



Epiphany Season 2020

The newsletter of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
Danville, CA

2019 In Review – Rector Edition

This review is not exhaustive and does NOT capture all the excellent work our members do through out the year. Also it does not capture the details of the countless hours that go into events and ministries like Christmas Food Boxes, CCIH drives, Bicycle Refurbishing, Formation Events and Series, perpetual facility maintenance, Warm Winter Nights, FOTH and supported ministries, and the many people who make Sunday run well ... you get the point. The highlights below are just a few of things that stood out to me. They are not more or less important than the myriad contributions others have made.

Holy Week and Easter

I think I got a good rhythm and flow for St. Timothy's holy week. This ease is because you have an excellent worship team that has been documenting, documenting, documenting. We have a useful worship customary that allows us to perpetually learn from successes and avoid pitfalls.

Logistics notes about Holy Week 2019 and 2020. In 2019, we made sure vigil was late enough to be dark (too bright in 2018). 2019 was the last Holy Wednesday service for a while (not in 2020). In 2020 we will have Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Vigil on the same schedule as we did in 2019. **But** - in 2020 Easter will reflect our regular schedule --8:30 and 10am (not 3 services)

Pentecost until summer

Pentecost Sunday was a blast in 2019, and I have something very secret planned for 2020's Pentecost. Can't tell you yet!

Summer

Immersion Trip we had a very successful 2019 immersion trip in Louisiana. It was hot. It was holy. It was a lot of work. In 2020, some of the larger churches are doing different things. Orinda will go to Alaska. Alameda and Resurrection will go to Chico because they wanted to organize around a smaller group.

St. Timothy's is working out a plan to possibly go to Best Friends www.bestfriends.org which is the largest no-kill animal shelter in the country. There is a lot of work to be done at the sanctuary and it is an exceptionally well-run volunteer experience. We hope to do this event with a collection of smaller churches in Castro Valley, Pleasanton, Antioch, Lafayette, and Martinez.

VBS – Susan and Darita pulled together a great team to run VBS aka Zootopia in 2019. The kids were great, and all the activities were spot on.

Welcome Back September

Welcome Back was excellent. Michelle Fey and many volunteers made St. Timothy's feel like home. It was ton of work, and I am grateful for all the ministries we celebrated. My bingo skills were so so.

Stewardship Season

Our stewardship team throughout the year, but especially October, helps us know why we give. Our stewardship

speakers had their finger on the pulse -- the joy of supporting this community. **If you haven't pledged, it's still not too late.**

5pm service We kicked off a fully projected worship experience in October. After 3 successful services in October, November, and December, we will continue in the spring.

Thanksgiving Season

Website We had a very good website. Now -- I think we have an excellent one. We have tried to make the website as seamless for the user as possible. All of your members resources are on the far right tab called "Members" on the website on the desktop version and the bottom top level menu item on your phone. The website is geared toward giving an information rich newcomer a friendly on-ramp to our community without overwhelming them.

It's not a silver bullet to get people in the door: that's a job for each member to invite people to our excellent community. www.sainttimothysdanville.org. If you find errors, please let me know.

Interfaith Thanksgiving service

We hosted the Interfaith service in 2019 to support Contra Costa Interfaith Housing <https://ccinterfaithhousing.org/>. We had all the usual interfaith partners in solidarity to support this important ministry. The Jewish cantor/guitarist Eve Decker got the campfire songs going. I had a holy blast.

Advent and Christmas

Selfies with Santa

Beyond my expectation. We had decent attendance (given the pouring rain). It was F-U-N. The event was light and airy. It did not feel like we had to move heaven and earth to get ready. We kept the selfie setup for Sunday morning – and got some wonderful pictures of parishioners.

Christmas Eve services. The projected services (3 and 5pm) went (almost) without a hitch. The attendance shifted a little this year. Last year, 3pm was our biggest service with 8pm a very close second. This year 5pm and 8pm were neck and neck. However, the big success of 3pm 2019 was the abundance of small children (not just the pageant participants.)

2020 Ahead

Like I said earlier, something special is up my sleeve for Pentecost. The mission is F-U-N. In fact, Selfies with Santa was a bit of a revelation to me. I want to lead with fun. Church can often be drearily serious. I think the work we are doing is too important to be serious about. Grounded in God, we have some Holy Fun to accomplish. And as I mentioned in the beginning, I see all my observation as but one component of the many many faithful servants who make St. Timothy's flourish.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School –grades 3-5--

Thank you to our teams of Betty Medwedeff and Meghan Goldman and Kris Manning and Wendy Brainerd for leading Sunday school. Our next Sunday School unit will be part of our Lenten Program and will begin with a meeting at the end of February.

Children's Liturgy continues in the Parish Hall with the leadership of John Geraci -Novy and Caroline Fea

Thank you to Anna Vila who has been our Childcare Provider and now begins her travels as part of her gap year before college. We wish you well in your travels!

CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES – 2019



What a successful Outreach project to help Monument Crisis Center in Concord with their Holiday Food Box program!

- 240+ \$20 grocery cards delivered to the center for our boxes and other boxes.
- 234 boxes of food delivered to the center on Saturday, December 7 with the invaluable help of the Scouts (boys and girls) and Mike Oliver (transportation). Only once before (back in 2013) did we fill more boxes. We are the biggest donor to Monument Crisis Center for this effort.
- 131 boxes of food packed for St. Timothy's sponsors at the Alamo Safeway on Saturday, November 30 with the help of 25+ volunteers from St. Timothy's and San Ramon High School students. Thank you to John Henry and Shelley Wells for facilitating this! Thank you to John Geraci for transportation.
- 470+ bags of rice and beans bagged at St. Timothy's on Sunday, November 17 with the help of many parish members. Thank you to Allen Hirashiki and Michelle Russell for helping to organize this. Thank you for Bev Matsunaga for coordinating the delivery from Costco.
- Thank you to the volunteers who helped me sign-up parish families on Sunday.
- Thank you to our scouts for your help on Saturday, December 7 loading ALL those boxes!
- Thank you to the clergy for your active support.
- Thank you to the donors who sponsor this effort each year.

WINTER NIGHTS SHELTER

Think ahead! Our Winter Nights Shelter will be March 9-23rd. More information to follow in the coming weeks.

<https://www.sainttimothysdanville.org/winter-nights-shelter.html>

Coffee Hour Hosts: Needed and Thank You!

We offer coffee hour and fellowship between the 8:30 and 10am services and often after the 10am service. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to host coffee and fellowship. We always need more help! Here are the dates that still need to be filled:

January 12, 19,
February 2, 16, 23
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29



To sign up and find more details, go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4cacac23a64-coffee>

NEW BEGINNINGS FOR TRINITY CENTER

Trinity Center opened its doors in 2013 in Walnut Creek to serve as a respite for the homeless community in our area. In 2014, Steve Mason (who was already volunteering at TC) called a meeting for volunteers interested in joining the hot lunch preparation project for Trinity Center clients which numbered from 40 to 50 persons. About 6 or 7 of us showed up at the meeting and thus began our culinary adventure! It lasted for 6 full years! We served our first lunch in February, 2014 and our final lunch on December 6, 2019.

The lunches consisted of a main dish, rolls, salad and cookies. For the first several years Jacque Chiavini made her fabulous homemade gourmet cookies for the TC clients. They always looked forward to dessert! We cooked the lunches in our church kitchen and ferried them in large pans to the TC site. However, due to a food poisoning incident at one of the public Thanksgiving dinners served in an area church, the health department ruled that all the food must be cooked in a certified kitchen. Since our kitchen was not certified we had to make our future lunches at the TC site.

Throughout this time, since the beginning, plans were being discussed for the future to open a larger facility which would include housing, social services and resources. And that future has now become the present! St. Paul's Commons where the new housing and Trinity Center services are is now a reality. The first housing resident will be moving in this month and the service facility will be occupied in February.

Our volunteer roster during our cooking tenure has been way more than 6 – at least 25 to 30 different people have helped us along the way. Many thanks to all who participated in this project. Other than seeing homeless people on the streets, many of us had never talked with them or engaged with them in any way. It was our privilege to meet them and become friends with them. We were always on the receiving end of their smiles, compliments and genuine gratitude for the food. We are profoundly grateful for this rewarding life experience to literally be God's hands in this world.

With this move, TC has contracted with Loaves and Fishes to provide the lunches for the clients. We can still volunteer at TC by forming a team of volunteers to serve the food on a given day once a month. Here's a great opportunity for anyone/everyone who has made a New Year's resolution to give back, get involved, do more, to make a positive difference in 2020. We need a leader and a team.

Vestry Meeting Highlights – December 2019

The vestry met in Grace House on Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

MOTIONS:

- A draft deficit budget for 2020 was approved by the vestry with the cuts recommended by the Finance Committee.
- The addition of Ken Anderson to the Finance Committee was approved.
- The 2020 annual housing allowance resolutions for Pastor Todd and Pastor Susan were approved as proposed by the Treasurer.
- The vestry approved the Treasurer, Neal Matsunaga and Pastor Todd as the authorized office and authorized representative, respectively for the Heritage Bank credit card for Noah's Ark.
- The minutes of the November 2019 vestry meeting, the submitted treasurer reports, the rector's report and the Property and Children and Youth Commission reports were approved as submitted.

OTHER TOPICS:

Vestry:

- The nominating committee (Alison Fletcher, Lisa Perry and Cathy Hager) reported on their actions to recruit nominees for the 2020 vestry. One of the 15 people they contacted has said maybe.
- Vestry composition, size and organization was discussed
- Vestry members were requested to send 2 possible names of vestry members to Pastor Todd.

Parish Hall Improvement Project

- The new sound system worked extremely well for the Christmas Concert. The donor and Darita are happy with the results.
- The Property Committee is working on a priority list of the rest of the donation for improving the Parish Hall. Input from the parish was solicited in November and December.

Website

A revised website aimed at improving the display of information on the phones that most people use for web surfing was rolled out using the current website URL. The display of the information varies depending on whether the site is viewed on a phone or tablet or a computer. Parish members are encouraged to look at the revised site and send feedback to the Pastor Todd (rector@sainttimothysdanville.org)

Bookkeeper

Steve Zimmerman has joined the staff as the new bookkeeper. Steve is in the office on Mondays and Thursdays.

Endowment Fund

The St. Timothy's Endowment Fund received a donation of \$100,000 in December. The donor designated that the income should be used for the enhancement of music and worship and Christian education at St. Timothy's per the direction of the Endowment Committee.

Parish members are welcome to attend Vestry meetings. The next meeting is on Wednesday, January 15, 2020. The minutes of the vestry meeting will be filed in the Parish Office after they are approved by the Vestry.

Submitted by Sally Shea Potts, Vestry Clerk

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