

TIDINGS



May 2025

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

A Wonderful Season After Easter

Holy Week and Easter didn't catch us by surprise—but I was surprised by how beautifully and smoothly we moved through these sacred days. I'm extremely pleased with our 2025 worship cycle leading to Easter Sunday.

Adult Education. Our Lenten series was excellent. Thank you **Rob, Judy, Micheal, Shelley, and Myles** for the different Sunday in Lent that you led.

Rob took us higher, while Judy showed us the power fellowship and cooking, Michael pointed us to art as a doorway to seeing God. Shelley showed us the life of the remarkable Dorothy Day. And of course, Myles got us singing and interested in the history and logistics of making music.

A heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who made it possible: **Altar Guild, Liturgical Art Team, Dedication Contributors, visiting brass musicians, fellowship leaders, vestry, music program members, volunteer coordinators, administrative staff,** and our beloved "**fire people.**" Your dedication shines.

Easter Sunday felt like pre-pandemic Easters of old (old like 2019). We were popping out of the seams and having fun doing it.

Workday

Thank you **Scott** for pulling the team together to spruce up our campus ahead of Holy Week, Easter and Earthfest. We ate the "health food" of donuts and pizza and worked all through the breaks on Sunday, April 6.

"Thomas" Sunday

The Sunday after Easter is usually a form of whiplash. We have the busiest Sunday of the year, Easter Sunday, followed by one of the slowest. 2025 was my favorite Thomas Sunday ever, as we got to baptize Enzo, who could probably sleep through a hurricane.

EarthFest: A Day to Remember

EarthFest on May 4th was a true celebration of collaboration, bringing together the inter-faith community of the San Ramon Valley. We've included plenty of pictures inside!



Thanks to the efforts of over 200 people, the event ran like a well-oiled machine. A special shout-out to **Kari**, whose experience from past events—and her deep knowledge of our campus—helped guide all our efforts in the right direction. **Shelley** also wore many hats, especially in coordinating the volunteers from St. Timothy’s, and did a fantastic job. **Karen and Monika**, have spent nearly the whole year working on cracks, paint, and lights to get us ready for the throng of guests that came to EarthFest.



You might think I’m given to hyperbole when I say over 200 people made EarthFest possible—but counting the patio displays, presenters, and interfaith partners, but I’m probably understating the numbers.

Looking Ahead: Youth End-of-Year Gathering

Saturday, May 18 | Lafayette Reservoir

Join us for our final Deanery youth gathering before summer—a relaxed picnic at the Lafayette Reservoir. See page 4 for more information.

Prayer for the Summer ahead

Summer at St. Timothy’s is not a time to pause our spiritual life—it’s a season to deepen it in quieter, more spacious ways. The rhythms change, the pace slows, but the Spirit does not. God is at work in the growing things, the longer evenings, the open spaces in our hearts. I hope you’ll find time this summer to rest, to reconnect with what nourishes you, and to be surprised by the small ways grace shows up when we’re paying attention. Worship continues every Sunday, and even if you’re traveling, your prayers stay with us. You can also join us on the livestream to pray while you are on the move.

We are also a people who know how to rest in the goodness of God. Whether you’re showing up on Sundays, heading out on adventures, or just trying to catch your breath, know that you are part of the living body of Christ here. This summer, let’s lean into the gift of holy rest, sacred wonder, and quiet trust. God is already preparing the way ahead— I am praying for you, pray for me this summer while I am on sabbatical.

Todd



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?



With the first flush of green in the spring our attention turns upwards to the unfurling leaving and a profusion of wildflowers in surprising places and color appearing in all kinds of gardens, perhaps your own. Attentive observers find green in previously barren places and growth even in roadways where it is not welcome.

God is the first gardener, welcoming the profusion of color and pollinators, the red dragonfly a delight and surprise as it pauses, almost timeless in our space. And Mary thought the Risen Lord was the gardener tending to the place where beloveds lay in tombs of stone. She recognized her Teacher in that place where she had come to mourn—a garden—and found new Life.

We too are invited to be gardeners, tending the flowers deadheading the blooms, weeding, and tending the blossoms that will become fruit that is good to eat. In the profusion of color and scent, and the buzz of tiny wings, we are invited to quiet our bodies, our minds and our hearts; the Gardener who walks with us always, is welcoming us to slow down and tend the garden of



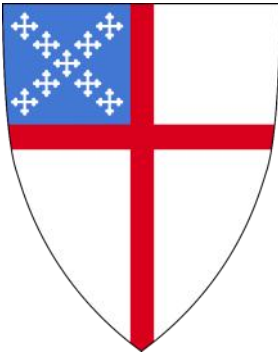
our souls. Christ is the one who delights in us and abides with us, finding new pathways to walk with us and helping us to till the soil of generosity of spirit.

Thank you to all who are tending gardens. Thank you to all who prayed for the I-SRV EarthFest and welcomed others to recollect and share in the power of God's green earth in our little part of St. Timothy's. Have you recently walked our labyrinth or said a prayer in the meditation garden or your own garden? God is calling. God is waiting to meet us as the sun beckons us to grow in all the ways we are called to become more loving because we are loved.

Susan+



CONFIRMATION



What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a sacramental rite in which individuals make a mature commitment to Christ and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop. Confirmation preparation is a time of deepening faith, affirming baptismal vows, learning more about our faith and history as Christians and Episcopalians, and taking an active role in the larger church community.

We will explore our faith journey to discover the “Way of Love” and joy in our tradition. Whether you were baptized as an infant, youth, or adult, confirmation is an opportunity to explore your faith, understand Episcopal traditions, and embrace your calling to serve Christ and the Church.

We will begin our youth classes in the Spring and continue them in the Fall with Confirmation planned for Sept. 21st, here at Saint Timothy’s, with Bishop Rios.

Our first meetings for youth will be May 25th and June 1st, after church with pizza!

Questions? Contact Pastor Susan, sgeissleroneil@sainttimothysdanville.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

Join us for our final Deanery youth gathering before summer—a relaxed picnic at the Lafayette Reservoir. I’ll be bringing turkey pinwheels and sparkling water from Costco. If your youth would like to take out a paddle boat for an hour, please bring **\$15**.

A **blanket** for sitting on the grass is also highly recommended!

Logistics:

- *Leaving from St. Timothy’s:*
Meet at 12:30 PM if your youth needs a ride. We’ll leave shortly after.
- *Meeting us there:*
Drop off at 1:00 PM and pick up at 3:00 PM at the Lafayette Reservoir.



COFFEE HOUR & FELLOWSHIP

NEEDS your support!

We know that everyone enjoys the coffee/tea and treats following the 10 am service. We are looking for more people to help in this very valuable fellowship time.

How can you help? Volunteer to be a host and bring goodies; it's simple:

Coffee Hour
HOST
Following the 10 am service
Needed!



[SignUp Genius](#) or,
see [Signup Sheet](#) on the table



And, there's always someone willing to show you the ropes.

THANK YOU!

FOYER GROUPS



2025 Foyer group sign-ups are beginning!

Renew solid friendships and meet new parishioners by signing up for a Foyer Group.

Foyer groups are a gathering of about 8 parishioners meeting together informally for a meal or a simple social gathering. Participants meet typically four times for a pot-luck lunch, dinner, dessert, or even

afternoon tea. They gather at each other's homes, outside, in the courtyard at church, or at a location of the group's choice. They rotate who brings what with the host family providing the entrée.

It's a social activity that helps us to get to know each other in new ways.

Hope you will think about signing - up to participate. Look for Sally or Sue outside of church May 18, 2025 through June 1, 2025, for in person sign ups or questions.

The foyer groups will be randomly formed at the end of June and kicked off when your group decides - as early as July or later, if desired.

Sign up [HERE](#) or <https://sugeni.us/VFAz> or scan the QR code.

CONTACTS: Sally Jess & Susan Oki



PROPERTY COMMISSION HAPPENINGS

Take a look at your beautiful campus. Motivated by the opportunity for Saint Timothy's to host EarthFest and knowing we were going to have huge number of people on our grounds, we looked around to see what needed sprucing up and maintenance around the campus. On our Work Day, April 6th and beyond, we had a gang that went to work:

Benches on the patio – they were sanded and painted by many people including Neal M., Ed L., Scott M., Karen A., Kimberly and Andrew B. Later the Scouts put in another new bench as an Eagle Scout project, and they painted the remaining benches. There is only one bench left to go, and then the Scouts will have replaced ALL the old rotting benches for us. A big THANK YOU to the Scouts for all this work to have a beautiful patio. Also, thanks to Charlie W. for cutting back tree suckers on the patio trees and to Jim P. for working in the pre-school garden.

Parish Hall: The small bathroom down the back hall has had a face lift with upgrading the hardware by Leslie F, and the installer was Mike O., putting a new ventilation fan cover installed by Scott M., painting the cabinet by Rob W. and taking off scuff marks off the wall by Izzy K. This was a group project that turned out nicely. Thanks everyone.

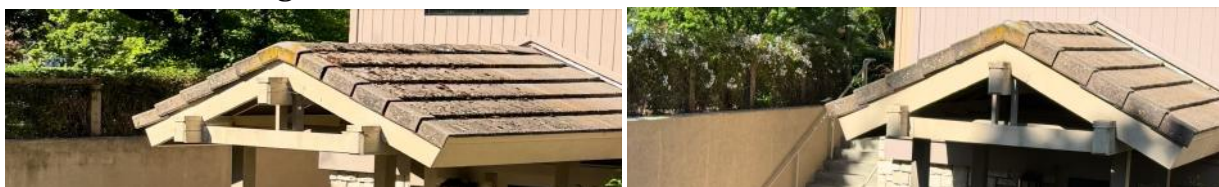
The soffit lights along the side walls have had all the missing plastic diffusers replaced. They were cleaned for the first time in 4 years. Thanks to Teresa C-K, Izzy and Mateo K, and Leslie F. for dusting the soffits and replacing all the plastic, and to Sally Shea P. for washing the panels.

Sidewalk behind the parish hall had old wood and pipes which were discarded, and more pebbles were added by Karen and Landen A., to cover the old unsightly black plastic.

Landscaping: Karen A. and Monika M. have been keeping all the trees and plantings on the grounds very well maintained. The Meditation Garden and Labyrinth look beautiful and are peaceful places to be. The water fountain was repaired, and water is flowing again.

Watering and feeding of Plants: Jacque C. does a great job of tending to the plants on the premises all the time. Thank you, Jacque. The plants love you back.

Power Washing: Many areas were in dire need of being cleaned of black mold and Kimberly B. came to the rescue. The stone planters in front of the church, the stairs and huge wall down to the outside entry of the basement, and the breezeway were all cleaned by Kimberly B. and it was a major project, even if she was in "her happy place" while doing it. The small roof over the back entry to basement was covered in bird droppings and mold that accumulated over 29 years. I called "Blast Away" Pressure Washing by Dylan (see on Nextdoor site) and he did the job pro bono for us and even came back without being asked, to make sure it looked right.



Lighting Repairs on the lighted Street Sign: Thanks to Walter W. for doing repairs.

Yearly Fire Inspection – We passed it!

With a Campus as large and as active as ours, we always have a list of projects, big and small. We also have a list of Handy Persons. We appreciate anyone who would like to use their skills to help us keep our church and campus well maintained. Please contact Scott M. or Karen A. if we could add you to that list. From time to time, those folks get an email and if they can, they claim projects from the list and get them sorted.

New HVAC Units for Grace House needed – After 29 years, and about 4 years beyond their anticipated lifespan, two of the units have failed and need replacement. They affect the bottom floor room and the conference room in building. This is a huge job because they are on the third floor of Grace House and require a large crane to remove and install new ones so it makes sense to replace them all. Trees will need to be trimmed to allow the crane to come in the back lot. This is a major project and a large expenditure. After much research and discussion, the Property Commission, with Vestry approval, voted to purchase Heat Pump units. Besides being efficient and using electricity, they will mitigate the rising cost of natural gas in the future, as well as leave the option open for going solar in the future if we so desire.

Water Leaks and elevator repair - March 18, we found leaking water from the ceiling into the elevator hydraulic closet, and the electrical closet. Redwood tree roots had made their way under Grace House and into a sewer line. Roots had also made their way into a second line near the front of Grace House. Mud was blocking a third plumbing line. The pressure of the blockage forced water into the basement closets, elevator hydraulic box, several of our walls, and the hallway of Grace House basement near the elevator. All lines are clear now. These lines are now added to the tri-annual clearing and camera check of the lines. The elevator is back in service. The drywall damage has been repaired, and the painting and baseboards jobs will be completed soon. (See photos below.)

Submitted by Leslie Firth

Contact: Scott M. your People's Warden/Property Commissioner with any questions.



HAPPENINGS AROUND CAMPUS



Work Day



Office Volunteer Training



Wonderful Altar Guild





Good Friday



Easter Vigil



Easter Prep



Easter Vigil



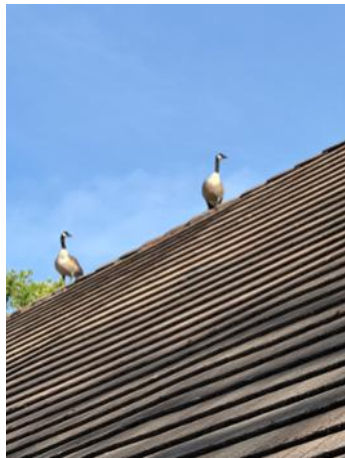
Stations of the Cross



Easter Vigil



Palm Sunday



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&

Baptism



HOPE SOLUTIONS BACKPACK DRIVE

Hope Solutions 14th Annual 2025 Backpack Drive



We are excited to launch our 2025 annual backpack drive at Hope Solutions! With your help we hope to equip over 400 children in our programs with the supplies necessary for a successful school year. Support our backpack drive by **providing packed backpacks or by making a monetary donation.**

Hope Solutions Backpack Drive
has started earlier than usual this year.

[Make a Monetary Donation](#)

[Donate a Backpack](#)

**At Saint Timothy's, we are not collecting filled backpacks.
The drive is only on-line and Hope Solutions has made it so easy for you.**

Just click on the red rectangle links above, and it will open up to give you many options with photos and descriptions and how much that donation will cost to supply a backpack for different aged students. There is a form to make your donations with a credit card. If you can't open the link, go to www.hopesolutions.org.

If you would like to send a check, please make it out to
**Hope Solutions, 399 Taylor Blvd., Suite 115
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523**
with **"Backpack Drive - St. Timothy's"** on the memo line
and mail it to them or hand the check to Leslie during Sunday services after May 25th.

Thank you for supporting the most vulnerable members of our community!
Your gift ensures that students in our programs have the tools they need to succeed.

For more info, contact: Leslie F at Lesliefirth@comcast.net

WOMEN'S TEA



You are invited to the

N.E.W.

(New Episcopal Women)

Afternoon Tea

Join us for a relaxing 3-course tea as we gather to reconnect with old friends and make new friends.

Saturday June 28th, 2025

1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Our Speaker will be

Reverend Deacon Patrica Pearson

*Please RSVP no later than June 22nd to
Lisa@PMCAPP.com or 925-785-8015*

Cost: \$20



2025 PASCHAL CANDLE

The design this year features the monogram of Jesus, JHS, “Jesus Hominum Salvator” meaning Jesus Redeemer of Mankind or Jesus Savior of Mankind in Latin. The JHS letters are derived from the first three letters of the Greek name for Jesus, IH Σ which was a common emblem in the Middle Ages. Other symbols on the candle are the Cross, the Alpha and the Omega Revelation 22:13 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End”.), Easter lilies and the current year.

It has always been such an honor to come up with a design for our Paschal Candle over the years. The significance and the symbolism seemed to be intensified for me this year. At the Great Vigil on Saturday evening, I watched the new Paschal Candle being lit over the new fire for the very first time, I knew once again this was no ordinary candle but one representing the Risen Christ, the Light of the World. And when it’s flame was transferred to each of our candles, we shared that light together as a Christian community.

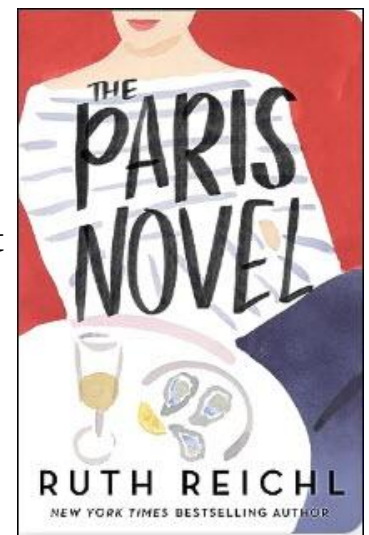
Kathy Wills



BOOK GROUP - JUNE 22

On Sunday, June 22, the St Timothy’s Book Group will gather in the Overby Library after the 10:00 am service to discuss *The Parish Novel* by Ruth Reichl. What would you do if you had a bequest from your estranged mother with a note saying GO TO PARIS? A childhood trauma have made the central character, Stella, adverse to adventure and comfortable with her strict routines. Could you leave your comfort zone and seek enlightenment and new experiences in the “City of Light”? Join us to discuss our reaction to this problem and the adventures of Stella with oysters, an octogenarian art collector, a Manet painting and the famous Shakespeare & Company bookstore.

The Book Group will not meet in May, July and August. We will gather again on September 22 to discuss *The Backyard Bird Chronicles* by Amy Tan.



Book Group Coordinator – Sally P (sallyspotts@gmail.com)

FRUITS OF THE HARVEST (FOTH)



NOT ALL SUPERHEROES WEAR CAPES

The Outreach Committee is now planning the 2025 fundraiser for Outreach Ministries. This is a parish wide event that brings us all together to have a party with a purpose. Over 27 years we have had many different themes and we encourage people to get into the spirit by wearing costumes if you wish, or come as your great self. Let your imagination fly by coming as your favorite superhero. It can be Superman, or Supergirl, Ironman, or any one of the caped heroes. But it can also be someone who you consider to be a famous hero, or it can be your own personal hero in any category. We can't wait to see what your imagination brings us that night.

SILENT AUCTION FOR THE FRUITS OF THE HARVEST FUNDRAISER

Your FOTH donations chairs (Kimberly Bryant and Alison Hill) have been thinking of creative new ideas for the silent auction. To that end, we are asking everyone to please start thinking about how YOU can contribute to the silent auction. This event will only be a success for our beneficiaries if you help with your donations.

1. Would you donate a **gift card(s)** to your favorite restaurants, shops, activities, coffee shops, bakeries, etc.? We would LOVE lots of gift cards in a variety of amounts!
2. Would you consider **hosting a party or a dinner, event, experience, activity, class, or tour, etc.** YOU get to control all of the details – what, when, who, how many... you can also host these with another friend or couple.
3. **MYSTERY BOXES** are back! Would you like to curate a mystery box of your favorite things? You put together an interesting box of items or with a special theme. It must have a value of at least \$150 or more, and they are sold for that amount. It's exciting to see what surprises you will get.

You will get lots more information about each of these opportunities from Kimberly and Alison later in the summer. For now, start thinking about how you'd like to contribute to the success of this year's FOTH! Thank you!

Contact for more information: foth@sainttimothysdanville.org

VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

April 23, 2025

The Vestry met on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 6:30pm via Zoom.

MOTIONS:

- The Vestry unanimously approved the minutes from March 19th Vestry Meeting, the reports and documents submitted by the treasurer, and several submitted rector and commission reports submitted prior to the meeting.
- The Vestry unanimously approved moving forward with CC Climate Control to approve an expenditure of up to \$145,000 for the HVAC system which includes the heat pump option, and to commission the Property Team to do research on the durability and longevity of the systems. The Property Team will have the final decision-making authority.
- The Vestry unanimously approved to modify the Guidelines for the Endowment Fund of Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church, Danville, California, dated July 7, 2007.

Financials

St. Timothy's Danville Treasurer's Report Financial Summary for the First Quarter of 2025

	Actual	Budget
Total Income	\$393,333	\$197,776
Total Expenses	<u>\$222,381</u>	<u>\$221,788</u>
Net Operating Income	\$170,952	(\$24,012)

Comments

- St. Timothy's continues to be in good financial condition through the first quarter of 2025.
- We are facing some major maintenance expenses this year. The first of these is the replacement of the HVAC systems in Grace House. We believe that we have sufficient funds available for this, thanks to a bequest from Betty Davis given to the church 2.5 years ago.
- The Property Commission is also evaluating the need to repave our parking lots, which will be a substantial expense. When we know more about this project, we will keep you advised.

FYI

- **Preschool:** Building Kidz is moving forward
- **Facilities:** Leak in Grace House basement which involved the elevator cost \$40,000 to repair. Insurance will cover cost.
- **Outreach:** Application for a grant will be made to the Episcopal Impact Fund and passed on to CCIC to help fund their projects.

Parish members are welcome to attend Vestry meetings. The next meeting is on Wednesday May 21, 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

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 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

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.

CONTACT US

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

The Rev. Susan Geissler-O’Neil -
Associate Rector
(925) 837-4993 x113
Sgeissleroneil@SaintTimothysDanville.org

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

Monika Miller - Facilities
(925) 837-4993 x111
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



THE DIOCESE OF
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