



# The WORD

May 2023

## *Dear St. Timothy's Family,*

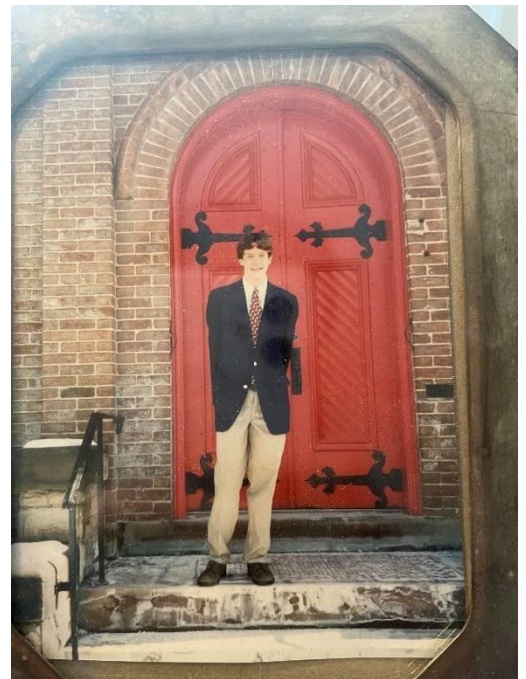
Easter Greetings and Blessings as God's creation, in particular St. Tim's campus, seems to shout out in joy and beauty!

Pictured at right is yours truly on the date of my Confirmation, February 18<sup>th</sup> 1996, at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Culpeper, Virginia. I remember precious little from that day, but the bowl haircut and the blazer fitting over my lanky frame are clear evidence that it happened.

I indeed still have the Book of Common Prayer, signed by Bishop Peter Lee, that was presented to me on that day, and I do remember the general nervousness and anxiety of being a teenager during the service.

Confirmation as a sacramental rite deserves some explanation and hopefully you have read the write-up in our ENEWS. According to the BCP, Confirmation is the "rite in which we express a *mature* commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop." That word "mature" begs the question.... When precisely are we "mature" enough to make that commitment? Why do we, at least in my case and perhaps yours, tend to offer confirmation towards individuals who are going through a period of questioning and independence in their psycho-social development? Those are good questions, and ones that I am not sure that I can answer fully!

As a church, we will have the opportunity to investigate those questions as we welcome the Right Reverend Dabney Smith, Visiting Bishop of Virginia, to St. Timothy's on June 25, 2023 at our 10 am service. Bishop Smith will confirm those ready to be confirmed, as well as offer the rite of "Reception" for those who have been confirmed in a denomination other than the Episcopal Church. Additionally, the rite of "Reaffirmation" will be offered for "those candidates who have returned from a time of religious inactivity or wish to publicly recommit themselves to an active practice of faith." (Baptisms will also be an opportunity if you or your child is in need of that!) Please do let the church know by signing up here if you are interested: [Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church: Confirmation Class Sign Up \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)



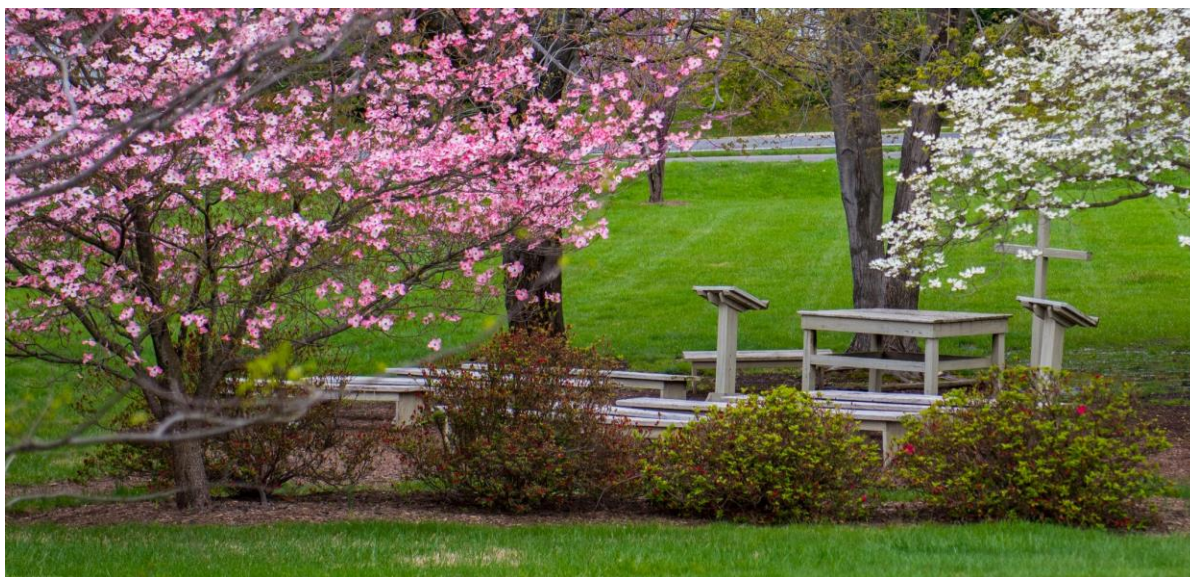
Returning to the question from the previous paragraph and whom Confirmation is for, I believe that Christian discipleship is a constant journey of formation. Salvation is a process, not an event. We are constantly being called into the full stature of Christ, knowing that we cannot ever fully achieve that, but trusting in a God who seeks to be in relationship with us. Our effort should be characterized by a restless yet joyful pilgrimage, with a curious mind and an open heart.

I, therefore, urge everyone, regardless of your “maturity level” to consider attending the classes starting in May in preparation for our Bishop’s visit. My intention is that these classes will be primarily intended for those looking to be confirmed (received, reaffirmed). But they will also be an opportunity for all of us as we continue to learn about our faith. Therefore, consider yourself welcome: whether you are young or old, a cradle Episcopalian or recent joiner. (The classes will be held during the 9 AM hour in between the services on Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> through June 4<sup>th</sup>.)

In closing, courtesy of my affinity for our registry books, the church office is creating a report on those who have not been confirmed. I will be reaching out and seeing if the records are, in fact, accurate, or if you indeed might be a good candidate for confirmation, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023!

God Bless,  
*CHARLES+*

P.S. When I taught high school history, students would sometimes suggest that one should not register to vote, because then you won’t get called to be on a jury. Other than not being true, that statement was designed to get the mild-mannered and affable “Mr. Cowherd” animated about our shared civic responsibility. On a similar note, Confirmation is required of all those serving on Vestry. I have heard more than once that not getting confirmed is a way of avoiding Vestry service! Heaven forbid such a sentiment being suggested at St. Timothy’s 😊!



## ***“Getting to Know You” Ladies Luncheon Honoring Michelle Cowherd***

Thanks to all those who were able to attend the luncheon! Below are a few pictures from the event.



## *Stillness*

No movement in tree buds,  
Yet life is stirring  
As blossom bursts forth.

No movement in grass stalks,  
Yet life is burgeoning  
With ants and beetles in earth below.

No movement in clouds,  
Yet life is passing  
With shadows and streaks of birds.

No movement in water,  
Yet life is floating  
With silent silver forms below.

No movement in crib,  
Yet life is forming  
With each sweet baby breath.

No movement in air,  
Yet life is fleeting  
With each soft kiss of breeze.

No movement to disturb,  
Yet life is a blessing  
Of God's creation.

*Respectfully submitted by Jill Cox*

2023 Vestry



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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.

**Priest-In-Charge**

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**Submission deadline for the June issue:  
 Friday, May 26, 2023**

## *Philippians 4:6-7*

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

