



# The WORD

January 2024

*Dear St. Timothy's Family,*

For this month's issue of THE WORD, I thought I would share a "snapshot" look at where St. Timothy's is and where we are headed. The original format of this missive was a Stewardship Letter, I have adapted and updated it with new information. I am sharing it as both recap of 2023 and look forward into 2024. ~ CRC

We have had a great 2023 at St. Timothy's and I am so excited about the opportunities in the coming year. We have a new sign coming to Van Buren Street that will proclaim our presence to those traveling through Herndon. We have furniture in place for the Conference Room (formerly the "Toddler Room") at the end of the music hallway that will allow groups to meet. Finally, we have the possibility of hiring a new Associate Rector who can help out with the growing responsibilities of our growing church.

To share some of that growth data...

Our Average Sunday Attendance has seen a remarkable rebound from the depths of COVID:



YEAR	TOTAL	7 PM	8 AM	10 AM
2021	73	n/a	n/a	n/a
2022	95	25	19	50
2023	127	27	19	81

This growth is visible mostly in our 10 AM service; it's there that you can witness the increased numbers in Godly Play and the steady stream of newcomers interested in what's going on at St. Tim's. The resiliency of our Spanish-speaking service, despite Father's Franklin's departure and thanks to Mother Philene's shepherding, should not be overlooked. With that in mind, our search for a new Associate Rector has been focused on applicants that are fully bilingual, capable of helping both Saturday and Sunday services/ members.

I am proud of the above numbers and have been thinking about how to sustain them with our current staffing situation. Your Vestry has also thought long and hard about this, has prayed about it, and has crunched the numbers. Then it has done all those things all over again!

Hiring another priest, of course, requires money, which leads me back to the subject line of this email. Our Stewardship Campaign has been strong thus far and we have already met last year's numbers in terms of total pledges and pledge amount. That having been said, inflationary pressures and the increased needs from a growing congregation mean that our budget has grown as well.

Our goal has been around 120 pledges and a \$500,000 pledged amount. Right now, we are at 114 pledges and around \$470,000. **We are close, but not quite there yet.**

To give you an idea about pledging patterns, here's another table of data....

YEAR	# Pledged	\$ Amount	\$/ Pledge
<i>2024 (goal)</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>500,000</i>	<i>4,167</i>
2023	111	453,000	4,157
2022	89	413,000	4,648
2021	103	428,291	4,158
2020	121	494,381	4,085
2019	107	455,410	4,256

Within that 2024 number, we have pledges ranging in age from 33 years old to 100 years old. We have pledges that are around one hundred dollars and we have pledges that are in the five figures. We have folks who have been pledging for decades to St. Timothy's and we have pledges from an astounding 21 new units. We have pledges from each of our service times and pledges from folks who attend via ZOOM. What does this all amount to? It amounts to a Christian family who cares deeply about their church and about the world around it.

Every amount given matters. And, indeed, even if you decide to give without pledging, that matters too. Pledging does allow us to effectively plan for the coming year and to manage cash flow as the year progresses. It signals to Diocese and to the Region (both from whom we are requesting money to help with our finances) that, while we have budgetary needs, we are also growing and healthy. It signals that while many churches are experiencing decline or stagnation, St. Timothy's is venturing boldly forward, with faith in God and one another, into what the future might hold.

**Thank you to everyone single one of you. Thank you for your faithful attendance in worship, for your volunteering behind the scenes, and for the thousands of expressions of God's love shared in this community. Thank you for your generosity in your pledges, in your anonymous gifts in the plate, in your contributions to my Rector's Discretionary Fund. Thank you for all that you have done to make St. Timothy's such a vibrant place in 2023 and beyond.**

God Bless,

CHARLES+

December 20, 2023

Dear Reston/Herndon Area Christian Colleagues,

We write now to share our profound gratitude for your outreach and messages of support during the past two months. October 7<sup>th</sup> shook American Jews to our core. The barbarism of that day offends all of humanity, and for Jews, this was especially hard. Memories of historical destruction and persecution sit just beneath the surface of our souls. Many of us have family and friends who were directly attacked in Israel. And to be Jewish is not only a faith, but also belonging to a people, one that just sustained a horrific attack.

Much has been written about the awkward role of American Christians in this moment, and we have spoken directly with many of you about the anxiety and confusion in the aftermath of 10/7. The long-running suffering of the Palestinian people weighs heavily on the scales of justice, balanced across from the graphic events of the Hamas attack and the ongoing concern for the hostages and bereaved families in Israel. While Israel's military response is an act of self-defense, it has also produced immense human suffering, another wound on humanity's soul.

We know that all of this inspired powerful discernment for people of faith everywhere. We deeply appreciate that spiritual work.

A core recognition for all of us is the human inclination to evil, crookedness, and selfishness (what we call the *yetzer ha-ra*). As you prepare for the season of Christmas, the promise of the holiday feels essential for all of us. While as Jews this is not our holiday, we respect it and the sustenance it has provided Christians for centuries. Like wanderers in the desert, we need the lifegiving waters of our tradition, the light amidst darkness, the truth amidst lies, the hope amidst fear. This is what inspires the human inclination for good (*yetzer ha-tov*), the possibility for peace in the world. On both sides of the Atlantic, Jews and Muslims will need sustenance in the months and years ahead. You have a role to play, even if the exact shape of that work is not immediately apparent.


This conflict is as much between Israelis and Palestinians as it is between those who believe in nationalist violence and those who believe in diplomacy, governance, justice, negotiation, and law. As Congressman Tom Lantos, a Holocaust survivor, used to say, "The veneer of civilization is paper thin, we are its guardians, and we can never rest." Faith enables that guardianship through fellowship, prayer, scripture, and congregating. As the entire world takes sides in this conflict, we plead that all people of faith remember our role as stewards of the whole, protectors of universal human dignity, believers in atonement and redemption, and students of God's truth.

No one side in this conflict is perfectly just or right. Only God has that honor. We are entitled to disagree about the choices made by the Israelis and the Palestinians. However, we cannot desist from the work of discernment. Our job is to forever seek after God's truth, to work for the day when "Never again shall destruction be decreed, and Jerusalem shall dwell secure" (Zechariah 9:9).

L'shalom and Merry Christmas,



Rabbi Michael G. Holzman



Cantor Susan Caro



Rabbi Ashley Barrett

## Epiphany

Villagers all, this frosty tide,  
Let your doors swing open wide,  
Though wind may follow and snow beside,  
Yet draw us in by your fire to bide;  
Joy shall be yours in the morning.

Here we stand in the cold and the sleet,  
Blowing fingers and stamping feet;  
Come from far away you to greet-  
You by the fire and we in the street-  
Bidding you joy in the morning.

For ere one half of the night was gone,  
Sudden a star has led us on,  
Raining bliss and benison,  
Bliss tomorrow and more anon,  
Joy for every morning.

Good man Joseph toiled through the snow  
Saw the star o'er a stable low.  
Mary -she might not further go -  
Welcomed thatch and litter below'  
Joy was hers in the morning!

And then they heard the angels tell,  
Who were the first to cry "Nowell"  
Animals all, as it befell,  
In the stable where they did tell  
Joy shall be theirs in the morning!

From "Wind in the Willows"  
*Respectfully submitted by Jill Cox*

## 2023 Vestry



Maria LaWalt (2025) – *Senior Warden*  
[mjlawalt@verizon.net](mailto:mjlawalt@verizon.net)  
703-318-9838



Kristie Rudolph (2025) – *Junior Warden*  
[kristie.g.rudolph@gmail.com](mailto:kristie.g.rudolph@gmail.com)  
571-599-8262



Betsy Bosworth (2025)  
[kblc@verizon.net](mailto:kblc@verizon.net)  
703-851-4435



Tom Davis (2024)  
[Tkdavis278@verizon.net](mailto:Tkdavis278@verizon.net)  
571-420-8544



David Dopsovic (2024)  
[ddopsovic@lmvlaw.com](mailto:ddopsovic@lmvlaw.com)  
703-407-7271



Carolyn Hamm (2025)  
[carolynhamm@verizon.net](mailto:carolynhamm@verizon.net)  
703-593-4148



Vilma Iveth Lemus Magano (2026)  
[lemusvilma3@gmail.com](mailto:lemusvilma3@gmail.com)  
240-299-5522



Rick Wilson (2024)  
[rwilson20@verizon.net](mailto:rwilson20@verizon.net)  
703-629-4972



Midori Yanagihara (2026)  
[midorijon@erols.com](mailto:midorijon@erols.com)  
703-709-0860



Matt Schumann (Alternate)  
[matthew\\_schumann@hotmail.com](mailto:matthew_schumann@hotmail.com)  
703-843-5465

Kathy Lombard – Treasurer  
[treasurer@saint-timothys.org](mailto:treasurer@saint-timothys.org)

Rose Berberich - Registr



**St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**  
 432 Van Buren Street, Herndon, VA 20170  
 Voice: 703-437-3790 Fax: 703-787-9781  
[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

**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).

*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.

**Rector**

The Rev. Charles R. Cowherd  
[priest@saint-timothys.org](mailto:priest@saint-timothys.org)  
 703-437-3790



**Organist/Choirmaster**

Mr. Todd Grivetti  
[music@saint-timothys.org](mailto:music@saint-timothys.org)  
 703-437-3790 x16



**Parish Administrator**

Ms. Deb Stolar  
[office@saint-timothys.org](mailto:office@saint-timothys.org)  
 703-437-3790 x10



**Bookkeeper**

Ms. Deb Angerman  
[bookkeeper@saint-timothys.org](mailto:bookkeeper@saint-timothys.org)  
 703-437-3790 x13

**St. Timothy's Pre-School Director**

Ms. Allyson Showalter  
[sttimothypreschool432@gmail.com](mailto:sttimothypreschool432@gmail.com)  
 703-437-4767



**Editor of *The Word***

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

**Submission deadline for the February 2024 issue:  
 Thursday January 25, 2024**

