

TIDINGS



October 2023

Newsletter of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Danville, CA

Happy fall everybody,

As we look to October, we are in the midst of stewardship season. Please prayerfully and thoughtfully pledge for our mission and ministry in the coming year.

FOTH was wonderful this year. We raised a net of \$47 900. We have lots more information in this Tidings. Also, the Vital + Thriving team will be sharing an in depth analysis of your feedback from last spring. We will post this on the website and in email communications.

In youth news, I am really excited about what's happening. Our Pizza Club is back, and we've got lots of pictures from events. Check out our Facebook page, as well as the picture pages in this Tidings. We also had a great time going to the Cathedral for Confirmation.

More youth news – we have a donor to help us reconfigure the northeast rooms of Parish Hall to make a bigger youth space. (We wanted to use the bottom floor of Grace House, but it didn't make sense either for the parents or for how we live in a community right now.) It may not be open until Christmas or later, but I think it will be really inviting, easily accessible, and a great place for youth to create their own community while on campus during church and events.

During the stewardship season, four people will be sharing in church. Similarly to years past, Eric, Allen, Teresa, and Margaret will share why St. Timothy's is meaningful to them during the first four weeks of October in church on Sundays. **On October 29th, we will have one service only with a stewardship lunch to follow.**

Also, in October we've got the tarantula hike (October 6), St. Francis Day/Blessing of the Animals (October 8), Stitching Group (October 11 and 25), Party on the Patio (October 13), Book Club (October 15), Pizza Club at St. Timothy's (October 15), and Social Justice Forum (October 22).

Finally, The Preliminary Slate of candidates for the Ninth Bishop of California as approved by the Standing Committee has been announced. They are The Rev. Canon Augusta Anne Anderson, The Rev. Phil Brochard, and The Rev. Austin K. Rios. Additional materials, including resume, will be provided with the announcement of the final slate.

The biographical information for the candidates is available by clicking on each of the names on the following page.





[The Rev. Canon Augusta Anne Anderson](#)

[The Rev. Phil Brochard](#)

[The Rev. Austin K. Rios](#)

A Prayer for Transition

Almighty God, giver of every good gift, by your grace you have called us into one fellowship of faith: Look graciously on the people of the Diocese of California during this time of transition. May we be guided in heart and mind by your Holy Spirit to seek and welcome a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us to perform the work of the Church. Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do. Save us from all false choices, that in your light we may see light, and on your path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PENNIES OF GRATITUDE



During this stewardship season, children and adults will gather pennies and change from drawers and cushions, name a gratitude at dinner or breakfast for each coin and then bring them to church. Bring your thankful coins to church. Gathering thankful coins helps us to remember the different ways that God blesses us. The action of using coins is reminiscent of our mite boxes of thankfulness and our United Thank Offerings. When we put together all the tokens of God's faithfulness to us a parish, we may be surprised at the number of coins we collect! During the month of October, reflect on the many ways God is with us in everything we do. Let's see how many coins and thankful prayers we collect!

ST. FRANCIS DAY - OCTOBER 8

We welcome children to bring a stuffed animal to the **10:00 service** for young people's time. Our stuffed animal friends bring comfort and remind us that we can always talk to God in the quiet of the night or looking up from a book in a quiet corner or sitting on a parent's lap watching a show. We will bless our "stuffies" and bless one another with the laughter, joy and tears those beloved pets of childhood share with us.

Children or adults may bring "stuffies," pets or pictures of pets to the **2pm blessing** as well. Neighbors and friends are welcome to come and bring their pets.



Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, October 8 - 2pm - On the Patio

NEW BEGINNINGS

I remember the deeply resonate voices of my children asking “Why?” “Why?”, and an echo of my own voice asking my parents and grandmother “Why?” “Why?”. Some answers were easy; other questions were not possible to discuss in the minutes before bed or before drop-off. I remember the magic of Siri and the surprise of the knowledge of date and place. I remember my wonder when the Internet of my tweens surpassed my ancient encyclopedias—faster than it took to drive to soccer practice. Still, for me, that feeling of a new year lingers; the yearning to learn grows as September rushes into October and kids turn to algorithms, statistics, and World Literature, and phonics and I catch my breath remembering that everything changes and evolves.

Fall brings for many of us the deeply imprinted back-to-school expectation of learning. Year after year our psyches enter deeply into the complexity of education. No longer simply expecting new notebooks and new backpacks, we sense the different rhythm of a new year not only for our children but also for ourselves. It is not the season of Advent when the church reminds us of our longing, and it is not a Christmas season of holidays and New Year’s resolutions. Fall, this time of lengthening darkness and the gathering of the fruits of the harvest is something else. Is it about wondering as we ask the big questions in times of darkness and changing light.

When I was in seminary I loved “The Love of Learning and The Desire for God.” The book deeply impressed on me that God is not something that is just a feeling, but rooted in the traditions, questions and rigors of the intellect and heart together. Answers are complicated and not finite and sometimes that flash of understanding is also a generous burning of Love that cannot be explained. Inside the whoosh of a cool wind I give thanks for abundant harvests and Christ who meets me in the darkness and the delight of a poem read in the golden light of the afternoon. Perhaps, fall is about God’s generosity of Love and a demand for Mercy. As sunlight shifts and our lamps go on earlier in the evening, our hearts open more deeply to demand Justice because we see God’s people no longer trapped in the bright lights of summer. As the shadows lengthen we savor the lavish giving of God’s harvest and are moved to share the scent of cinnamon and pumpkin with others.



My prayer halts as I ask God to open my heart to new learning, to the promise of wisdom keepers, saints, teachers, and mentors, who walk along the way. New friends and deepening friendships are not the purview of school children, but of us all. We cannot let the changes and wounds of the Pandemic & separation inoculate us against the powers of friendship & faith stories shared, and questions of hope asked of one another in this new year of fall. Christ, the Risen One walks in our midst.

Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him (Christ); and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”

Luke 24:28-32

The gift of this moment is ours to share; standing in awe of God’s own generosity we can respond to: “*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.*”

View From the Columbarium

With Gratitude, Susan+

PARTY ON THE PATIO

Friday - October 13
5 - 7 pm

Party on the **PATIO**



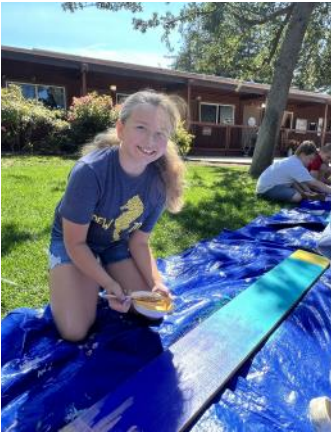
Music
Bocce
Hot Dogs
FUN!

■ St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
■ 1550 Diablo Rd

■ RSUP:
■ PARISH@SAINTTIMOTHYSDANVILLE.ORG

■ BYO
■ other
■ food &
■ drinks

PIZZA CLUB PHOTOS!



We had a fun Pizza Club with 22 youth and 8 leaders. We helped to paint fencing for Richmond Tiny House Village. This ministry is an a shelter for people 18-24 years old.



CONFIRMATION PHOTOS!



Congratulations to our newly confirmed!

Alex H, Robert K, Lauren B, Sandy B, Ella K, Andrew B

Fall Confirmation was held at Grace Cathedral on Sunday, September 10th. It was a beautiful evening with our six newly confirmed from St. Timothy's and their friends/families. The rest of the Confirmation class will be confirmed at a later date.



FOTH WRAP UP

26th Annual FRUITS OF THE HARVEST (FOTH)

Fundraiser for all Outreach Ministries

MAMA MIA! That's Italian

You just need to look at all these pictures to see what a fun time was had at FOTH on Saturday, September 9th. It was a major undertaking and it was very fruitful. (That was on purpose.) It was announced last Sunday that we netted \$49,700, and by the end of the day, we are over the \$50,000 mark. This far surpasses last year's net of \$36,472. It just goes to show that you all like to party with a purpose.

THANK YOU ALL for your generous donations of funds, gift cards and certificates, wine for the bar and Wall of Wine, and for the Mystery Boxes. The combination of all of these helped us achieve this amount which the Outreach Committee will now meet and disburse as grants to our Outreach Ministries and events that we support.

I have to keep this shorter than usual because my deadline is in two hours, and I can't possibly name you all, but know that you are acknowledged and thanked for your incredible volunteerism for FOTH.

One of the most wonderful things about this year's FOTH was the number of new volunteers who came forward to help. It was fantastic...so much enthusiasm and energy. **Thank you all, and I hope we'll see you again next year.**

We had our wonderful regulars too, who did all sorts of needed jobs. It was a giant machine and it worked! I want to express my deep appreciation to all of you who came forward and helped so graciously with the work parties for hanging market lights and banner decorations, creating centerpieces, major setting up for Friday and Saturday, kitchen helpers, Wall of Wine, all workers at the event, and all help taking things down so quickly. You are special to me, and don't be surprised if you get unsolicited hugs. I can't name you all here, but know you are dear to me.

Our special guest speaker Deanne Pearn, Executive Director of Hope Solutions, showed a short video on how helping someone with severe problems can turn their lives around to become self-sufficient individuals with dignity and independence.

Thank you to Carolyn B for all the time and talent spent on the fourth outstanding Outreach video which featured the liaisons who explained why they believe in the work of the organizations they represent. We showed the video as part of the sermon on Sunday August 27th. These videos do more than anything to educate the whole parish on what we do for Outreach and how much their contributions and volunteerism are helping to make people's lives better.

Sally P deserves great thanks for all the work she did on all the tech and numbers support, and banking for FOTH, plus so much more with signage, and printed materials. She does a huge and important job in this machine that makes FOTH work.

Kimberly B, thank you for all your tremendous office support for the event booklet, printing, and the Mystery Boxes and silent auction work. She is a master at getting things done quickly and beautifully.

Tania H-D and her mastery organizing the food for the event is amazing. She hires the caterer, the servers, oversees the entire kitchen works for the event, and does so much more. She even made the biscotti and had her wonderful kitchen helpers make the tiramisu dessert and appetizers. It's a huge job, and we thank her for all her energy and work for these many years.

Mike B deserves so much credit for undertaking the job of Head of the Bar. He did a wonderful job, and even donated his homemade limoncello and melloncello which was a hit for the event. Thank you, and thank you to your bar and non-alcoholic bar helpers, Catherine and Isabel B and Colin H.

The Bank did a huge job that night with checking everyone in and with the return of the Fund-A-Need, which was a great success. It made \$17,200, which has a big impact for our proceeds. Many thanks to our hardworking bankers, John G, Ken A, Sally P, and Cathy H for all the hard follow-up work involved.

Thanks Peg M, for helping me with the Fund-A-Need.

Thank you to Bev M for all the support behind the scenes with getting us the info we needed on tables, chairs, tablecloths counts and behind the scenes putting things away and all your work. Couldn't do it without you.

To the great support from Pastors Todd and Susan for all your help with publicity on Sundays, and all your help with setup and sound, video, market lights, and so much more....we give you many thanks.

Thanks and love to all of you who came to the event and supported Outreach. I felt that it went smoothly, and was fun for me and hope it was for you, too.

Leslie F



FOTH PHOTOS!



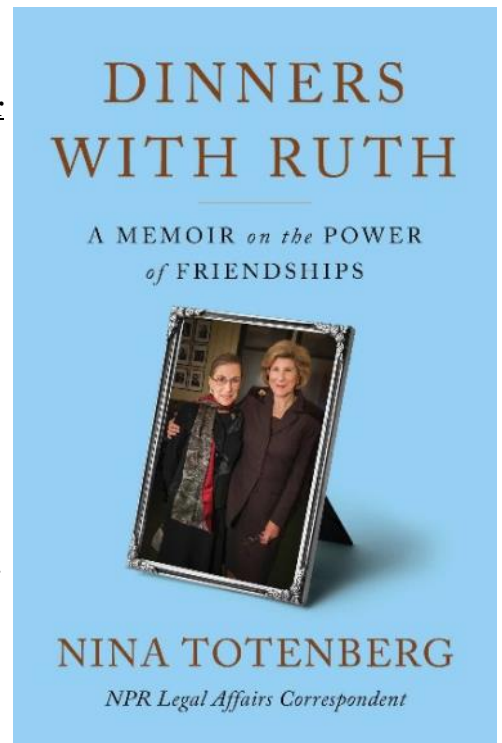


BOOK GROUP MEETING - OCTOBER 17

You are invited to join others who enjoy reading and discussing books in the Overby Library after the 10 am service on Sunday, October 17 to discuss **Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir of the Power of Friendships** by NPR correspondent, Nina Totenberg.

The friendship of Nina Totenberg and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg started 22 years before Ruth started on the Supreme Court when Nina called her to ask a question. It continued and deepened for the rest of Ruth's life. *Dinners with Ruth* also weaves together compelling, personal portraits of other fascinating women and men from Nina's life, including her cherished NPR colleagues Cokie Roberts and Linda Wertheimer; her beloved husbands; her friendships with multiple Supreme Court Justices, including Lewis Powell, William Brennan, and Antonin Scalia, and Nina's own family—her father, the legendary violinist Roman Totenberg, and her “best friends,” her sisters. Inspiring and revelatory, *Dinners with Ruth* is a moving story of the joy and true meaning of friendship.

Contact Sally P if you have questions – sallyspotts@gmail.com.



SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

On Sunday August 27, after taking a summer break, the Social Justice Ministry held its fifth forum after the 10:00 am service. The topic was **Bullying**. Previous forum topics were Holiday Stress (*Dec*); Anxiety (*Feb*); Depression (*Mar*); and Suicide (*April*). With background research and handouts prepared by Dee G, Roz A and Tony G facilitated the forum. Roz and Tony also acted out a bullying skit. Attendees saw two YouTube videos that are geared towards the youth to demonstrate how to handle and deal with bullying. Based on personal experiences shared by the attendees during open discussions, adults and senior citizens also do experience bullying. A takeaway from the forum is: "targets" need to speak up when they are being bullied and not let the bully get to them or, feel that they are more powerful.

Topic and details of the next social justice forum will be announced. We look forward to seeing you for lively discussions.

The purpose of the forum sessions are in alignment with the goals of the ministry to:

- Discuss what's going on around us as it relates to social justice
- Suggest opportunities for improving lives
- Educate and bring awareness to the community

Then we had Options share great recovery resources on Sunday, September 24 at 11:15am.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER



Meal Packaging Event

Saturday, November 4, 2023

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Volunteers of all Ages

Invite Family and Friends to Join Us

Back by popular demand! The Meal Packaging event is a fun, hands-on way to help those suffering from hunger. Volunteers will package meals through an assembly-line process that combines rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and vitamins to create fortified, shelf-stable meals. The meals are distributed by the non-profit Rise Against Hunger to areas of food insecurity and disaster sites world-wide. We've packaged over 15,000 meals in one morning in past years and hope to do so again.

We need donations to purchase the supplies and volunteers to package the meals. **Donation towards supplies is appreciated but not required to participate.**

We hope you will participate this year and invite family and friends to join us.

We have a job for all ages.
(Children under 13 must have adult supervision)

Register Now: <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/StTimothys2023>

Registration will also be available on Sundays starting October

Contact: Joann O, joannmarieoliver@gmail.com.

Transformation Starts with a Meal

BECOME A EUCHARISTIC MINISTER



Would you like to be trained to offer wine during communion?

If you think you would enjoy participating in this ministry, and are 14 years or older, there would be a brief training (20 minutes) at your convenience, with Pastor Todd.

If interested, please reach out to Jacque C (jchiavini@gmail.com).

OPTIONS RECOVERY SERVICES UPDATE

Annual Update to the Congregation regarding Options Recovery Services

Last year, when St. Timothy's celebrated our 25 years of Outreach Ministry support, Options Recovery Services also celebrated 25 years of service, focusing on the following mission, goal, and vision.

Our mission is to break the cycle of addiction which causes homelessness, crime and broken families. We believe that to be successful, services must be open to anyone and immediately available. We also believe that treatment for alcohol and drug dependency is a human right, regardless of the ability to pay.

Our goal is to implement and promote an inner-city model for comprehensive addiction treatment and clean and sober living for a lifetime that can be replicated in other inner-city communities.

Our vision is that one day, society will deal effectively and compassionately with addiction and recovery. Every drug dependent person will have easy and immediate access to addiction treatment and recovery support services with a resultant decrease in crime, homelessness and family dysfunction.

Please, check out the Options' website at www.optionsrecoveryervices.com to see the miracles Options produces in community.

The month of September was Recovery Month nationally, and Options had the following events:

- Friday, September 8th - the quarterly graduation ceremony, on Zoom.
- Saturday, September 9, at FOTH - attended by Porter Sexton, the Development Director of Options, and Peg and Patti, our liasons. St. Timothy's has been supporting Options since 1999.
- Sunday, September 17th, at 8 and 10 am services - Barbara Madeiros, an ordained minister, and the Options' Housing Director, delivered both sermons, reminding us that recovery/redemption is a promise of our Christian faith, available for everyone. She shared ways you can support Options' mission, goal and vision.
- Sunday, September 24th - the Social Justice Group and representatives from Options, Barbara Madeiros and Kim Chavez (Administrative and Child Protective Services Director) shared with us about addiction and recovery.

Options was begun by Dr. Davida Coady, author of *The Greatest Good*, in 1997. In 1998, Tom Gorham, who was to become Davida's husband, joined the Options staff, and, in 1999, Peg Miller, a member of St. Timothy's, joined the Options staff of 4.

In the Lenten Series of 2000, Davida and Tom presented at St. Timothy's, and Patti F felt God's call to support Options in furnishing their first of now 10 transitional houses. At the time, Stephen Strane, rector, warned Patti of the generosity of our congregation. Donations filled the parish hall, and we rented a truck to move all of the things we provided, including toilet paper. Since that time, Patti has been the "go to" for staff at Options, for items needed for transitional houses and/or individual clients. Frances and Patti have shopped for screen doors, underwear, pregnancy clothes....you name it, Patti finds it. Options has been the recipient of Outreach funds from FOTH since 2000, and, in return, Options has always provided people to deliver sermons and workshops to educate our congregation about addiction and recovery.

OPTIONS RECOVERY SERVICES UPDATE (CONT)

Options now has recovery centers in Berkeley, San Leandro, West Oakland, and Concord, with a center soon to open in Richmond, providing state of the art services for addicts. In 2006, a group of inmates from San Quentin asked Options to train them, lifers, who at that time, would never get out of prison, to be certified Drug and Alcohol Counselors.

By 2008, the State of California's Department of Correction of Rehabilitation, e.g. the state prison system, asked Options to provide that program in California prisons. To date, Options has trained 1000 counselors, many of whom provide alcohol and drug treatment in all California prisons. In addition, the program, called the Offender Mentor Certification Program (OMCP), is now in 9 California prisons. Many of the men and women who complete this program, not only heal from the trauma in their lives, but become Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors, who are granted parole and work outside of prison. I retired in December of 2020, and, at that time, many, if not most, of the Options' counselors, were from the OMCP Program.

These counselors have been described as "the best drug and alcohol counselors on the planet," which I can tell you, is true. I continue to meet, once a week, with men, as they come out of prison, and, they are so grateful to be out and able to "give back."

In 2022 a documentary was made, entitled "The 50." If you go to the50film.com, you can get on an email list to be notified about the next showing in a film festival. I have watched this film 7 times, and each time, I am more and more inspired by the journey of the first class of OMCP, in 2009. The last showing, I watched with Gabel, who is the Vestry representative for Social Justice and Outreach. When the film becomes available, we will definitely show it to our community, since it demonstrates that recovery and redemption is for all of us.

Beyond the generosity of St. Timothy's, in terms of goods and services, the prayer support we provide for all of our Outreach ministries, like the "mustard seed," while small, turns our supported ministries into giant trees of growth and miracles. As a community, we are known as an "outreach church."

Before many of us aged out, St. Timothy's used to prepare a meal for Options' staff and clients. Leslie F provided the direction for preparation of shepherd's pie, which we delivered to and served to at least 200 people at Options' downtown Berkeley site. As the people at Options said about St. Timothy's, "Now that is a church."

We have been known by our love and service, and it has continued to make a difference for so many people. If you are curious as to how you can become involved simply go to the website at www.optionsrecovery.com or call Options at 510 666-9552, and ask for Porter, the Director of Development, or Barbara, for ways you can help.

And thank you, St. Timothy's, for your faithful and loving service.

Peg M and Patti F, Liaisons for Options Recovery Services



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER

4th - Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing, 9am
8th - Fellowship Luncheon, 11:30am
12th - Rice and beans packing, 11am
12th - Rector's Open House, 5:30pm
19th - Book Group, 11:15am
19th - Pizza Club, 1pm
26th - Social Justice Forum, 11:15am

DECEMBER

3rd - First Sunday of Advent
10th - Selfies & Family Photos, 8:45am & 11:15am
10th - Grandkids blessing & St. Nicholas visit, 10am
17th - Pizza Club, 1pm
24th - Christmas Eve services, 3pm, 5pm & 7pm
25th - Christmas Day service, 10am

VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

September

The Vestry met on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 6:30pm in the Conference Room in Grace House.

MOTIONS:

- The Vestry unanimously approved the August Vestry meeting minutes, the reports and documents submitted by the treasurer and several submitted rector and commission reports submitted prior to the meeting.
- The Vestry unanimously approved the 4 resolutions of the **Benefits Package** for the employees of Saint Timothy's as outlined in the documents provided by the treasurer in the pre meeting packet.
- The Vestry unanimously approved the funding of \$10,000 to convert the two rooms in the Parish Hall into a single room for our youth.

PARISH FINANCES:

- The Vestry approved the 4 resolutions of the **Benefits Package** for the employees of St Timothy's.

PROPERTY:

- **Renovation of Parish Hall Classroom**

A plan to make a larger space for our youth in the Parish Hall by converting two rooms into one was discussed. The wall between the two rooms would be removed and the doors facing the Parish Hall would contain windows so that the room would be in full view from the Parish Hall's main room. The room can be used by the youth on Sundays, during Saint Timothy's functions, and Winter Night Shelter. The Vestry approved \$10,000 for this conversion.

Parish members are welcome to attend vestry Meetings. The next meeting is on Wednesday, October 18th, 2023, at 6:30 in the Conference Room in Grace House.

The minutes of the Vestry meeting will be filed in the Parish Office after they are approved by the Vestry.

Submitted by Kris M, Vestry Clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT

September 20, 2023

Financial Summary for January – August, 2023

	8-month Actual	8-month Budget
Total Income	\$495,128	\$480,026
Total Expenses	<u>\$529,330</u>	<u>\$531,189</u>
Net Operating Income	(\$34,203)	(\$51,163)

- St. Timothy's "summer doldrums" finally appeared in August. Income was \$19,472 below plan for the month, and expenses were \$9,707 above plan. The 8-month result is better than plan, by almost \$17,000 (-\$34,203 actual versus plan of -\$51,163). August results are in line with past years' experience.
- Maintenance reserves now stand at about \$96,500, following major maintenance and repair costs of almost \$168,000 in the first eight months. We are planning to stain and paint outside of the sanctuary before the rainy season, which will cost \$10,000 to \$12,000.
- Pledge reserves stand at approximately \$168,000, unchanged since the report for July.

CONTACT US

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Carleen Carns - Pledge Secretary
(Volunteer)
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