has had to deal with adverse weather, unintentional changes of course and been threatened by shoals and difficult currents; the sails have become a little tattered and the wind has dropped.

What I sensed prior to coming back in August was that there was a unified vision. In other words, the course was set in the right direction with captain and crew working well together. What I felt on coming to church was that the sails were repaired and just waiting for the wind to fill them so that the ship can be sent skidding along. That is what I really meant by, "St Timothy's is back!"

It just needs the wind to increase to fill those sails. In plain words we have a church ready to fulfill its mission to the greatest extent possible; it just needs a successful Stewardship Campaign to achieve this.

Note the word "Stewardship". The most obvious perception of stewardship is the pledging of money; and this is very important to ensure the doors are open and the lights are on. However, what really makes a difference is people's contribution of their time, their talent and their enthusiasm.



- Contributing time to aiding the function of the church. For example serving on committees and helping to fulfill their goals.
- Contributing ones talents where needed. Note there is a tendency for folks to think they have no special talents that would be helpful to the church. Not so, experience shows that at any time there can be a need for any kind of talent; you just need to look for the opportunity.
- By enthusiasm I mean that one’s contribution is done from the heart and not as a perceived duty. Remember the message of the parable of Widow’s Mite? I sense that enthusiasm exists in abundance within St. Timothy’s.

Now I stated further back in this article that the intangible aspect of the phrase, “St. Timothy’s is back!” allows a personal view of its meaning.

In my reflections I realized that the phrase, “so we can” fits well. So we can what? This is where you get to complete the sentence. I referred earlier to there being a unified vision of St. Timothy’s mission. My choice to complete the sentence is the phrase, “so we can fulfill that vision.”

Now that is my particular thought. Each of you may have different ideas as to what “St. Timothy’s is Back” can mean. It certainly could be more specific. I urge you to give thought to how you would complete the sentence. In so doing please give prayerful contemplation upon how much your pledge or other contribution should be to achieve that particular goal.

*Respectfully Submitted by Duncan Hutcheon*

## ***Thank You!***

Thank you St. Timothy’s for your generous donations and helping your neighbors who are in need.





## *Poetry Corner*

### THOUGHTS ON JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>

The following verses may seem rather odd for a November issue of the ‘Word’ but the sound of distant fireworks for the Festival of Diwali heard on October 24<sup>th</sup> reminded me of this modest verse I wrote in 2013 and I thought how little things have changed in the world during the intervening nine years.

Here I sit in silent solitude  
While gentle breezes stroke my skin.  
Hot from the sun’s insistent rays,  
Gentle birds sweetly sing and alight in trees  
Seeking insects or some small seed to eat.  
No sound of human intrusion,  
No raucous machine disturbs  
This sleepy holiday to be celebrated  
With fireworks, picnics and marching bands.

Nor here, but in towns and cities far  
Beyond the sphere of my existence.  
Yet far away other revelations take place,  
Some bloody, insane and unprovoked.  
In the name of democracy they arise.  
But whose democracy? West or East?  
Tyrannical, despotic, corrupt or eagerly embraced  
In hopes of more employment, fulfillment,  
Less crime, more material, more time  
To nurture children, cure disease,  
Un-slave women, respect men and wisdom,  
Tolerance, justice and freedom.

To do God’s will throughout His creation,  
Mend the earth, protect the creatures,  
Entrusted to our care and the share  
With all, the gifts we have been granted  
So all can live in peace.

*Respectfully Submitted by Jill Cox*

## 2022 Vestry



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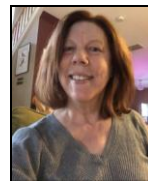
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Rose Berberich (2022) - Registrar





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**Submission deadline for the December issue:  
 Sunday, November 27, 2022**

<b><u>Service Times</u></b>		
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.

## *Thanksgiving Prayer*

Psalm 100

- <sup>1</sup> Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.
- <sup>2</sup> Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- <sup>3</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
- <sup>4</sup> For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

