

RECTOR'S ARTICLE

Greetings beloved

We enter into the weirdest Advent in my memory.

I know many of us are fraying from isolation and disconnection, while some continue to poorly balance zoom school and work obligations. Much of what kept us busy is gone. We can't complain about travel inconveniences and the annoying uncle. Most of us have not dove into the 'privilege' of complaining about Black Friday craziness. The office party, neighborhood party, etc. have largely fallen by the wayside.

But the Advent message remains – prepare the way of Lord. God continues to love and sustain us as we suffer. Let's keep our eyes on the reason for the season. Yes, it's Jesus, but this Advent is about the elderly, the vulnerable and the medically complicated. Protect them and prepare the way of the Lord. Because of the "purple" restrictions that may or may not lift at some undetermined time. We have decided to continue with a remote December.



Advent schedule

Dec 6th, 13th, and 20th are the last three Sundays of Advent and will be live streamed as usual at 10am.
Dec 13t, 4:00pm Virtual Christmas Festival of Chamber Choirs Radiant Splendor



Christmas Eve, Dec 24th Schedule

3pm Will be a fully zoom based Christmas Pageant that will have singing. Because it is zoom, there may be random Christmas wrapping sounds in the background and more than one Mary. We can have families pick up costumes or will have simple plans available for how to make pageant costumes – think colored paper cutting and glue, not sewing.

7:30pm We will have a wonderful service of carols, a sermon and prayer on YouTube. As always, you can join in the conversation on the live chat.

Christmas Season

Dec 27th and Jan 3rd are the last two Sundays of Christmas Season and will be live streamed as usual at 10am. Depending on county restriction, we may or may not explore opening for in-person worship.

Epiphany

We will celebrate the Epiphany on Jan 10th at 10am live streamed as usual, in-person TBD.

Todd

CHILDREN, PRAYER AND BIBLE STORIES

A Virtual Christmas Pageant on Zoom

In the tradition of a Christmas Eve Pageant we will have a short Zoom Children's service that welcomes us all to the Christmas story at 3:00, December 24th. All children are invited to take part and wear a simple costume. Children may bring a stuffed animal or favorite critter, or wear one of our costumes from church and be an Angel or lamb or shepherd. We are expecting multiple Marys and Josephs! Everyone can bring a Baby Jesus!

Do you have a nativity set? What is your child's favorite Nativity piece?



We want our time together to feel like Christmas Eve.

As the service ends we will sing Silent Night. We invite everyone to bring a candle or an electric candle and we can sing together.

Susan Geissler-O'Neil sgeissleroneil@sainttimothysdanville.org Todd Bryant todd.alan.bryant@gmail.com

ST. TIMOTHY'S STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2020

Greetings from your Stewardship team, as you know this year's program focused on these themes:

Continued generosity—Moving forward to Reunite

Now that the Stewardship Program has concluded its presentations, it's time for you—our parishioners to express their commitments to the church by returning your pledge packet to the church. A significant number of pledges have already been received—but we still haven't heard from about 30 families.

This week, we will be e-mailing those who haven't responded to see if they received their pledge material or have any questions about this year's Stewardship Program.

If for some reason you do not receive a pledge packet please give me a call on my cell: 510-915-4376. I'll hand deliver the materials for you.

Thank you all for your prayer and thoughtful consideration of your abilities and blessings during this October stewardship season.

Mike Oliver for the Stewardship Committee:

Nancy Arroyoavilla, Carolyn Bried, Helen Coleman, Dana Hayter, Matt Heinze, Gina Hodgson, the Kanazawa Family, Rob Koteskey, Mike Oliver, John Pfarr, Sally Shea Potts, Sandy Varco



WINTER NIGHTS SHELTER HOSTED BY SAN DAMIANO RETREAT CENTER

Hosted by San Damiano Retreat Center
During the Month of December

Winter Nights has revamped their program to safely provide shelter for families during Covid. For the month of December, Winter Nights will be hosted at the San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville.

The five Danville/Alamo congregations that typically host the shelter will help by providing food, supplies and other support. Each family will have their own room and bathroom. There will be no interaction between volunteers and the families. Shelter staff will take care of the family needs and we are all working to make the holidays festive for the families.

St. Tim's volunteers will miss laughing in the kitchen as we prepare dinner, playing games with the children and even spending the night on an air mattress in the Parish Hall.

But there are ways we can help.

Donations

- Donate money for supplies and food
- Donate \$25 Gift Cards (Wal-Mart, Target or Visa) – to be used in Christmas stockings for the families.
- Before December 14: Mail or put donations in the mailbox by the Grace House front door. Put "Winter Nights Shelter" in the memo line. Attention: Joann Oliver

Donate a Boredom Buster Box - Craft/Activity Box

- The families will be sheltering in place and appreciate fun activities.
- Provide instructions and supplies for a craft project or activity. (Trivia game, scavenger hunt, kite flying, current magazine/coloring books for all ages...boredom buster!) Christmas crafts would be fun, but we also need a variety.
- Before December 14: Contact Joann Oliver to coordinate delivery

Contact: Joann Oliver
925-808-8810, joannmarieoliver@gmail.com
Winter Nights Shelter - <https://cccwinternights.org/>

2020 CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF CHAMBER CHOIRS

2020 CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF CHAMBER CHOIRS

RADIANT SPLENDOR

FEATURING VIRTUAL PERFORMANCES BY:

**CHORAL AUDACITY
DANVILLE GIRLS CHORUS
CANTABELLA CHILDRENS CHORUS
STONERIDGE CREEK CHOIR
CHROMATICA
CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL MADRIGALS**

WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/SAINTTIMOTHYSDANVILLE

VIRTUAL FESTIVAL CONCERT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020 | 4PM

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE FOR MCC



2020 was supposed to be the 10th anniversary of Christmas Food Boxes at St. Timothy's. But when the beginning of October arrived, we could not find a way to safely do Christmas Food Boxes as usual. The Outreach Committee discussed the options and settled on the Monument Crisis Center Thanksgiving Food Drive as a doable way to support the client families of Monument Crisis Center during COVID times. With the help of bag sponsors, shoppers, volunteers, parents of the students at Noah's Ark Preschool and members of the Peace Lutheran Church parish and the St. Timothy's staff, **we made it happen!**

We gathered **393 bags of food** using the list from Monument Crisis Center plus monetary donations, a couple of turkeys and empty bags and brought them to the Center in Concord. There they joined bags from other organizations to help the Center feed the many, many people who depend on the Center to help feed their families during this time.

THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS, SHOPPERS, WORKERS, DRIVERS, CONTRIBUTORS AND SUPPORTERS of this effort! You are awesome!

The staff of Monument Crisis Center want you to know that your on-going support helps them to feel less alone when seeing so much need during this time. I want you know how much I appreciate your support and patience while we learned to do this new Outreach activity.

Sally Shea Potts – Liaison to Monument Crisis Center

SHOPPING ON AMAZON – SMILE BENEFITS ST. TIMOTHY'S OUTREACH

SHOPPING ON AMAZON-SMILE BENEFITS ST. TIMOTHY'S OUTREACH

Many of us regularly shop on Amazon.com; but did you know that if you use AmazonSmile, your purchases can result in a donation to funding for St. Timothy's Outreach? You can use the following link to get started today – smile.amazon.com.

When you get to the AmazonSmile page type or select the charitable organization: "Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Calif St Timothy's Danville, CA". Thanks for using this as part of your regular purchases and gifting.

- What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop – at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly 1 million organizations to support.

- How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. The last I checked (10/19), it was not possible to use Smile from the Amazon App – only a browser.

- Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you can use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish Lists, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

- How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

- Which products on smile.amazon.com are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.



* The grantees of St. Timothy's are specified in the 2020 church budget.

@ Funds donated in October 2020 came from FOTH 2020, the church budget and AmazonSmile.

In April 2020, the Outreach Committee proposed, and the Vestry approved donating \$10,000 from the Outreach Emergency reserve to 6 of the above grantees.

In June 2020, the Outreach Committee proposed, and the Vestry approved donating \$16,000 received from an anonymous donor and the Diocese of California to 7 of the above grantees.

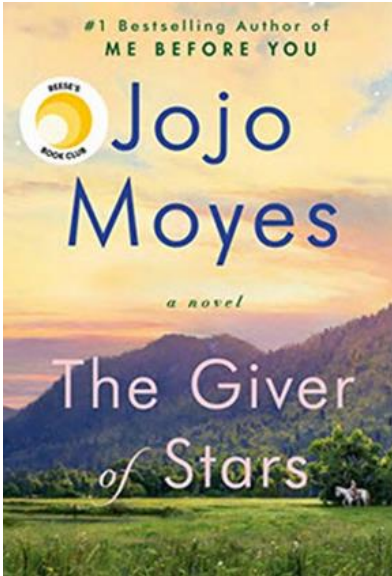
NEW SACRED GROUND CIRCLE FORMING

The Commission for Intercultural Ministry is forming a Sacred Ground Dialogue Circle that will begin meeting on December 1, 2020. Sacred Ground is a 10-session study of the history of race in the United States, and the relationship between anti-racism work and faith.

This course is a transformative opportunity to learn more about the history of various racial groups in our country, to reflect upon your own relationship to race, and to prayerfully consider God's call to you to continue learning, acting, and reflecting in the future.

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

ST. TIMOTHY'S BOOK GROUP



ST TIMOTHY'S BOOK GROUP – DECEMBER 2020

St Timothy's Book group will meet on Thursday, December 17 at 2:00 pm via Zoom to discuss *Giver of Stars* by Jojo Wise. "Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve, hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law. So, when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically. The leader, and soon Alice's greatest ally, is Margery, a smart-talking, self-sufficient woman who's never asked a man's permission for anything. They will be joined by three other singular women who become known as the Packhorse Librarians of Kentucky. What happens to them--and to the men they love--becomes an unforgettable drama of loyalty, justice, humanity, and passion. These heroic women refuse to be cowed by men or by convention. And though they face all kinds of dangers in a landscape that is at times breathtakingly beautiful, at others brutal, they're committed to their job: bringing books to people who have never had any."

The book group will also gather on Thursday, December 3 and Thursday, January 7 to catch up on what we are doing. Contact Sally Shea Potts

(sallyspotts@gmail.com) for an invitation to the meetings.

No time to read this December? Join us in January when we will read "The Hideaway" by Lauren Denton.

THANK YOU

My family and I want to thank all of you who have been so kind to send your condolences for my husband Ted's passing. The emails, cards and phone calls have been so supportive and comforting for us, and we are very grateful. I so miss seeing you all. Love, Virginia Woy and family

VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

ST TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS –NOVEMBER 2020

The vestry met on Wednesday, November 18 at 6:30 pm via Zoom

MOTIONS:

- The vestry approved a motion to fund the purchase of 2 large TV's for the church out of designated funds. The expenditure plan was recommended by the Finance Committee. The new TV's will enable the display of readable text in the church when on-site services resume. The current screens do not have good enough resolution for text.
- The vestry reviewed the and approved the recommendation of the Property Committee to have an herb and flower garden in the area behind the Noah's Ark fenced back yard and Grace House. The garden will be financed by an anonymous donation. It has been planned by master gardener, Jan Mahoney. The project is led by Nora Hudson. There will be raised beds for the plants. The vestry reminded the group that Covid protocols must be observed during work on the garden.

OTHER ITEMS:

- Dick Firth discussed recruiting people for the 2021 vestry. There are 6 open slots - 2 slots for 2-year terms and 4 slots for 3-year terms. Anyone interested in vestry is urged to contact Dick Firth.
- The Treasurer, Neal Matsunaga reviewed the status of the church budget, the stewardship campaign and the clergy discretionary fund. The no-interest loan from PG&E which improved the lighting on campus has been paid off on time.
- Junior Warden, Tom Linari reviewed the progress of the Parish Hall refurbishment project. New chairs are scheduled to deliver on Monday, November 23. The chair closet has been painted by Tom and the Hedden's. Leslie Firth and Bev Matsunaga painted the bulletin boards. Neal Matsunaga did touch up painting of walls and woodwork. The new carpeting for the stage area has been ordered. A new front door to the parish hall has been ordered and will be handicap accessible.
- Advent – Pastor Todd and Pastor Susan are planning to distribute activity packets for families including an Advent candle on November 29.
- The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 31 after the 10:00 am service.
- Most vestry members with budget responsibilities have submitted their budget request for 2021. Treasurer, Neal Matsunaga and the Finance Committee will be reviewing the pledges and the budget requests to prepare a draft budget for the vestry to consider at their December meeting. The final budget is approved by vestry in January and presented to the parish at the annual meeting.
- Pastor Todd and Dick Firth reviewed plans for reopening the campus when Contra Costa County returns to orange. It was agreed that we will take some time to master the processes necessary to preserve group safety for service gatherings before allowing outside groups to resume meetings on campus. Clear requirements for such gatherings will be drafted and communicated before outside groups are again permitted to meet on-campus.
- Pastor Todd discussed plans for the choir singing outside when Contra Costa County returns to red.

Submitted by Sally Shea Potts, Vestry Clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT

November 18, 2020

Financial Highlights

Financial results through October are positive overall due to inclusion of PPP loan funds in the Other Income part of the operating budget. There is an underrun in Pledge Income due mainly to pledges that are behind in payments and an underrun in Expenses reflecting a decrease in expenses due to shelter in place protocols.

Pledge income in our approved budget for 2020 is based on 159 pledges. Our budget included a projected revenue shortfall of about \$58,400 (\$13,400 more pledge dollars assumed and a projected deficit of \$45,034.

7 pledges for \$21,100 have not made any payments yet in 2020, same status as last month.

54 pledges are paid in full for \$246,438. Last month it was 42 for \$186,416.

Year to date budget vs actual results, adjusted for amortizing "pledges paid in full" in the current year, are:

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Pledge Income	\$548,851	\$518,362	\$(30,489)
Other Income	\$ 57,728	\$128,343	\$ 70,615
Expenses	\$645,173	\$625,869	\$ 19,304
Net Income	\$ (38,594)	\$ 20,836	

Income

The Pledge Income difference reflects about \$17,835 for pledges that have not made any payments yet through the first 10 months of 2020 and about \$11,400 included in pledge income budget on the assumption that we would receive additional pledges during the year.

Other Income difference due to:

Loose Plate \$(6,880) and Facilities Cost Sharing \$(8,343) under budget offset by Contributing Income about \$12,943 above budget and inclusion of \$73,329 of PPP loan funds as operating income.

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

Personnel expenses \$18,829 under budget

Altar Guild expenses \$2,544 under budget

Christian Formation expenses \$963 under budget

Children & Youth Ministry expenses \$2,869 under budget

Fellowship expenses \$2,960 under budget

Administrative expenses \$8,232 under budget

Facilities expenses \$(13,738) over budget

Finance expenses \$(7,105) over budget due to timing of insurance and property tax payments.

Contingency expenses \$3,138 under budget

Neal Matsunaga

Contact Us

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