



# The WORD

*November 2023*

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

At our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018, Barbara Glakas of the Herndon Historical Society detailed how the town's history was intertwined with that of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. Both are creatures of the regions' "transportation events"—notably, the coming of the railroad in the 1850s and the building of Dulles Airport in the 1960s. It's fair to say that the railroad birthed both institutions and that the airport was responsible for leading each through a remarkable growth spurt.

Thus, the Town of Herndon (first established in 1878) dramatically expanded in size around a century later, while St. Timothy's Church (founded in 1868, and building its first church in 1881) moved into its second, larger church in 1968. One can similarly chart the growth of each by their respective populations: in 1881, St. Timothy's had nine members in a town of about 400 people; by 1981, the town numbered over 11,000 while St. Tim's had more than 700 members.

This begs the question: what does our current "transportation event"—the long-awaited coming of the Silver Line Metro—mean for each? Since I am neither a futurist nor a transportation expert, I hesitate to make a prediction. A guess, however, would say that the Town and surrounding area will continue to grow. As for St. Timothy's, the future looks more contingent, as the intervening decades (particularly the more recent ones) between Airport and Metro have featured a gradual decline for it and many other religious institutions. Consulting the population statistics again, the town today has a population of about 25,000 while the church has around 400 members.

I don't claim to have any special insight into the reasons for this divergence but I will note, entirely self-centeredly, that the third, great "transportation event" intertwining the histories of Herndon and St. Timothy's has taken place as I take charge of the latter.

St. Timothy's will host a Celebration of New Ministry for yours truly on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 4pm. The congregation will present the artifacts of our life in faith (Bible, bread, wine, etc.) to me as a symbol of trust in our common ministry together. Visiting clergy from various faiths will be there as witnesses as will representatives from the ecclesiastical leadership in the Episcopal Church. All are invited to this present moment in our shared history and to the reception that will follow in Henry Hall.



I am blessed to be becoming Rector at this particular time, at this particular church, and in this small part of God's creation. And I am so excited for what the future holds for St. Timothy's and for Herndon. Our Stewardship Theme for this coming year is "Deepening our Roots." Our hope is that we will grow closer together in our spiritual lives while also developing deeper connections with the wider community. This means extending our hearts in love, through our Community Garden (fittingly named "Rooted in Herndon"), our AA and Support groups, our Preschool, our Boy Scout Troop, our mission trips to Haiti and Pine Ridge, and, of course, our worship services (Sunday at 8 and 10 am, Saturday *en Espanol* at 7 pm!)

The above is, at the very least, my fervent prayer at this inflection moment in St. Tim's and Herndon's history. That and that our roots will indeed deepen, God willing, into the many years ahead so that we will continue to be a part of this community for this time and for all times.

Author Martin Smith refers to this Christian belief as the "authority of the future." He writes that, although the basic myth of religion is looking *back* towards a perfect past, we are called to look *forward* in hope and in faith. Our prayer then echoes the great secular scripture from the band Bachman-Turner Overdrive: that when and where God is concerned... "You ain't seen nothing yet!"

One of my favorite stories in scripture happens as the disciples and Jesus are entering Jerusalem in the last days of Jesus' life. They encounter the Temple, the great religious institution of the day, which was said to be 150 feet tall and adorned with gold and silver. In a "we are not in Kansas anymore moment," the disciples remark at the grandeur of this building that represents their people's history. The disciples exclaimed: "Look, what marvelous stones!" Jesus is not having any of it, though, and says that the Temple won't last a generation. Chastened, the disciples must have seen this great symbol of the past and been disheartened. Further despair was on the future's horizon, and as the disciples looked opposite the Temple and remembered what Jesus had predicted about the future, that their friend and teacher would meet his death on a hill outside the city.

The disciples, like us, might be in a situation where they feel trapped: "so much for the past, and so much for the future." But then they must have looked around and realized the following: there is Jesus in our very midst, his presence informs our present. And that makes all the difference in the world.

Yours in Christ,  
CHARLES +

## News from the Service Ministry

### **Coming Soon: It's Angel Tree Season!**

Once again St. Timothy's will partner with Cornerstones' "Gifts for Kids Program" to make the holidays special for children in need in our community. Families will receive gift cards in lieu of physical presents to ensure the safety of donors, recipients, and volunteers. Parents will receive the gift cards in early December so that they may shop for their children. St. Timothy's has committed to supporting 25 children. This year, there is an additional opportunity to assist senior citizens; St. Timothy's has committed to providing gift cards for five seniors in need. Each client has been vetted through Cornerstones.

We ask for financial donations to the Service Ministry Fund. We will purchase the requested gift cards from various vendors and deliver them directly to Cornerstones. Your donation will appear on your giving statement. Ways to give include:

- by credit card from the church website [St. Timothy's Credit Card Giving](#), selecting the Service Fund from the drop down box;
- by check made out to St. Timothy's with Service Fund on the memo line, placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office.

Contributions are appreciated by December 3rd. The need is great, so please, consider putting your faith to work by supporting both young and old neighbors through the Angel Tree project. Questions? Contact Carolyn Hamm at [service@saint-timothys.org](mailto:service@saint-timothys.org).

### **Winter Needs**

Beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Service Ministry will collect new gloves, hats, and scarves. We will also accept coats that are gently used and clean. Please place your donation in the bin in Henry Hall near the Christmas Tree. Items will be delivered to the Embury Rucker Shelter and other locations near the end of the month.

*Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Hamm*

## The Closet's Everything Christmas Sale!

The sale of all things winter holiday and Christmas will be held:

November 10 from 3:00-7:00 p.m.  
November 11 from 9:00 a.m. to noon

Moose Lodge

Volunteers needed November 6-11 from 10:00-4:00 to sort, price and display items – no experience necessary! Sign up on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/6cautau5>.

**High School students** needed Sunday, November 5 from 2:00-4:00 to unload items from storage and take into Moose Lodge (meet behind Moose Lodge.) Volunteer hours will be confirmed at student's school.

For additional information, contact Holly Hartge ([mhhvirginia@verizon.net](mailto:mhhvirginia@verizon.net)) or 703.785.8797.

*Respectfully submitted by Holly Hartge*





# *The Closet's Everything Christmas Sale!*

**When:** Friday, Nov 10th 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. &  
Saturday Nov 11th 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Where:** The Herndon Moose Lodge  
779 Center St, Herndon, VA  
Just 2 blocks from The Closet

**What:** Your First Stop for Christmas and Seasonal Items  
for Holiday Décor, Gifts, Entertaining, and Toys.

**Why:** Tremendous selection for shopping for Christmas  
and the holidays, and the proceeds are returned to the  
community as grants and scholarships.

## **How to Help:**

Volunteers needed Sunday, Nov 5th through Saturday,  
Nov 11th.

Opportunity for adults and high school students.

Go to SignUpGenius for details:

<https://tinyurl.com/6cautau5>



## **The Closet Distributes Grants**

At the quarterly Board Meeting of The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area, the Board voted to distribute \$33,250 in grant money to the following organizations:

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, Fairfax Diapers, Fellowship Square, Food for Neighbors, Haven of Northern Virginia, Herndon-Reston FISH, Herndon Village Network, Kids R First, Langley Residential Support Services, Legacy Farm, and Vacinos Unidos.

The volunteer support, donations and shopping by our community and congregations make it possible for The Closet to support non-profits in the greater Herndon area. Thank you for donating, shopping, and volunteering at The Closet.

The Closet  
845 Station Street  
Herndon

Store hours: Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Monday and Thursday nights 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Donation hours: Monday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 8:00 a.m.-Noon  
No Donations accepted on Thursdays

Volunteer days for St. Timothy: November 19, December 7 and January 6.

St. Timothy's Closet coordinators:

Holly Hartge and Pat Rhoads

*Respectfully submitted by Holly Hartge*

## Challenges to Faith

I once attended a group discussion titled "Challenges to Faith" and with all the mayhem and grief filling the world today, I thought that title was very pertinent as I, like many others I am sure, are asking where is God in all of this violence and tragedy?!

I would like to share with you some quotations about politics and society which have given me food for thought and prayer for several years. Two of the sources will be familiar to you, namely Reinhold Niebuhr and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The former is an American theologian who died in 1971. He was educated at Yale and was professor of Christian Ethics at the Union Theological Seminary in New York from 1928 until his death. The second is perhaps a little more well known for his heroism before and during WWII. He was arrested in 1943 and eventually taken to Buchenwald concentration camp and then to Schoenberg Prison where he was eventually to be hanged, having been found guilty of plotting to overthrow Adolph Hitler.

There are quotations from both men that seem to resonate today. Niebuhr said, "The sad duty of politics is to establish justice in a sinful world," and Bonhoeffer said, "The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world it leaves to its children". Another perhaps not so well known, but well-respected writer is Abraham Joshua Heschel, a Polish American theologian and philosopher, who was born in Poland in 1907 and died in N.Y.C. in 1972. He said, "Racism is man's gravest threat to man - the maximum hatred for a minimum of reasons."

Against these rather pessimistic views are thoughts about acquiring faith and retaining it, which should be our desire and intention every day of our lives. A quotation from William Sloan Coffin in this regard has intrigued me. He says, "I love the recklessness of faith. First you leap and then you grow wings."

William Coffin was born in 1924. He was ordained a U.S. Presbyterian minister and was a social activist while a chaplain at Yale from 1958 to 1975, during which time he was also a leader of several student protests. He additionally served at the Riverside Church in NYC and he wrote a popular book titled, "The Heart is a Little to the Left - an Essay on Public Morality."

In the Letter to the Hebrews, we find an exhortation to have faith, particularly in Chapter 11, which outlines the exploration of faith in verses 1 – 3, those notable for their faith throughout the ages, and in the opening verse of Chapter 11, tells us that "faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we cannot see."

Clarence Jordan (1912-1969) was a farmer in west Georgia. I read about him in a book written by former President Jimmy Carter entitled, "Faith," in which the author quotes Jordan's view on faith: "Faith is not belief in spite of evidence, but life in scorn of the consequences." The last paragraph of Carter's book says: "As a Christian I believe that the ultimate fate of mankind will be good. I believe the love of God will prevail. I believe and pray, as a person of faith, in the words of the "Lord's Prayer" - "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."

The question posed at the end of the group discussion was "What kind of faith do you have?" It was suggested that we read the "Letter to the Hebrews" and ponder upon the people listed with all their human flaws, dubious actions and imperfect understanding who remained faithful to God's love and

concern for them and then to look throughout the ages for others who have professed their faith in the most difficult times of disbelief and pray for the strength and determination to do the same, supported by God's eternal love for you and all His creation.

*Respectfully submitted by Jill Cox*





## 2023 Vestry



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[www.saint-timothys.org](http://www.saint-timothys.org)

**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

*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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**Editor of *The Word***

Ron Boggio  
[wordeditor@saint-timothys.org](mailto:wordeditor@saint-timothys.org)

**Submission deadline for the December issue:**

**Wednesday, November 22, 2023**

**Note: Earlier due to holiday**

**Welcome New Members**

To transfer your membership to St. Timothy's or to find out if you are a registered member, contact the church office ([office@saint-timothys.org](mailto:office@saint-timothys.org)) 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).

## **Psychology and Spirituality**

### ***Compassion, True Self and False Self***

Last month we heard Thomas Merton's reflection on the spiritual experience that led him to understand the essential oneness that exists both within and between us. Although in his description of that experience, he never uses the word "compassion," this is what he is talking about. As we know, compassion means "to suffer with," and from a psychological perspective, what we suffer or bear is the awareness of a oneness that is all too easily shattered by focusing on our differences. Indeed, the Western mind's penchant for categorizing automatically tends to make us define anything by indicating how it is different from another thing. Thus, it is not surprising that we tend to define ourselves by how we are different from others.

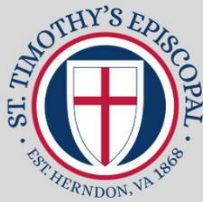
But from both a psychological and spiritual perspective this problem goes much deeper. As Christians we have heard or read constant admonitions about loving others, about having compassion for them. However, to develop true compassion for others, it is critically necessary to first develop true compassion for ourselves. Or, put another way, it is fundamentally important to pay attention to the last clause of Jesus' Second Great Commandment – to love others *as we love ourselves*. Far too often Christian teaching has neglected any emphasis on how to develop a healthy love and compassion for ourselves. Without this as a foundation, we will never truly be able to love others. In fact, if we take Jesus at his word, if we lack love for ourselves, we will *literally not know how to love another*.

All of us experience a certain degree of inner brokenness, confusion, uncertainty, and darkness. Acting out of those places naturally leads us to behaviors about which we don't feel good. But the error we make is to focus primarily on the behaviors rather than the inner brokenness out of which the behaviors arise. In fact, we tend to run away from feelings of brokenness, confusion, uncertainty, and darkness. We don't like these feelings and don't want to dwell on them. Another way of putting this is that our False Self constantly ridicules us for having these feelings. But by urging us to ignore them, the FS merely solidifies itself, calcifying us in our brokenness and darkness.

Only the light of True Self can save us from this predicament. That light accepts the brokenness and darkness we experience in an embrace that also fills us with the awareness that brokenness and darkness do not completely define us. From the perspective of God within us (TS), we gradually become able to enter our brokenness, accept it and heal it. As we do this, the FS within us correspondingly shrinks. And so, paradoxically, as we accept and embrace our brokenness and darkness, they have less and less sway over us and our behavior. We become more healed and more whole. This is authentic self-love.

Having named, embraced, and brought into the light our own brokenness and darkness, we are much better able to suffer or bear the brokenness of others, and to have compassion for them in their brokenness. For in their brokenness, they are not different but the same as us, and in this awareness, we find the grace to love others as ourselves.

*Respectfully submitted by Ron Boggio*



THE WARDENS AND VESTRY OF  
**ST. TIMOTHY'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

REQUEST YOUR PRAYERS AND PRESENCE  
AT THE CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY OF  
**THE REVEREND CHARLES R. COWHERD**  
AS THE TWENTIETH RECTOR OF  
ST. TIMOTHY'S

THE VERY REV. FRAN GARDNER-SMITH  
DEAN OF THE NORTH FAIRFAX REGION  
DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA, PRESIDING

THE REV. PETE NUNNALLY  
DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA, PREACHING

NOVEMBER  
SUNDAY | 5 | AT 4 PM  
2023

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW - NO RSVP NEEDED

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432 VAN BUREN STREET  
HERNDON, VIRGINIA