

TIDINGS



January 2024 - Epiphany
Newsletter of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Danville, CA

Happy Epiphany (and Epiphany Season),

We had a great Christmas together. I want to thank the many, many people who made it all possible. Thank you to: The artists (liturgical arts), the nerds (tech people), the make-sure-the-trains-run-on-timers (liturgy and admin teams), the making-a-list-and-checking-it-twice people (counter and stewardship teams), and You. We have some great pictures inside this edition for you.

This coming Sunday, we celebrate "The Epiphany" at 8 and 10am. At 10am, we have a mini and I mean mini Epiphany/pageant/young people's time. The Epiphany season will last until February 11th. Maybe this calendar fact does not cause you vertigo, but I can't believe that Lent is roughly six weeks away.

Ash Wednesday is on February 14th, Valentine's Day. It will be the most romantic Ash Wednesday, ever. You will feel the love as we remind you of your frailty and mortality.

We have 131 pledges in. Thank you! We need your help us get to 160 pledges. If you have not pledged, please do!

Between Epiphany Sunday and Valentine's Day we have:

January 28th - Deanery wide safe church (whole and healthy church training) for a wide variety of ministry leaders. I am not going to give details here because if you need this training, you will have already received an email from us. Also, if you can't make this training, there will be another with Caren Miles the at Church of the Resurrection on February 4th.

February 4th - **Annual Meeting.** One Service only, at 10am.



I like “Epiphany”

There is the season - celebrating the revelation of God’s love and work in the world to all people

There is the day - commemorating the visit of three wise men

There is the Eureka – you had an Epiphany

I like all three and will spend a good deal of time on those major themes in my sermon notes, which restart on January 14th.

Epiphany, (from Greek epiphaneia, “manifestation”)

Matthew’s story is the first of three Epiphanies in the Gospels. There is also God opening the clouds to say, “This is my son with whom I am pleased” after Jesus’ baptism. Thirdly, maybe you wouldn’t think of this as an epiphany, but Jesus turning water into wine at a wedding is the third major epiphany. Next to Christmas and Easter, epiphany is a big deal for two millennia.

From Britannica: The festival originated in the Eastern church, where it at first included a commemoration of Christ’s birth. In Rome, by 354 Christ’s birth was being celebrated on December 25 (Christmas), and later in the 4th century the church in Rome began celebrating Epiphany on January 6. In the Western church the festival primarily commemorates the visit by the Magi. In the East, it primarily commemorates the baptism of Jesus and celebrates the revelation of Christ as God and human.

(Like a good Episcopalian: I like both east and west).

Today, the weeks after Christmas Eve are pretty slow, but for much of western literature and practice, the Christmas Season, finishing with Epiphany, was a party. The evening before Epiphany is called Twelfth Night. Sound familiar? because I know you all love Shakespeare and we all know that terrible song “on the first day of Christmas....”

Christmas blah, to epiphany cheer

Everything was great for Christmas, except for one tiny detail - one of the TVs died. Never fear, Santa Hagers came in clutch. They bought a new, replacement TV above the bell area, which people sitting in the transept have come to really rely on. Thank you, John and Cathy!



See you at “The Epiphany”! Todd

EPIPHANY LIGHT



Christmas Eve

Photo by: John Hagar

Christmas ends so quickly: the last overlooked ball of crumpled paper, the errant red bow, the ornaments with all their stories put neatly into boxes repurposed from children's snow boots years ago—all gone. The tree still stands; this year the tree is not too dry to leave up in all its glory. With only white lights and the promise of Christ's Light in the world, the tree stands pushing into the Season of Epiphany.

The Magi will come on Epiphany, January 6th, and the Nativity with its Wise Ones who journeyed across the room, will shortly be carefully put away too. Sometimes I take a moment to wonder about the gifts they brought, gold, frankincense, and myrrh: the riches of a king, the fragrance of healing, the perfume that even anoints at death, precious gifts for the baby King. More often I wonder how those scholars knew to go home another way, to avoid the trouble with Herod and the powers of Rome—How is it we know to change direction, go another way, turn in a different direction? I reminded myself to pay attention, to listen. The journey of the astrologers or Magi, point toward another part of the Christ's child's journey--Egypt and then to Nazareth--and now, they too will be put away until Advent next year.

We mark time with holidays, birthdays, and the special events in our lives. Keeping Christmas is as much about remembering the ones we love as it is a celebration of Love as a Child coming into the world. Jesus came as one of us in the ordinary moments of living as one of us. Epiphany? It is both a day and a season of celebrating the revelation of Christ in the world; it is a Theo-phany, a revelation of God for all the people. It is a time for looking for the Light as it is made manifest to us. When it is dark and I see the light of the newly repurposed tree, it makes me smile, and reflect on the God moments of the day.

The dark cumulous clouds skittering overhead and bring rain make me glad for the rain, but also make me look up to see the sun because I see a shaft of light. A promise, a hope, a healing, a welcoming call and visit from a friend—all in a shaft of light. The challenge is to rest in the darkness of the rain when there are no silly giggles and splashing puddles of children in colorful rain boots. Sometimes, darkness is just

darkness and waiting. Darkness too is part of Epiphany—the people in darkness seeing a great light—but when O God, when will the broken hearted be healed, the hungry be fed, swords turned into plowshares, and bombs into weapons against global warming? Suddenly I realize I am looking for a rainbow, a sign of the light in the dark, a rainbow streak of color and hope and promise. It is not there. The vanishing blue patch of sky fades into droplets of water, tears of wonder, fear, loss, and promise. Did I really look diligently for the rainbow or was I expecting it to be in my path?

God help me to pay attention to the Light. Remind me that in You there is no darkness that is not overcome by the Light. May I walk the path of Christ - for darkness and light are alike in you.

Blessings, Susan+



HELPERS NEEDED - JANUARY 7

TO REMOVE POINSETTIAS

2 Helpers are needed to take down the poinsettias and cut the flower stems off for composting, disposing of the soil, and recycling the pots. There's 3 - 10" ones and 12 - 6" ones. The rest are cut stems to be composted. Pots and liners will be saved.

Please let Leslie F know if you can help with this project.

Contact: lesliefirth@comcast.net

See next page for photos of our wonderful helpers and altar guild getting the church ready for Christmas.



Christmas Prep in the Church

Thank you to the helpers!

The church was beautiful!



Altar Guild
took a break
to say
"Cheese!"

**Thank you
Altar
Guild!**

CHALKING THE DOOR - AN EPIPHANY TRADITION

“Chalking the Door” is a short liturgy for marking our homes with sacred symbols and asking God’s blessing upon those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year. We mark our front or main entrance doors with chalk as a sign that we are inviting God’s presence into the places, relationships, and situations that we call home. Chalking the door is a tangible way to honor God in our lives.

The Symbols: **20 + C + M + B + 24**

The first and last numbers comprise the four digits of the current year. The letters “C,” “M,” and “B” come from the three traditional names for the unnamed Magi in Matthew 2: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. A cross is placed between each set of numbers and letters.

Use the chalk and take turns to write the numbers, letters, and crosses on or above the outside of your door: **20 + C + M + B + [xx]**

A Prayer for home: May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is your incarnate Word, now and forever. *Amen.*

<https://buildfaith.org/chalking-the-door/>

WE LOVE ST. NICHOLAS COOKIES!

With telephone calls to get the ball rolling back in November, several members of St. Timothy's gathered on December 7th in Parish Hall kitchen to bake Nicholas cookies. With ingredients, pounds of flour, scales, mixers, and dough prepared at home, we took over the kitchen. Emily M along with her mother Barbara and daughter Margot and Renie P started us off with some of the dough made ahead of time. Emily, Katie M, Carleen C, and Renie P all brought mixers so we could make another 10 batches. Ann G, Carol L, Debbie K and JoAnn O pressed the dough into molds forming the delicious Nicholas cookie. They were baked then turned out on racks to cool. When they were ready, everyone pitched in to put the cookies in bags that Emily had prepared. JoAnn and Debbie were the clean-up angels who left the kitchen in great shape.

We shared the amazing cookies after Saint Nicholas visited us in Church and shared his story. Thank you all for celebrating this wonderful tradition!

See photos on the next page!

**Thank you
St. Nicholas
bakers!**



Thank you St. Nicholas!



WINTER NIGHTS FAMILY SHELTER

January 15 – 29

**The shelter families are coming in two weeks!
If you were thinking of helping, now is the time to sign up.**

We need help with:

Meal Team: The meal can be prepared onsite or restaurant purchased/delivered. We just need to get the meal prepared, served and clean-up after dinner.

Setup & Takedown – Help get the Parish Hall ready for the families by setting up tables & chairs, unloading the shelter truck, organize the food and supplies and/or help put everything away when the families leave.

Children's Activities & Homework Help – Help with homework, play games, read books or organize a craft project. Cleanup the play areas before bedtime.

Weekend Coverage – Open & monitor the playground, organize games/crafts (not required). Morning volunteers set out lunch fixings and afternoon volunteers set out snacks (all food provided on site.)

Overnight Volunteer – Shelter staff is on site at all times and responsible for the guests. The overnight volunteer locks up at night, puts out the breakfast fixings and tidies up. Overnight volunteers sleep in the Library in Grace House. It's pretty cozy!

Food & Supply Donation – Donate supplies or cash to help us run the shelter for two weeks (i.e. breakfast/lunch fixings, snacks, paper plates, cups, cleaning supplies).

Contact Joann O at joannmarieoliver@gmail.com

**To learn more about the various
volunteer opportunities and to
sign up online go to:
[St. Timothy's Website](#)**

Signups will also
be available on
Sundays.



CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES 2023

St Timothy's - Thank you on behalf of the clients and staff of Monument Crisis Center.

This village really pitched in to make the Outreach Christmas Food Boxes project for 2023 a roaring success. Between December 2nd and December 11th, we delivered **201 boxes** of food to Monument Crisis Center (MCC) to help make their clients' holidays so much brighter! Our village had help from the **Safeway in San Ramon** who delivered the food for 114 boxes. Please thank them if you go in there.

Other thank you's go to:

- Volunteers after the services on November 12 who bagged 400 pounds of rice and beans.
- Volunteers who helped sign up parish families after church on Sundays answered questions and helped move filled boxes to the parish hall.
- Our Safeway angel who arranged and rearranged for Safeway to deliver food for 114 boxes.
- Members of Scout troop 36 and Debbie K who put together 114 boxes.
- An army of volunteers (see above) who on Saturday, December 9 filled 114 boxes with food.
- Volunteers who loaded 130+ boxes (picture above) in the rental truck on Sunday, December 10 for delivery to MCC the next day.
- Volunteers who rented the truck (Jim C) and drove their cars (Cathy H, Tania H-D) to MCC to deliver out boxes.
- 40 parish families who filled 82 boxes with food.
- 46 parish families who sponsored 119 boxes.
- John Henry and Shelley W, Cathy and John H, Helen and Jim C, Bev M, Kimberly B, Kari D and the parish staff for their support throughout this whole project.
- Everyone else who prayed for and supported this project.

CFB Coordinator – Sally P



JANUARY BOOK GROUP



Join the St. Timothy's book group on **Sunday, January 21** after the 10:00 am service to discuss *Demon Copperhead* and plan what we'll read in 2024.

Written by Barbara Kingsolver and “set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, this is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. In a plot that never pauses for breath, relayed in his own unsparing voice, he braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities.

Many generations ago, Charles Dickens wrote *David Copperfield* from his experience as a survivor of institutional poverty and its damage to children in his society. Those problems have yet to be solved in ours. Dickens is not a prerequisite for readers of this novel, but he provided its inspiration. In transposing a Victorian epic novel to the contemporary American South, Barbara Kingsolver enlists Dickens' anger and compassion, and above all, his faith in the transformative powers of a good story. *Demon Copperhead* speaks for a new generation of lost boys, and all those born into beautiful, cursed places they can't imagine leaving behind.” (Goodreads).

If you have questions, contact Sally P at sallyspotts@gmail.com.

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES (A SURPRISE!)

Let's show our college students some love! 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. Be on the lookout for an email regarding items needed and quantities. More information will be coming. **Contact the office to let us know of your college student.**



Email: parish@sainttimothysdanville.org. Thank you!

CONTRA COSTA INTERFAITH COALITION

Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition (CCIC) has been putting together kitchen essentials, called kitchen kits, for individuals and families transitioning from homelessness. In 2023, over 140 families were helped.

The current work space, a backyard playhouse by North Gate High School, which is used for donation storage, kit assembly, and holding until distribution, is too small and not centrally located. CCIC is looking for a generous donor that could offer space on an ongoing basis of at least 250 square feet (larger is fine too). An office space, storeroom, garage, or small warehouse space within the 680 corridor of Alamo, Walnut Creek, or east Lafayette would be incredible.



Can you help? Do you know a property owner that might be willing to donate the space? If so, please email Tania at taniahd@comcast.net or 925-876-0433. Learn more about CCIC at www.ccichope.org.

CALLING ALL SCOUTS!



Cub Scouts, Brownies, Girl Scouts, BSA Scouts, Webelos, and Adult Scouters and Leaders! Please join us on Sunday, February 25th for the 10 AM service on 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. The scouts will also be hosting the coffee hour after the service. (Let Mrs. K know if you can bring some treats for the coffee hour).

Please come in uniform and email Mrs. K at (Debbie.koteskey@gmail.com) if you would like one of the jobs at the service or have any questions. Can't wait to celebrate all our Scouts!

For more information, email the parish office at parish@sainttimothysdanville.org.

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 2024 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 February 14 this year. (That's 2 weeks earlier than last year!!) Please plan to turn in your Lenten meditation by February 1. That will allow me a week to edit and a week for publication.

To volunteer, please contact Helen C today!
colemanhelen@pacbell.net

RISE AGAINST HUNGER UPDATE

Awesome news! Meals packed at your Rise Against Hunger Event have shipped! At this moment, healthy meals are on the way to a community in urgent need of nutrition. We're excited to share that destination with you. (Drumroll, please!)



Meals you packages are headed to the Philippines!

To address some of the food security challenges that children, families, and communities in the Philippines face, Rise Against Hunger partners with organizations that support educational programs by providing meals to children at schools and early child development centers. In some cases, the food children receive at school will be the majority of the food they eat in a day. The meals you packaged will help ensure that children have access to the consistent nourishment they need to live healthy lives and successfully pursue their education.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

PIZZA CLUB & YOUTH GROUP

In December, **Pizza Club** met to eat pizza, play games and paint Christmas ornaments. Next gathering of youth group is **Sunday, January 7th** at 1pm when we officially open the new youth room. Come for pizza and fun!



Young People's Time
Pastor Susan shared popcorn for kids to take home because God's Love grows.



Advent Wreath Lighting



Advent Wreath Lighting

EVERYONE LOVES SELFIES!





3PM CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT



Thank you pageant helpers,
participants and families!

CHRISTMAS EVE



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

December

The Vestry met on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 6:30pm in the Conference Room 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 Housing Resolutions for clergy.

PARISH FINANCES:

Financial Summary for January – November, 2023

	11-month Actual	11-month Budget
Total Income	\$656,346	\$660,036
Total Expenses	<u>\$739,108</u>	<u>\$730,384</u>
Net Operating Income	(\$82,763)	(\$70,349)

• 2024 Budget Outlook

The 2024 Budget Outlook was presented for preliminary discussion.

OPERATIONS:

• Safe Church

Safe Church requires training, background checks and fingerprint scan for members that hold positions or are involved in groups that help support the operations of the church. Diocesan in-person training will be available at St. Timothy's on Jan 28th.

Parish members are welcome to attend Vestry meetings. The next meeting is on Wednesday January 24th, 2024 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.

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Submitted by Kris Manning, Vestry Clerk

ANNUAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 4

February 4th

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. During Q and A, we will monitor YouTube for any questions you might have if you are watching from home.

January 21st - Budget Town Hall

If you have financial questions, join us in the Church on Sunday, January 21st immediately following the 10am service. Your rector, senior warden and treasurer will field any budget questions you have.

1 Sunday service on February 4th at 10am

CONTACT US

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