



# The WORD

March 2024

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

I am a proud member of the *Historical Society of the Episcopal Church* and receive, as a perk of membership, one of its publications, *The Historiographer*. This quarterly newsletter seeks to promote the preservation of church records and the writing of parochial and diocesan history in the Episcopal Church. (You can find out more information here: <https://hsec.us/Historiographer>)



A recent article in the December issue of *The Historiographer*, was entitled "Free resource for online columbaria database," and it piqued my interest given that St. Timothy's, of course, has a columbarium. The article detailed how the *Find A Grave* (FG) website can be a good resource for churches to create a digital memorial for decedents. That is, although Episcopal Church canons require keeping a *physical* service registry of burials made from a parish, the website is a good way to share that information more widely, while also creating a *digital* backup.

Our columbarium (if you don't remember from last month's WORD!) is located in the half-wall on the Gospel side of the sanctuary and is designated for the interment of the ashes of people who have died and been cremated. It is one of the most special places on our church grounds as it holds the remains of the saints who have gone before us into God's presence. Because of this and, given that FG is crowd-sourced and thus inevitably suffers from inaccuracies, I initially hesitated to share the details of those buried here onto the FG platform. Gradually, however, I decided to seek permissions from the relatives of those buried in the columbarium for their loved ones' information to be included in the FG website.

For me personally, it has been a great gift and blessing to go through, one by one, the list of names that are buried in our columbarium. I relearned stories that I had heard since I began at St. Timothy's, and I discovered for the first time many new stories of those who are buried there. There are stories of intense grief and loss because of life cut short... and the stories of those who died after a long life and service to the church. The columbarium itself, and our *Find A Grace* website by extension, thus tells a remarkable testimony of discipleship and ministry. Please do check out the information on the FG website

(<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2475228/saint-timothy's-episcopal-church-cemetery>) and say a prayer the next time you are walking by that side of the sanctuary for that “great cloud of witnesses” that makes up a part of our history.

My hope for the future is that parishioners, community members, relatives, and genealogists can all use the information located on this website. In the meantime, let me know if you find any mistakes or omissions. It is intended as a living document, designed to complement our venerable hard-copy registry books (which date back 150 years!)

Yours in Christ,  
CHARLES+

P.S. Check out next month’s WORD article which will continue the journey concerning St. Timothy’s and its decedents to parts known and unknown. See the pics below for a teaser!





February 22, 2024  
ENEWS BLAST Reprinted Below

## **WELCOME, ST. TIMOTHY'S NEW ASSOCIATE RECTOR**

**Your Vestry, Rector and the Diocese of Virginia announce the appointment of  
The Reverend Mario Melendez as Associate Rector at  
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Herndon, Virginia.**

February 22, 2024

To the good people of St. Timothy's,

After much prayer and conversation and after what I know has been faithful discernment from all involved, I take great joy in announcing **the Reverend Mario Melendez as the new Associate Rector here at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Herndon, Virginia.**

Below you will be able to read Mario's words as he introduces himself to this parish. I will simply say that I am so excited for him to join us here **beginning April 1st, 2024. Please mark on your calendar the weekend after Easter Sunday (April 6th and 7th) to welcome him at one of our three services.**

From my very first interaction with Mario, I was impressed with his energy and passion for the Gospel. I thought that he would be both a great fit working alongside me as a fellow clergyperson at St. Tim's, as well as a great fit ministering to this wonderful congregation. Mario has wide experience working for the church, most recently as the Co-Pastor at the Church of the Holy Apostles in Virginia Beach, VA, and as the Latino Missioner for the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia. Please join with me in praying for those communities as Mario and his family make the transition from those calls to St. Timothy's.

Many of you were able to meet Mario last month as he came up and led us in worship over all three of our services. If so, you might (like me) be eager for him to begin his work here. I urge you to wait until April, however, before reaching out, etc. as he must finish his responsibilities with Lent and Easter at his current church, all while preparing for his family (wife, Catherine, and son, Thomas (2) and corgi Ripley (5)!) to move up here.

Again, I am beyond excited by this next chapter in St. Timothy's history. I look forward to the future that God has imagined for us, trusting in God's love that binds us all.

Yours in Christ,  
CHARLES+



Greetings in the name of Christ!

I am deeply humbled and honored to have been called to serve as Associate Rector at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. Charles+ has already shared some words about me, so please allow me to share more with you:

I was born and raised in Puerto Rico, and my first spiritual home was in the Roman Catholic Church. I was received into the Episcopal Church as an undergraduate, so I always tell people that God raised me in one part of the Church and called me to serve in another. I attended seminary at Boston University School of Theology, graduating with a Master of Theological Studies. After graduation, I was ordained to the priesthood in the Anglican Church of Canada and served in the Diocese of Western Newfoundland.

I'm an amateur musician and guitar player, so I was happy to hear that St Timothy's has a guitar ensemble. Since I am a geek, I love to explore the intersection of theology and culture, in particular when it comes to movies, television shows, etc. During my days as an undergraduate and seminarian, I used to lead a small group called *F.F.F.* or (F)aitH, Sci(F)i, and (F)antasy. If this interests you, please let me know.

St. Oscar Romero said, "We plant seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise." I look forward, alongside Charles+ and everyone at St. Timothy's, to hopefully sow seeds of love, justice, and compassion in our community, trusting that God will bring about a harvest of holiness in His perfect timing. We should try to remember that we "are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own."

I also want to say how incredibly grateful I am to my beloved Catherine for her support as she continues to share her love and wisdom with me as we start this new chapter of our lives.

I am excited to get to know each of you and to walk alongside you in faith. Please know that I'm here to listen, pray, and support you in any way I can. May we be a light in the darkness, a beacon of hope to all in need, and may our love for one another be a testament to the gospel's transforming power.

Paz,  
MARIO+

## **Service Ministry's 2024 Lenten Outreach Project**

Each year the Service Ministry sponsors a project where our parishioners can learn about a community need and work to fulfill it. The project usually includes elements of education or awareness raising, and potentially donation of physical items.

We are excited to announce that this year's Lenten Outreach project is to collect lightly used, serviceable musical instruments suitable for middle and high school band and orchestra students. Serviceable means readily playable without repairs. No keyboards/pianos & no recorders please. The instrument will be donated to Park View High School and Sterling Middle School. Both schools are Title I schools which are schools with a high percentage of children from low-income families. No specific instruments were requested, but there is always a need for brass, woodwind, and string instruments. If you have neighbors who have instruments, feel free to include them as well. The goal is to supplement the schools' program such that children who could not afford to rent or purchase an instrument will still have an opportunity to pursue a musical interest. The Lenten outreach project will kick off on February 25<sup>th</sup> and conclude on March 17<sup>th</sup>. We will work closely with liaisons at both schools to make sure the instruments get to those students in need.

Over the next month we will provide more information and outreach to give you an opportunity to learn about the importance of this effort.

The service committee will be collecting instruments at the 8:00 and 10:00 A.M. services March 10 and 17.

*Respectfully submitted by Ted Mankin*

### **Untitled**

The brown buds thicken in the trees,  
Unbound, the free streams sing,  
As March leads forth, across the leas,  
The wild, windy Spring.

- Elizabeth Akers Allen (1832 - 1911)

*Respectfully submitted by Jill Cox*



## The Closet 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2024

The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area, Inc is a non-profit thrift shop in Herndon incorporated in 1974. Prior to that, in the early 70s, churches in the Herndon area provided their own clothing collection to distribute to those in need. Two of the founding members of The Closet were Janice Shanks and Gwen Betor of St. Timothy's. In 1973 a letter was sent by these ladies to area churches about "forming an ecumenical thrift shop." History says that 11 churches came to the first meeting (there are now 20.)

Fifty years later, The Closet (845 Station Street) is a thriving business that still has the goals of

1. Giving people the opportunity to buy used clothing and household items at a nominal price.
2. Donating clothing without charge to needy persons after being referred by an authorized agency (currently, The Closet has a voucher system for this.)
3. Utilizing the profits for worthy projects that will benefit needy people.

*(Information provided by Trinity Presbyterian Church.)*

Today, to donate to The Closet, items can be dropped off between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Donations are not accepted on Thursday or Sunday (The Closet is closed on Sundays.)

Shopping hours at Monday- Saturday from 10:00-5:00 with Monday and Thursday night hours until 8:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to assist the staff. Volunteers from the supporting churches as well as community members serve daily from 10-5 and during the evening hours on Monday and Thursday. High School students are welcome to volunteer to meet their school volunteer goals.

Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to The Closet.

*Respectfully submitted by Holly Hartge*

Vestry 2024



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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 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)

**Editor of The Word**

Ron Boggio  
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**Submission deadline for the April 2024 issue:  
 Tuesday, March 26, 2024**

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.

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