



The WORD

December 2024

Dear St. Timothy's Family,

Today is the beginning of Advent, that season in our Church Calendar of waiting, of hope, and of penitence. We celebrate the two long-expected comings of Christ—both that of the Christ Child two thousand years ago, as well as the Second Coming, Christ's future coming in glory with God's message of love and justice made fully real.

Advent comes upon us quickly this year because of the peculiarities of the calendar, as Thanksgiving is "late." There is thus little time between finishing the turkey and opening up one's Advent Calendars.

Given that proximity, I wanted to use this space to say "thank you" to you, the congregation of this church, for a particular gift bestowed upon myself and the staff at St. Timothy's.

"Professional Development" is an important area for clergy and lay staff here to learn and grow in their professions. We are blessed that the Vestry is committed to helping us to grow in our vocations through money allocated in our budget. Here are some examples of how that played out in 2024

TODD GRIVETTI (Organist/ Choirmaster): *I attended the biennial national convention of the American Guild of Organists June 30-July 4 in San Francisco, CA.¹ I got the privilege to hear some of the best concert organists in the world play some amazing pipe organs in incredible places. Among many of the fine workshops I attended, I learned how to use the app "ForScore" with my iPad to play the organ (sheet music free) and turn the pages with just a wink of the eye, turn of the head, or move of the mouth, avoiding the need for a page turner! I was able to meet new colleagues, rekindle old friendships, buy some new organ and choral music,*



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- Internationally known performers from Canada, France, Korea, and the United States.
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- Nine new compositions commissioned especially for the convention, as well as three additional commissions from the national AGO.
- The St. Cecilia recital performed by a woman for the first time in its history.
- A masterclass by David Egge.
- 13 workshops covering a wide range of topics.
- Walking tours of Chinatown and The Castro, as well as opportunity to visit Museum of the African Diaspora and Mission Dolores.
- Nine sessions presented by national AGO staff.
- Five publisher reading sessions.
- Opportunity to enjoy old and new friends in unique and interesting venues.

¹ <https://www.sfago2024.org/>

and learn many new helpful hints. One of the highlights of the convention for me was attending Episcopal Morning Prayer with choir (Choral Matins) at the magnificent Grace Cathedral. Many thanks to St. Timothy's for funding my way so I could learn new things and bring that knowledge and excitement back to worship with you.

MARIO MELENDEZ (Associate Rector): Back in June, Mario attended *Nuevo Amanecer*- a three-day conference dedicated to Latino Ministry, held at the beautiful grounds at the Kanuga Conference Center in Western North Carolina. This biennial and bilingual conference is (in the words of its website): *for those who are already involved in Latino Ministry as well as those interested in becoming involved. The conference brings together many successful and dynamic leaders involved in Latino Ministries; offers workshops that provide training that can be implemented in any parish; and features inspiring keynote addresses. This year's theme is "Sembrando Amor y Esperanza" (Sowing Love and Hope). 🌱😊 #NA24 calls us to embark on a journey of faith, love, and hope that inspires us through workshops, worship spaces, and many entertaining activities. All with the purpose of strengthening our connection with God, with each other, and with others.*²



We have had parishioners, both lay and ordained, attend this conference in previous years, and my hope is that myself, along with others, will be able to attend in 2026!

PRESCHOOL: In October, St. Timothy's Preschool Directors were all set to attend the Diocese's "Nurturing Those Who Nurture Others: A Retreat for Ministry Leaders" held at Shrine Mont. Allyson and Cathy were looking forward to this treat that included: *yoga, meditation, contemplative prayer, fellowship, story-sharing, and other fun activities.*³ Circumstances outside their control prevented them from attending, but they are looking forward to the opportunity to do so next year!

² <https://www.kanuga.org/our-programs/adults/nuevo-amanecer/>

³ <https://episcopalvirginia.org/event/lay-professionals-conference/>

CHARLES COWHERD: Finally, yours truly took the opportunity to take a class on Stewardship through the Lake Institute out of Indiana University. I attended this ten week online class with a cohort of interfaith and ecumenical religious leaders across the country. We learned best practices and sound theologies of fundraising through discussion and lecture, all culminating in a group project. Mine was designing a "Pyramid of Giving" for St. Timothy's. The Vestry saw the fruits of this labor at our Vestry meeting in November and if you are interested in my learnings, please do ask me about and admire the "Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising" that I earned!⁴



My hope is that the church as a whole has and will benefit from their investment in mine, and all of our, respective Professional Development endeavors. I join them in Thanksgiving for your generosity towards that effort.

Yours in Christ,

CHARLES+

⁴ Or check out the website here: <https://lakeinstitute.org/education/executive-certificate-in-religious-fundraising/>



CELEBRATE THE SEASONS OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Angel Tree - Support a child in need by donating funds for the purchase of a gift card, thru 11/30.

Wednesday Healing Eucharist - 12:15 PM, a weekly quiet contemplative service - 12/4, 12/11, 12/18.

Christmas Village Market - 12/8 starting at 9 AM. Picture with Saint Nicholas from 11:30 - 1:00 PM.

Revels - 12/13 at 6 PM, (church grounds), enjoy fellowship with songs and stories.

Advent/Christmas Hymn Festival - 12/22 at 10 AM, music by Michael Burkhardt, readings from the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Christmas Eve Family Service - 12/24 at 5 PM, No-rehearsal Christmas Pageant for kids, families and all ages.

Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist - 12/24 at 7:30 PM, special choral, handbell, and instrumental music at 7:15 PM.

Lessons & Carols - 12/29 at 10 AM. All the Carols you missed in the holiday rush!

Preschool Corner

St. Timothy's Pre-School started its 50th year of classes with a fall full of fun! Classes began on September 3rd, and the first weeks were spent getting to know each other, becoming familiar with school routines, and learning social and academic skills through play-based activities. We also had a full calendar of special activities:

- Chick-fil-A Spirit Nights in September and November – both nights we filled the restaurant across from the Target in Reston. Students, alumni siblings, younger siblings (future students), parents, teachers, and alumni families enjoyed visiting and eating together. The spirit nights are organized by our homeroom parents to fund the end-of-year teacher appreciation activities. Two more Spirit Nights are planned for the school year, one in January and one in March.
- The First Annual Scholastic Book Fair – this school/church event coincided with the school's Back-to-School Night for current students, and the goal was to bring the fun of books to students, church members, and their families. The Book Fair was a HUGE success! We also had so much fun that we plan to make this an ongoing tradition each fall.
- Back-to-School Night in October – this is an event for current families where students get to show their families the school from their perspective: their homeroom, where they have science/math/library/art/music, their teachers, and their artwork on the wall. We enjoy welcoming the families into the school and letting them have a glimpse into what their child has done so far this year.
- Trunk-or-Treat – our 4th Annual Trunk-or-Treat event was held on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, with over 25 cars and over 60 children taking part in the festivities. We had live music provided by Chasing Dreams, who have provided music (under different names) for our last 3 Trunk-or-Treat events.
- Halloween Festival Parties – What is more fun than a parade? A parade of preschoolers wearing Halloween costumes. We celebrated the holiday with students parading for their parents, serenading them afterward, then playing all sorts of holiday games, winning prizes, creating crafts, and eating a wide array of holiday foods.
- Thankfulness and Thanksgiving Feasts – In November we turned our attention to thankfulness. We taught lessons about community helpers, had a LINK food drive in coordination with the church, and learned about the first Thanksgiving. We had a "feast" of tradition-inspired foods, and the students performed songs for their parents.

The fun continues into December, during which we have parties, a magic show, and more performances for parents. And planning for a massive Pre-School Birthday Bash in May!

Gratitude from the Preschool

St. Timothy's Pre-School wants to acknowledge and celebrate the generous support that we receive from members of this congregation. Many members bought books for our classrooms off of our teacher wish lists during the Scholastic Book Fair. Others have donated toward the purchase of books and toward planned upgrades to our playground. Still others volunteer to help with special events, such as helping us have live music for Trunk-or-Treat and helping Santa find the way to our Christmas parties. St. Timothy's Church is phenomenally supportive of its preschool, which is a major reason we have been so successful over the past 50 years.

Respectfully submitted by Allyson Showalter

FROM THE SERVICE MINISTRY

Angel Tree Season!

We thank our St. Timothy's family for their generous outpouring of love (and financial contributions!) in support of Cornerstones "Gifts for Kids Program." At this point we believe that we've received adequate funds to support the 32 children and 4 senior citizens we agreed to sponsor. Keep an eye on the eNews for a final summation of the project.

Starting December 1st, we will accept donations of new hats, scarves, and gloves (water resistant please) for adults and children of all ages. There will be a bin in Henry Hall near the Christmas tree for your items. These will be delivered to the Laurel Learning Center, the Embry Rucker Shelter, and other locations.

Coming Soon

In late December we will be rolling out our plans for the first quarter of 2025. We anticipate that we will fundraise in January for St. Mathieu's school in Haiti, as well as conduct the first food drive of 2025 in the January/February timeframe. Details to follow.

The Service Ministry is extremely thankful for all that St. Timothy's does in our community. *Thank you for putting your faith to work to serve our neighbors.*

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Hamm

THOUGHTS OF CHRISTMAS

Gone are the golden days of Autumn,
Red, gold, brown and orange imprinted upon the mind
To carry us through the monochrome days of winter:
Multicolored lights, flames of fire and remnants of harvest fruits
Will sustain the human spirit until the glory of Christmas bursts upon us;
And amidst the commercial hustle and bustle, moments of peace and silent worship will descend
And the adoration of a Baby will be an amazing part of life.

Even in the turmoil of storm and recovery, charity and love have not been forgotten,
Sacrifice and donations thrive despite the stress and loss of comfort.
Pleasures will be simpler, consumption of luxuries. smaller,
But the gathering of families will be treasured and remembered in future years.
And the grace and mercy of God will be sought and received
In love and gratitude from believers and non- believers alike.
As they pursue their dreams of peace and happiness on a united world,
Full of God's love, and the spread of that Love from person to person each and every day.

Respectfully submitted by Jill Cox



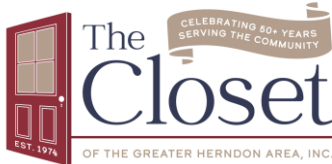
St. Tim's Christmas Village Market

We're moving the Christmas Village Market – Mark your calendars!

*SUNDAY December 8th from 9-10 am
and after the 10:00 service.*

1. **Saint Nicholas** will be in Henry Hall to snap pictures with you, your children & grandchildren.
2. A **ride-on train for toddlers** and a **1950s Lionel Train** display will be available for everyone's enjoyment.
3. Get your face painted at **Henna Happenings** by artist Evelyn Smith.
4. Annemarie Smith will serve her homemade **Reindeer Bites** for you to nibble while you shop.
5. Find something warm to buy for your loved ones at the **Cozy Corner** (aka the Shawl Ministry).
6. The much-awaited **Saint Timothy's 2025 Calendars** will be on sale.
7. Create your own **Advent Wreath** (guided by Emily Litz).
8. Purchase one-of-a-kind crafts from the **Just a Simple Peddler Shop** (Anne & Gerry Vandenberg, Proprietors).
9. Find unique gifts at **Ye Olde Re-gift Store**, courtesy of the Generations Ministry for that special someone.
10. Much more to come – add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Questions? Contact Janet Dopsovic jgdops@gmail.com.



News from The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area, Inc.

The Closet is ready for Christmas – shop for decorations, home goods, ugly sweaters (pretty ones too!) and ornaments.

The Closet is hiring – please spread the word. Full and part-time positions are available and flexible hours – such as school hours or after school hours – are possible. For additional information, check out The Closet website <https://www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org> or call The Closet at 703.437.7652.

As the 50th Anniversary year-long celebration of its founding concludes, The Closet has new signs in the front and back of the store. As you drive by 845 Station Street – check it out.

Thank you for all *you* did to support The Closet in 2024 by donating, shopping and volunteering.

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) or fill out the Parishioner Information Form.

Editor of The Word

Ron Boggio
wordeditor@saint-timothys.org

**Submission deadline for the
 January 2025 issue:**

Friday, December 20th due to the holiday

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.

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). Copies of *The Word* are also available in the office.

Rector

The Rev. Charles R. Cowherd
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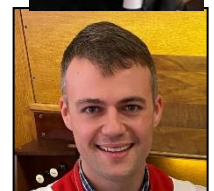
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