



Tidings

November 2021

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

ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S ARTICLE

GRATITUDE. The power of an attentive heart toward all the gifts around us takes practice. It is a practice we can call prayer, or an open heart, or even the discipline of welcoming the moment before us. As we rush toward the holidays, which in this season of still pandemic, we find that most things have changed. What was familiar is not, and not only have many of things we expect changed—we too have changed. I invite you to pay attention to every moment you can in gratitude—to be thankful toward God for even little, tiny things. Perhaps it is the wonderful color of a tree changing colors as it prepares to drop its leaves, or the smell of a candle lit against the dark, or the familiar smell of coffee or tea as the chill grows in the air.

When Jesus looked around him and looked at the beauty of the moment inviting us not to be anxious but to be in the moment, he had just taught the Lord's prayer. God is near us this minute, embrace even this hard moment. God is with us, caring for us, even us we reach out to care for others

"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore, do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed, your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today. Matthew 6:28-33

This season we are grateful for the whole community of Saint Timothy's—the people I like to call the pray-ers—the people who pray for us often—when we are awake and when we are asleep. These are the pray-ers whose voice God alone hears and the prayers we hear for one another in person, in text, or on the phone. We are grateful for the people who have supported us as we move through this time in Church with live-stream, with in-person worship, and with the beginning of in person fellowship. We give thanks for a large tech team who extend our voices out into the community and thanks for music, the music in our hearts and the raised voices in song and instruments that bring us closer to God in praise and in prayer. We give

thanks for the many ways we reach out to provide food for hungry families with children and hungry adults who have lost their way—and thanks for the silent gratitude that sometimes cannot be spoken aloud. We give thanks for the families that care for our children and thanks for the children who remind us of wonder and love in the midst of hurt and loneliness. We are grateful for Pastor Todd and especially grateful for his faithful leadership during this pandemic and keep him in our prayers during his sabbatical.

For all the things we are, Oh God, and all the way Christ dwells in us, helping us to love and turn toward more Love—we give thanks.

To all of you, thank you for all the things you do for the community, for Saint Timothy's and for wonderful people of faith that you are...uniquely, simply you.

Pastor Susan

ST. TIMOTHY'S STEWARDSHIP 2022

COVENANT SUNDAY WAS A ROUSING SUCCESS!

**2022 Pledge Forms were mailed on October 1
Please call Mike Oliver (510-915-4376) if you have not received yours**

IF YOU HAVE NOT RETURNED YOUR PLEDGE FORM—PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



Tania D Y gave a heartfelt and rousing presentation to the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. services. She clearly emphasized the joy, community, and outreach rewards she has experienced at St. Timothy's. The coffee hours were delightful—the first in 18 months in our beautifully remodeled parish hall.

Thank you to the Stewardship Committee and Adam L, Emma G, Tania D Y and Michael K, for sharing their inspiring visions for the coming year.

The Stewardship committee:

Mike O	Tania D
Emma G	Adam L
Michael K	Sally P

CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES FOR MONUMENT CRISIS CENTER!



Yes, we will do **Christmas Food Boxes** in 2021! As you know, we substituted Thanksgiving Food Bags for Christmas Food Boxes last year due to insurmountable logistics. **YOU ALL WERE FANTASTIC!** Together with Noah's Ark Preschool and Peace Lutheran Church, we donated over 390 bags plus turkeys and cash toward helping our neighbors celebrate Thanksgiving in the midst of a pandemic.

This year will be similar to 2019 – but a little bit different.

FILL-MY-BOX – You can sign up on-line or at church on Sunday or send email to Sally to have one of our volunteer **shoppers** fill your box for you. The cost is more this year due to inflation and other factors. The \$85 covers the food, box and a \$25 grocery gift card (Sally will purchase in bulk).

Cost: **\$85 per box**
Deadline: **Sunday, November 14**

Signup Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4EA5AC2BA7FD0-fill>

MY-OWN-BOX-FILL – Alternatively, families can shop themselves using the list from Monument Crisis Center and donate \$26 to cover the cost of the box and the \$25 grocery card (Sally will purchase). Sign up at church or online or send email to Sally at sallyspotts@gmail.com.

Cost: **\$26 per box**
Deadline: **Monday, November 29**

When can I bring my box(es) to church: **Sundays– November 7, 14, 21 or 28 or Monday Nov 29**

Signup Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4EA5AC2BA7FD0-myownbox>

Or call or email Sally at sallyspotts@gmail.com or 925-785-9823.

SHOPPERS – Would you shop for others? Sign up to shop for 5 or more boxes for others. We will give you the boxes and the list and reimburse you for the food you purchase. If you bring the food to church on Sunday, we will help you pack your boxes.

Signup Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4AAFA62EA20-shopper2>

Or call or email Sally at sallyspotts@gmail.com or 925-785-9823.

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

- Help signing people up on Sundays after church.
- Help Shoppers and people who do their own shopping to pack boxes on Sundays.
- Help move boxes off the stage on Saturday or Sunday, November 27 or 28.
- Help load the truck (with ramp) from MCC on Tuesday, November 30 at 2:00 pm.

NEW DIRECTOR of MUSIC - MYLES ELLIS

We welcome our Director of Music, Myles Ellis who is now joining us for worship and leading our choir. Are you interested in joining the choir as we rush toward Christmas or finally have a moment to sing a-loud and make a joyful noise? Choir rehearsal is at 7:00 on Thursday evenings. Come and join us.



YOUTH RETREATS

This month our youth will be joining four other Bay and Central Valley churches to participate in a day retreat to Mount Hermon in Santa Cruz. There, youth will Zipline through redwoods, participate in small group leadership activities and engage one another about faith. If you know a youth who would like to participate in these activities, please contact Robbie at the contact information at the bottom of the youth news.

Middle School date: Saturday, November 6th (all day) We had a wonderful time!

High School date: Saturday, November 20th (all day)

Deadline to apply: Monday, November 15th

IN-PERSON YOUTH GROUP

Youth from St. Timothy's and San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church gather for in-person youth groups on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. High school youth gather from 4pm to 5:30pm with middle school happening from 5pm to 6:30pm. In these groups, youth play games, eat a meal together and engage one another in discussions about faith and life.

November 14th: @ San Ramon Valley UMC

November 28th: @ St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

ONLINE YOUTH GROUP

Every Sunday night from 7pm to 8pm youth from five churches gather over Zoom to check in over one another and participate in a discussion about faith. This group is perfect for youth of any age to join! We are currently discussing the book "What's the Least I Can Believe and Still be Christian?" in which youth are presented with dogmatic beliefs that are not necessary for a Christian's faith along with components that should be part of every Christians faith.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday night youth from all over the Bay and the Central Valley get together over Zoom to read a chapter of the Bible and discuss its implications to our faith and life today. Youth are currently working through the Book of John. Previous Bible knowledge not necessary to join this group. To join, contact Robbie at the contact information at the bottom of youth news.

For more information contact Robbie Frederiksen at rfrederiksen13@gmail.com
Or call (503) 816-1055

Link is on our website

<https://www.sainttimothysdanville.org/youth-ministry.html>

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation meeting November 14th after 10 a.m. worship

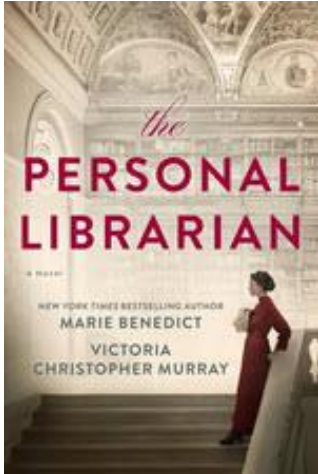
Are you interested in confirmation? We will meet briefly after the 10:00 service outside or in the Parish Hall, depending on the weather, to confirm a good meeting time. Meetings will be a couple times a month, working around school vacations. Confirmation will be held in the Spring. Questions? Sgeissleroneil@sainttimothysdanville.org.

GARY HUNT GIVING PROJECT EVERY SUNDAY!!

Do you have a bounty of fruits and veggies?? Monument Crisis Center needs fresh items for their clients – you can help! Bring your bounty to the St. Timothy's kitchen on Sundays, place in the refrigerator, and items will be delivered on Monday to MCC. We have donated over 100 lbs. of apples (their current favorite sturdy fruit), about 25 lbs. of pear varieties, and 50 lbs. of peaches; along with zucchini, tomatoes, and cucumbers.

If you plan to grow a winter garden, consider planting an extra of something to share!! Winter squash, peas, brussel sprouts, broccoli, cabbage, even onions!! Thank you for supporting the Gary Hunt Giving Project and the Sharing is Caring initiative. For more information or to arrange a non-Sunday donation, contact Kari Doolittle: kari.doolittle@gmail.com/925.984.1657

ST TIMOTHY'S BOOK GROUP – NOVEMBER



Join the people in St. Timothy's Book Group on **Thursday, November 18th at 2:00 pm via Zoom** to discuss *"The Personal Librarian"* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. The Personal Librarian is the remarkable, little-known story of Belle da Costa Greene, J. P. Morgan's personal librarian--who became one of the most powerful women in New York despite the dangerous secret she kept in order to make her dreams come true.

In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene was hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. The Morgan Library became known as a private collection of rare books, manuscripts and art that competed with esteemed public institutions such as the British Museum. It was she who persuaded Jack Morgan to donate his father's astonishing library to the city. It's a gift that honors J.P. Morgan, his descendants — and the personal librarian who was critical to the Morgan's success. Belle becomes a fixture on the New York society scene and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she helps build a world-class collection.

But Belle has a secret, one she must protect at all costs. She was born not Belle da Costa Greene but Belle Marion Greener. She is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality.

Send email to Sally Shea Potts to receive an invitation to the Zoom meeting (sallyspotts@gmail.com).

HEALING PRAYER FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH



Healing Prayer offered on the first Sunday of the month in the back Chapel after the 10 a.m. service

We offer confidential healing prayers for anyone who would like them. Prayers are offered by clergy or trained members of the parish who are commissioned by the clergy. Anointing with holy oil and laying on of hands is available if the recipient wishes. We will follow Covid protocols with disinfecting of hands.

We pray for God's healing which may come in many forms: spiritual, emotional, or physical.

We are here to pray with you. Just come back to the chapel after the service.

ST. TIMOTHY'S PRAYER CHAIN

Do you want confidential prayer support for yourself or a loved one? Our Prayer Chain offers just that! We pray for you for a week or longer if needed. We don't talk about it with you, or with anyone; we just pray.

Please send your requests to: prayers@SaintTimothysDanville.org

St. Timothy's Prayer Chain is a confidential group that will pray about the concerns in your life. While many are health related, no prayer is too small or too large for our group. Please send your prayer requests to prayers@sainttimothysdanville.org and we will be honored to pray with you.

Questions: please contact Helen or Patti at the above email

JOIN THE LIVESTREAM TEAM AT ST. TIMOTHY'S!!



It's fun, easy, and very important to the St. Timothy's community as we continue to share worship together! Training provided and guided each Sunday with backup as you learn... we need you!!

RSVP not needed but helpful: contact Kari Doolittle:

kari.doolittle@gmail.com/925.984.1657

We look forward to expanding our team!

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR TECH TEAM

Thank you to our wonderful technology team—who is making not only Live-stream possible but projecting our bulletins on Sunday! Thank you, Don P, John H, Kari D, Sathwick R, Randy S, Liz K., Emma G and Alex M.

We appreciate the individuals who are also changing our slides during worship with skill and finesse.

Thank you also to Rand M who built our new tech desk—an operations center--where the electronic magic happens and enables our worship leaders to lead us visually and with sound in person and on-line.

FLOWER DONATION



We are looking for donations for the church flower fund for Christmas this year. Members can donate money in the name of loved ones and special events for Christmas. A portion of that money will be used to purchase some Poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas. Any remaining money left after the purchases will be used for future flower purchases for the church.

Envelopes for the donations can be found in the Narthex below the flower chart or, simply send your donation in an envelope to the Parish Administrator marked Christmas donation & wording you want published in the bulletin.

Donations will be accepted up to & including 5th December. Any questions regarding the donation may be made to Cathy Morris: lil.captain.315@gmail.com or [925-300-3555](tel:925-300-3555).

Thank you

LIFE STORY, THURSDAYS AT 9:30, GRACE HOUSE LIBRARY



Writing your Life Story for your children, grandchildren, etc. is not like writing an essay, dissertation, or report. This is a fun thing, and no one is grading your writing. Week by week we write our memories and file them in a 3-ring binder in numerological order; and there we have our Life Story. There is lots of humor and laughter in every person's life. Write about the first and other things follow like "The Best Day of Your Life" with as many details as you remember. Being part of a group, and meeting on a regular basis helps us to keep writing. Enjoying hearing other members writings week by week keeps us on track and brings us ideas from other people's writings.

Saint Timothy's is fortunate in hearing men's and women's stories. The Life Story Writing group meets every Thursday from 9:30 – 11:00 am to give each other support as we enjoy their reading, All the group stories stay private within the group. The St. Timothy's group has been part of Saint Timothy's since 2008 with writers coming and going and some being in the group since 2004. If you are interested writing your Life Story, you are invited to one or more Group meetings at St. Timothy's in the Grace House library on any Thursday morning to experience exactly what goes on and to ask any question you might have Any questions? Friartuck72@comcast.net

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 20, 2021

Financial Highlights

- Financial results through September were positive overall with underruns in loose plate offerings and facilities cost sharing being offset by higher than budgeted pledge and contributing income to date. Expenses also underran by about 8%.
- Year to date budget vs actual results, adjusted for amortizing “pledges paid in full” in the current year, are:

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Pledge Income	\$493,738	\$497,778	\$ 4,040
Other Income	\$ 32,440	\$ 29,819	\$ (2,621)
Expenses	\$565,351	\$522,755	\$42,596
Net Income	\$(39,173)	\$ 4,842	\$44,015

Pledge Income difference due mainly to:

Pledges were better than budgeted in previous months offset by pledges in May, August and September that were less than budgeted. There are also 19 families for \$38,970 who have not made 2021 pledge payments yet.

Other Income difference due mainly to:

Loose Plate \$(5,514) and Facilities Cost Sharing \$(9,153) under budget offset by Contributing Income \$11,647 and Special Gifts \$1,150 above budget.

Expenses – Operating expense difference is the sum of a number of under budget items, with the main ones being:

Personnel expenses \$15,995 under budget due mainly to \$6,299 for administrative assistant/office manager, \$874 for bookkeeper and \$2,034 for childcare assistant position.

Altar Guild expenses \$1,431 under budget

Music expenses \$1,842 under budget

Christian Formation expenses \$1,118 under budget

Children & Youth Ministry expenses \$1,493 under budget

Fellowship expenses \$1,921 under budget

Administrative expenses \$7,036 under budget

Facilities expenses \$9,439 under budget

Contingency expenses \$2,285 under budget

Neal Matsunaga

ST TIMOTHY'S VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

October 2021

The vestry met on Wednesday, October 20, at 6:30 pm in the Grace House Conference and over Zoom

MOTIONS:

- The Vestry voted unanimously to approve the 4 resolutions from the Treasurer regarding the **benefits for parish employees in 2022**.
- The vestry voted to approve the **Grants proposed by the Outreach Committee** subject to the review of the Finance Committee on November 10.
- The vestry voted to approve the new **lease for the office copier** recommended by the Administration Commission. The Finance Committee reviewed the recommendation and recommended using their choice. The committee recommended awarding the lease to WiZiX.
- The vestry approved the proposed agenda for the October meeting, the minutes of the September vestry meeting, the reports by the Treasurer, the Rector and several Commissions.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Budget** – 2022 Budget requests are due by the November vestry meeting on November 17.
- **Parish Family Calls** – Vestry members will again call the parish families assigned to them. They are asked to remind those who have NOT picked up their July 2021 directory that they are available in the church office and after church in November.
- **Masks** – The church reopening committee will work on revised guidelines for mask wearing in church and on campus after November 1 when Contra Costa County changes their rules.

OTHER TOPICS:

- Pastor Todd discussed the efforts to restart **youth groups** for those in Junior and Senior High by Pastor Todd and Robbie Frederiksen with the San Ramon United Methodist Church. Attendance of youth from St. Timothy's has been low.
- **2022 Annual Meeting** will be scheduled for Sunday, February 6.
- **Masks** in church and on the church campus after November 1 when Contra Costa County is scheduled to change the local rules were discussed. Changes for church services will have to wait for guidance from the Diocese of California.

Parish members are welcome to attend Vestry meetings. The next meeting is on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, in the Grace House Conference Room at 6:30 pm.

The minutes of the vestry meeting will be filed in the Parish Office and published on the church web site after they are approved by the Vestry.

Submitted by Sally Shea Potts, Vestry Clerk

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ARE COMING!

November 26 th	First Sunday of Advent
December 5 th	Saint Nicholas Sunday
December 12 th	Sunday afternoon 3:00 Movie Time "The Star" for children and children at heart In the Church Sanctuary
December 19 th	Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24 th	Christmas Eve 3:00 Eucharist especially for children and youth with music 5:00 Eucharist with music 7:30 Eucharist with music and full choir and live stream
December 25 th	Christmas Day – Christmas Eucharist
December 26 th	Sunday after Christmas 10:00 worship with livestream

CONTACT US

The Rev. Todd Bryant – Rector

On Sabbatical

The Rev. Susan Geissler-O'Neil – Associate Rector

(925) 837-4993 x113

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Myles Ellis – Director of Music

(925) 837-4993 x115

musicdir@SaintTimothysDanville.org

Shipra Rastogi – Noah's Ark Preschool Director

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Steve Zimmerman – Bookkeeper

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Bookkeeper@SaintTimothysDanville.org

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(925) 838-1617

Treasurer@SaintTimothysDanville.org

Rebekah Dodda – Office Administrator

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parish@SaintTimothysDanville.org

Carleen Carns – Pledge Secretary (Volunteer)

Pledges@SaintTimothysDanville.org