

# TIDINGS



January 2025

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

## *HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

Epiphany Sunday focuses on the revelation of Christ to the world. His presence is the light that dispels darkness. Every year epiphany occurs on the 12th day after Christmas (remember that tedious song....on the first day of Christmas. The song ends yet never seems to end with 12 drummers winding all the way back to that cursed partridge.) This year the 12th day is Monday, so we transfer Epiphany Day back to January 5, Sunday.

As we enter the season of Epiphany, it's a time to reflect on the ways we see and experience the divine in everyday moments. It invites us to recognize the sacred in the ordinary and to carry that light forward, illuminating the path of love, compassion, and understanding in the year ahead.

Specific to the Bible, the season of Epiphany follows Epiphany Day for 8 weeks after. It is a time of revelation and discovery. The season celebrates the manifestation of Christ to all people, starting by the visit of the Magi.

- January 12 baptism of Jesus
- January 19 Jesus turns water into wine
- January 26 Jesus preaches in a synagogue
- February 2 Jesus is presented in the temple
- February 9 Jesus calls Peter
- February 16 The Beatitudes
- February 23 turn the other cheek
- March 2 The Transfiguration



The season encourages us to seek and recognize moments of divine presence in our lives. It's a time for growth, exploration, and deepening our understanding of how the sacred manifests in the world around us, encouraging us to shine our own light in the darkness. Each Sunday is a touch point about how Christ is revealing himself to the world.

Before the season of epiphany ends, we will have Annual Meeting on Sunday February 2. After church around 11:20ish. I'm excited to share some good news with you, but I don't want to reveal the big surprise just yet. We are still facing a deficit year and are actively trying to cut costs in every place we can think of including how many copies of the worship bulletin we make for Sundays, our trash contracts, and who we hire for services on campus...anything that we can do to make the shortfall a little less. I still want to hold off and tell you the good and bad news when we get to annual meeting.

# LOOK UP. LOOK AROUND. GOD WITH US.

The mystery of the Incarnation, God entering the very substance of our world in the baby Jesus, continues into the season of Epiphany. We celebrate “God with us” in the gentle moments of the sleeping child and with the surprise of the unwashed, excited, responsive shepherds who first heard the Good News from fields on the outskirts of town. We ponder with Mary her visit with Joseph to the temple and the greeting of Anna and Simeon who delight in the presence of their Messiah as a child held in the arms of his mother. Do we wonder about Mary who is far from her family or wonder if she looks for angels in the night sky to confirm this new life in her arms? Does she replay in her heart and mind the moment the Angel came to her so many months ago? Does Joseph take the baby who cries as Mary sleeps with all his questions that are unanswered and whisper to Mary “I love you”? Christmas continues in our own ponderings and meditations that lead us deeper into the mysteries of our own lives, even as we think about which decoration we will leave up a little longer.



The Magi in my home traveled across the room to their place before the Christ child on Epiphany, January 6th, a Holy Day around the world. In the Gospel of Matthew, the Magi come from far places to meet a child born a king and return home another way, warned in a dream of the vengeful political power of Herod. We enter Epiphany with the Wise Ones and their caravan of followers, asking ourselves if we too can travel another way in our personal lives. The “turning around” or “metanoia” or new perspective appears to happen when we are confronted by an encounter with Jesus, the Christ. We are invited to “change your life and believe the Message” (Mark 1:15 The Message) In this encounter we are charged to change a world that yearns to know another way of traveling with friends and strangers. We grow in faith and in our powers to serve one another according to gifts given by the Spirit.

Liturgical seasons in the life of the church help us learn to meditate on the life of Christ: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, and Lent. Epiphany means “to reveal”, to shine, to awaken us to the Good News of Christ in the world. The Magi remind us to travel different paths, listen to our hearts, and to pay attention to the wisdom that brings us to see a star that leads us to a sacred place. T.S Eliot is worth rereading in his poem “The Journey of the Magi”

<https://poetryarchive.org/poem/journey-magi/>

In our own journey of heartbreaking moments of disappointment and sorrow, in the silence of the aching pain of anxiety and loneliness, and in the regrets of done and left undone, we are invited to see something new happening in our midst. Transformation is not about casting off shame or “shoulds or oughts” of a New Year of promises and resolves, transformation means seeing ourselves differently, beloved of God, image of God, who has the power to work a change in our hearts that grows deeper, allowing us to go another way of compassion, kindness and mercy.

In this season of Epiphany let' us try to take more time to pray and to listen. God is listening. God is speaking. To abide in Christ is to hear and know the power of Christ in in our embodied self. Walking prayer, singing prayer, painting prayer, sitting prayer, writing and journaling prayer, pausing when we read a meditation to allow the presence of God to rest in our hearts can speak to us in different times and different seasons. God is calling us to be a healing presence in the world, a light of Hope and Love.



*Susan*

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



During Winter nights, children will have activities about the stories in the Bible for the season of Epiphany in church. Children may sit in pews or gather in the children's space at the west end of the church.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### MLK MARCH: Monday January 20

Join fellow members of DioCal and thousands more from around the Bay Area in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day March in San Francisco. Coretta Scott King and the Rev. Cecil Williams began the march in the 1980's, and it is now sponsored by the NorCal MLK Foundation.

Gathering time: 10:45am

Meeting location: [San Francisco Caltrain Station](#) at Fourth and Townsend Streets

March route: We will march past [Oracle Stadium](#) and follow Third Street to our final destination: [Yerba Buena Gardens](#). There, we will hear speeches from local religious, civic, and civil rights leaders. The march route on Third Street is level, with no hills to navigate.



***Come walk with us!***

*Lauren & Todd  
before 2018 March*



# SHARE THE WARMTH DRIVE



Help keep our brothers and sisters warm this winter. We are collecting the following items:

- Socks: wool or wool blend, cotton socks (not white)
- Knit caps, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, warm clothing such as jackets and sweaters
- Plastic ponchos & emergency mylar blankets for homeless rain kits
- Used, clean sleeping bags

Collection boxes will be in these locations on Sundays:

- Outside the church entry
- Grace House entry until 11:15am on Sundays and weekdays during office hours (Tuesday - Thursday, 10am - 3pm)

For your convenience, feel free to **order needed items** and **ship directly to St. Timothy's** (1550 Diablo Rd 94526).

Below are Amazon links to some example / suggested items.

Click [HERE](#) for ponchos.

Click [HERE](#) for thermal blankets. (Examples)

Click [HERE](#) for wool / wool blend socks

Click [HERE](#) for cotton socks

**Come help sort and count the items** after the last service on **Sunday, January 19th** in Grace House. It was fun last year!

For info: Contact Leslie F, [lesliefirth@comcast.net](mailto:lesliefirth@comcast.net)

## SHARE THE WARMTH CLOTHING DRIVE SPECIAL REQUEST

We are looking for warm clothing donations for a family of four being sponsored by an organization that helps immigrants. They can be new, or worn but in good condition.

- Size 11, 13 years old, female
- Size 4, 4 years old, male
- Size M in sweaters and size 36 in pants, 45 years old, male
- Size XL or 14 in pants, 36 years old, female

They will be so grateful for anything that we can supply for them.

# BOOK GROUP - JANUARY 19



St Timothy's Book Group gather on Sunday, January 19 to talk about "The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post" by Allison Pataki. Who among the movers and shakers in Washington, D.C. when partying with Marjorie Merriweather Post would have suspected that her history included outrunning the Nazis in London, crawling through Moscow warehouses to rescue the Tsar's treasures, and serving the homeless during the Great Depression? Marjorie Post was an heiress from the C.W. Post Cereal Company and before she was 30 was the wealthiest woman in the United States. She married 4 times to:

- an investment banker,
- the financier – E.F. Hutton, with whom she developed Birds Eye Foods and built Mar-a-Lago,
- Joseph Davies – who became the ambassador to the USSR, where she started collecting Russian art and finally to
- Herbert May, an executive V.P. of Westinghouse.

Mrs. Post purchased the Hillwood Estate in Washington, D.C. between her 3rd and 4th marriages. Today, it is a magnificent decorative arts museum with wonderful gardens (<https://hillwoodmuseum.org/>).

Join the Book Group in the Overby Library after church to discuss the book and Marjorie Merriweather Post. Book Group Contact – Sally Shea Potts ([sallyspotts@gmail.com](mailto:sallyspotts@gmail.com))



# COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

**Let's show our college students some love!**

Collection Dates: Now through February 2nd

Packing Date: Thursday, February 6th at 1pm

Do you have a college student whom we could surprise? Can you donate items?

Please consider signing up to donate items that we can box up and surprise our students with. Check out our SignUp Genius link for needed items and sign up!

Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

or [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/collegecarepackages2025#/  
/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/collegecarepackages2025#/)

**Contact the office to let us know of your college student.** We will need a good mailing address too. ([parish@sainttimothysdanville.org](mailto:parish@sainttimothysdanville.org))

We will be packing up boxes on Thursday,

**February 6th** at 1:00pm in Grace House. No need to sign up... just come if you'd like to help!

Thank you!



# SCOUT SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 23

***Calling all Scouts!***



Cub Scouts, Brownies, Webelos, Girl Scouts, BSA Scouts, and Adult Scouters and Leaders. ***Please join us on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the 10 AM service to celebrate Scout Sunday.***

We want to celebrate all our hard-working scouts. We will have jobs for readers, greeters, and ushers available. Don't worry - you will have someone to help you, so you'll know what to do and when to do it. Even if you don't want a job on Sunday, please come in uniform so St. Timothy's can celebrate you!

The scouts will also be hosting the coffee hour after the service. Let Mrs. Koteskey know if you can bring some treats for the coffee hour.

Please come in uniform and email Mrs. Koteskey at ([Debbie.koteskey@gmail.com](mailto:Debbie.koteskey@gmail.com)) if you would like one of the jobs at the service or have any questions.

*We can't wait to celebrate all our Scouts!*

# LENTEN LECTIONARY WRITERS NEEDED



Calling all writers! And non-writers! And those would-be authors, and children, and basically everybody at St. Timothy's. It is time to sign up to write a page in the 2025 Lenten Lectionary.

What is the Lenten Lectionary? It is a series of short meditations written by parishioners for parishioners to help us find meaning in our Lenten Journey. And this year, you could give us the gift of yourself—your thoughts, inspirations, joys, worries, or fears—that have helped you to grow into the person God wants you to be. No one is too old or too young to contribute.

Please make this the year you decide to write for us. You will be surprised by the way your meditation will help others find God during Lent.

Ash Wednesday is March 5 this year. That means I need to get all of my authors during January so we have time to put the Lectionary together in February.

To volunteer, please contact Helen C today! [colemanhelen@pacbell.net](mailto:colemanhelen@pacbell.net)

## CONFIDENTIAL PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE

### **Confidential Prayer**

Are you or someone you know needing prayers? Our confidential prayer team would be honored to pray for you. Just send your request to [prayers@sainttimothysdanville.org](mailto:prayers@sainttimothysdanville.org) and we will forward your request to our pray-ers.

Questions? Contact Helen C (925-831-1728) or Patti F (925-979-9043)

### **Pastoral Care**

Did you know that the hospital does not call clergy to let them know that you are in the hospital? You may fill out a form saying that you are "Episcopalian" but privacy issues mean that your pastors will not be called by a hospital chaplain—or anyone else on staff unless you specifically request it.

Please let your clergy know if you are in the hospital and would like a visit or prayers--or ask a friend or family member to call the church. You can even tell us –“I don't want a visit—only a call and healing prayers.” Remember, you can also request a hospital chaplain.

Healing prayers for all of us—Jesus commissions us to pray for healing for ourselves, for one another and for our world.

**PLEASE LET YOUR CLERGY KNOW!**

**CALL: 925-837-4993, ext. 120**

Leave a message. Todd or Susan will receive the message and will return the call promptly.



# EVERYONE LOVES SELFIES!







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bakers and  
St. Nicholas!



Advent Candle Lighting



Advent Reflection  
& Soup Supper





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Christmas Eve





# STITCHING GROUP NEWS

## Stitchers Group Welcomes Winter Nights Shelter Families

The Winter Nights Shelter families are limited in what they can bring to the shelter, but everyone needs a pillow and pillowcase to feel at home. The St. Timothy's Stitchers group made fun pillowcases to welcome the shelter families. The sewing marathon was followed by a holiday potluck to usher in the holiday season.



# RISE AGAINST HUNGER UPDATE

## *Rise Against Hunger Meals Help Timor-Leste!*

On one Saturday morning in October, 90+ St. Timothy's volunteers packed 15,000 meals for the non-profit Rise Against Hunger. Our meals were stored along with others until a waiting shipping container was filled. We received notice that our meals were sent to Timor-Leste, an island just north of Australia. The World Food Program identifies Timor-Leste as a hunger hotspot due to climate related impacts. The Global Hunger Index, which assesses food insecurity categorizes Timor-Leste as having a "serious" level of hunger, undernourishment and undernutrition. The meals you packed will help ensure that people have access to the consistent nourishment they need to live healthy lives.





# CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES 2024 - IT'S A WRAP!



There are 214 client families of Monument Crisis Center (MCC) who will have extra funds for holiday celebrations this year because of your generosity to the St. Timothy's Christmas Food Boxes project.

- Thank you to everyone who supported this with their funds, their efforts in shopping and packing our boxes, their efforts in filling the bags with rice and beans, their help signing up supporters on Sunday mornings and their help loading our truck with the boxes for delivering to MCC.
- Thank you especially to **Debbie Koteskey** and the **Scouts** from Troop 36 who taped together all 140 boxes that we filled on Saturday morning, December 7.
- Thank you to **Benny Aguilar**, manager of the **Safeway** store on Crow Canyon Road in San Ramon who ordered and delivered the food for the 140 boxes and especially John Henry Wells, our Safeway liaison,
- Thank you to **John Geraci** and **Tania Hanson De Young** who managed the truck that transported the boxes to MCC on December 9.
- Thank you to the San Ramon Home Depot store for their support in the purchase of our 214 boxes.

We filled more boxes this year than any other year since Covid and it looks like there will be funds left over to write a generous check to MCC in January to help them purchase food for the leaner winter months and keep the lights on.

**You all are awesome! Thank you so much.**

Christmas Food Boxes Coordinators – Sally P, Cathy H, John H







# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Meet one Future Homeowner at Habitat for Humanities' Esperanza Place



Oleksandr and Tetiana are experts at starting over, but they expect their next beginning to be their last for a long time to come. When they hold the keys to their new home at Esperanza Place, Oleksandr says, “We will be able to breathe.” Walnut Creek is a long way from their native Ukraine, but Oleksandr and Tetiana see it as the place where they and their girls – eight-year-old Oleksandra, or “Sasha,” and four-year-old Maria, or “Masha” – will plant roots and grow their future. And it couldn’t happen a moment too soon. “We are so tired,” Oleksandr says, “having to start our life from the beginning all the time.”

It’s a journey this family has been through before. Oleksandr and Tetiana met while working for the Ukrainian government in Crimea. Upon the Russian annexation in 2014, Oleksandr says, “We had to leave Crimea in one night. We just packed everything into the car, and we came to Kyiv.” In 2017, while working and parenting young Sasha, they each took a chance on a green card lottery to come to the United States. When Tetiana’s application was successful, they decided to leave behind everything they knew. They moved to San Bruno, where a month after arrival, Masha was born. They haven’t returned to Ukraine since a 2021 visit, less than a year before the Russian invasion. And here in the United States, they started again. Despite Oleksandr’s law degree and Tetiana’s Master’s in Economics back in Ukraine, “you have to change your whole life,” Tetiana says. “You have to start from the beginning.” And they did. Oleksandr worked as a shuttle driver before starting at his current company in a variety of roles, while preparing for the California Bar exam and delivery driving on the side. Tetiana, caring for the children while taking classes and preparing to return to work when Masha starts kindergarten this year. Their current rent eats the lion’s share of their monthly income, and much of the rest goes to their family in Ukraine. Savings, they say, is nonexistent. But that is the first thing they’ll change when they purchase an affordable home at Esperanza Place.

It will mean emergency savings and a college fund. A five-minute walk to work instead of Oleksandr’s previous two-hour commute. A bright, open kitchen where Tetiana can lean into her gift for baking – and nurture her dream of someday opening a bakery. Rooms of their own that the girls will decorate with their ample artistic talents, a legacy inherited from their grandfather. “A feeling of stability,” Oleksandr says.

<https://www.habitatebsv.org/blog/meet-oleksandr-tetiana-future-homeowners>



# VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

December 18, 2024

The Vestry met on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 6:30pm in Grace House.

## MOTIONS:

- The Vestry unanimously approved the November 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 2025 Housing Resolutions for Rev. Todd Bryant and Rev. Susan Geissler-O'Neil.
- The Vestry unanimously approved the 8-week Sabbatical plus 1 week of continuing education for Rev. Susan in early 2025. Also approved was and 12-week sabbatical for Rev Todd in the summer of 2025. Exact dates to be determined

### 1. Clergy Housing Allowance

- The housing resolutions were approved for Reverend Todd and Susan.

### 2. Sabbaticals

- Reverend Susan will take an 8-week sabbatical plus an additional week for continuing education in early 2025. Exact date to be determined.
- Reverend Todd will take an 8-week sabbatical during the summer of 2025. Exact dates to be determined.

### 3. Financials

#### Financial Summary for November YTD, 2024

	Actual	Budget
Total Income	\$668,618	\$673,018
Total Expenses	<u>\$756,956</u>	<u>\$791,430</u>
Net Operating Income	(\$88,339)	(\$118,412)

### 4. Facilities

- The large oak on Diablo Road is down and all wood has been removed.

### 5. Scouts

- Scouts will build a bench in the back parking area by the storage sheds.
- Scouts will construct a wooden post with chain to close off access to Saint Timothy's back, non-developed area.

### 6. Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2025

Parish members are welcome to attend Vestry meetings. The next meeting is on Wednesday January 15th, 2025, 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.

Respectfully submitted by Kris Manning

# CONTRA COSTA INTERFAITH COALITION NEEDS

In addition to the ongoing needs for bedding in twin, full, and queen sizes, CCIC is getting requests for blankets. It's cold. Please check your closets. We are completely out of twin size sheets / blankets / comforters. If you have any extra bedding, especially blankets, we would love to receive them in the barrel outside Grace House.



## ANNUAL MEETING

**February 2**

Immediately following our **ONE worship service** (10am), we present the coming year's budget, celebrate our ministries, elect vestry, and elect delegates. The annual meeting will be online, but to vote on anything, you must be present in church.

## CONTACT US

**The Rev. Todd Bryant** - Rector  
(925) 837-4993 x114  
Rector@SaintTimothysDanville.org

**The Rev. Susan Geissler-O'Neil** - Associate Rector  
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Sgeissleroneil@SaintTimothysDanville.org

**Myles Ellis** - Director of Music  
(925) 837-4993 x115  
MusicDir@SaintTimothysDanville.org

**Monika Miller** - Facilities  
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Facilities@SaintTimothysDanville.org

**Steve Zimmerman** - Bookkeeper  
(925) 837-4993 x116  
Bookkeeper@SaintTimothysDanville.org

**Dick Firth** - Treasurer (Volunteer)  
(925) 837-4993 x117  
Treasurer@SaintTimothysDanville.org

**Kimberly Bryant** - Parish Administrator  
(925) 837-4993 x110  
Parish@SaintTimothysDanville.org

**Carleen Carns** - Pledge Secretary (Volunteer)  
Pledges@SaintTimothysDanville.org

**Pastoral Care Line**  
(925) 837-4993 x120



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