TIDINGS

Epiphany and Lent 2023 Newsletter of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Danville, CA

This will be our first normal-ish Lent since the world ended in March 2020. If you remember, we were all set for worship and formation then came the shutdown.

A prayer from the Book of Common Prayer



Make a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, study, fasting and self- denial, and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word (BCP 265)

- For some of us that means taking something out of our lives "giving something up."
- For others, it means adding a spiritual practice or discipline.
- For all of us, it is a time to reset and return to God.

Throughout this Holy Season, return often to the well of grace that your church offers. May you offer that same grace to others. We invite you therefore, to practice a Holy Lent, Holy Week, and Holy Easter at St. Timothy's.

Lenten Lectionary

The Lenten Lectionary is a booklet of daily reflections by parishioners on the Lenten Scripture readings. It will be available as a separate booklet at the church and online.

Lenten Sunday mornings 2023!

In addition to the usual worship, I believe we would enjoy a Sunday morning series from 11:20am-11:50am. There will be a five Sunday medley.

February 26th

Lisa P will lead an overview of how the Bible came to be. It will *not* be a Bible study, but an exploration of the interesting ways we have inherited this document we call "The Bible."

March 3rd

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will lead a presentation /discussion on being a more informed ally.

March 12th

Myles will teach us about the history of some of our favorite hymns. Todd will assist by giving you the secret keys to navigating our Hymnal.

March 19th

The Social Justice Group will host a discussion about depression issues.

Mar 26th Pastor Todd will teach about the history of politics co-opting religion -not just Christianity. Todd will engage our Episcopal tradition of the via media (middle way).

Next year we may have the critical mass for a Wednesday night series.

Mardi Gras, February 21st

6:30pm - Scouts cook dinner! Parish Hall

Ash Wednesday, February 22nd

12pm & 7pm - Imposition of ashes and communion

Lenten Sundays (February 26th, March 5th , 12th, 19th, 26th)

11am - Young people Sunday school, Parish Hall 11:20am - Adult formation, various subjects, Grace House

Lenten Fridays (February 24th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st)

12pm, noon - The Stations of the Cross - every Friday in Lent in the meditation garden On Good Friday, April 7th, stations happen at *1pm* following worship.

Easter flower dedications begin March 6th

We will be receiving your flower dedications until March 28th.

Palm Sunday, April 2nd

8am and 10am worship Blessing of the Palms with procession into the church

Maundy Thursday, April 6th

7pm - Communion, hand washing & stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 7th

12pm & 7pm - Good Friday Liturgy 1pm - Stations of the Cross in meditation garden, weather permitting

Holy Saturday, April 8th

9am - Holy Saturday service, no communion (about 20 minutes)

Easter Vigil, also on April 8th

7pm - New fire with incense outside. Don't forget your bells (about 75 minutes)

Easter Sunday, April 9th

8am and 10am - Communion with Easter music and Easter activity for kids and youth 11am

Vital and Thriving = a process to discern where God is leading

VITAL+ THRIVING CONGREGATIONS

I am a hopeful fretter. I fret about the future of the church that has nurtured me, lifted me up, prepared me for ministry, and continues to ask the very best from me. If we all didn't care, we would shrug and move on and carry on as if Sundays were just another day. I am hopeful that St. Timothy prepares for the future in two ways. First, we acknowledge what has stopped working. Second, we commit to new joy and new possibilities in our worship, fellowship, outreach, reaching out to the next generation and care. That is why I and some key leaders are embarking on this formal, strategic process called "Vital and Thriving." Be assured that I care about and an committed to the community we are right now.

Let's hold that in tension with the community we are becoming.

The Episcopal Church will be dramatically diminished by 2050 without some massive recalibration - and I place my hope in this recalibration. God has blessed us and God is teaching how to nurture those who have their finger on the pulse of the Spirit. I believe this call to work will be far more holistic than answering the question: "why don't my grandkids want to go to church anymore?"

This article named something I have felt to be true. Our future must be multiclass, multigenerational and multicultural to be relevant. The Rev. Katie Nakamura Rengers says it very well in Prepping for 2050

At a conference last week, my friend and colleague The Rev. Fred Vergara, Missioner for Asiamerica Ministries, spoke about an inevitable "re-peopling" of the Episcopal Church. The Episcopal denomination is largely led and attended by an older, white, affluent population. As demographics shift, the religious culture of America changes and Mainline churches decline, we must be spiritually prepared to pass on our buildings, traditions and endowments to the next people who can use them.

How do we make such a paradigm shift? Partly by asking the Episcopal Church – as it is now – to be intentional about raising up leaders with strong multicultural skills. We can start by identifying people who have been doing this kind of cultural adaptation their whole lives – the children and grandchildren of non-white immigrants, "third culture kids," and people who for other reasons have never quite felt "on the inside." We can also start strategically planting New Episcopal Communities, which tend to garner excitement and reach different populations than are in our existing parishes. But, of course, all this starts with a fresh and honest look outside the walls of our church buildings and asking the Gospel of Luke's ageless question, "And who is my neighbor?"

....After all, the re-peopling of The Episcopal Church isn't inevitable just based on research and statistics. It's inevitable because the entire history of Christianity has been about re-peopling – ever since the full inclusion of the Gentiles that started on the Day of Pentecost. The Church has carried on because, sometimes willingly and often unwillingly, it's been swept up in the Spirit that compels it to hand over everything it has to people who look, sound and love differently.

That is the first taste of my hope for what we can figure out as a community for our future, especially as you hear more and more the term "vital and thriving." I hope this is God's initiative and our ministry. And, even though I didn't spend a ton of time on it, I absolutely want us to focus on lifting up the next generation and discerning youth ministry. We will be figuring all that out as we go.

Next steps

Over the next few months we will be listening to you. There will be a survey and a parish wide activity to tell our story. We will be interviewing a variety of people for their experiences of our community. We think the way forward is to celebrate our past, empower our present and dream of our future.

Todd

LENT

Decades ago we were invited to take on something good for Lent; the something good could be for ourselves, or good for others. The act of choosing good instead of a giving up, -- candy, ice cream, salty snacks or a guilty pleasures--was intended to focus our attention back on our life with Christ. Perhaps we have learned to give more time to personal prayer or to reading the Bible or other spiritual material during Lent. We emphasized walking and praying and fellowship and Bible study.

In this time of 2023, I wonder what hard thing we are being asked to do this Lent as part of our personal and corporate discipline? And yet, it is not intended to be too hard. "Come follow me," Jesus invites.

Pray? Yes. Always we are asked to pray; more prayer and different ways to pray is the breath of our talking to God.

Study? Yes. We do not walk this journey alone and the wisdom and faith and hope of others inspires, motivates and invites us more deeply into the mysteries of the realm of God.

Listen. Yes.

Perhaps this Lent *listening* is the most important act we can practice. In the next few weeks we can remind ourselves of the discipline of *noticing*, in the life of faith. A religious word for this kind of

noticing might be to discern, to listen to the Spirit in the sacred moments around us. We know that all moments are sacred, holy. God in all things, Christ redeeming all things, the Spirit through all things collides in a vision of movement and energy that has no words, in every moment. Still, it is hard to understand how God is in our rising up and in our lying down, in our breaking bread and in our tears, in our angry words and our disappointments, in our sorrow and in our lagging hope. How can we know God's presence in the fast swirling waters that took away lives, the shaking earth that crushed life, the raging anger that deepened the sorrow and injustice, the harsh words with others, strangers and friends, sons and daughters, children? How do we find Christ redeeming love in the darkness of helplessness and loss of hope?

Listen. Lent this season could mean noticing, paying attention, praying a mantra of Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ beneath me, that helps us to remember that our Easter faith—that faith we sometimes cannot feel—but know—is about Jesus who came to turn our hearts toward the love of God, the love of others and the love of myself—the love of all of God's Creation.

This Love is concrete, a systemic and sacrificial love.

For me alone, this this too big for my mind or my heart, or my ability to act. So I pray for us to listen together.

This Lent I will try to listen and notice, reminding myself that I am not alone in my turning toward Christ. Christ is with me and my neighbor who is longing for Love to change the world with justice and mercy in this moment and the moments I cannot see.

This Lent of 2023, may we notice and listen to the Spirit. In the chocolate or the savory mushroom sauce may we hold the people that grew our food and brought to our table. May we attend to the violence in our own hearts and notice that together we can bring systemic change that is already happening in the power of the Spir-

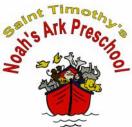


it. May we listen to friend and stranger, family and song bird, rain and sun.

Give me, give us grateful hearts, listening hearts, able to hear the longing of the abiding Christ.

Pastor Susan+

NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT



Please contact the preschool office to obtain an enrollment form or download from the church website, <u>www.sainttimothysdanville.org</u>, Noah's Ark link. Mail completed form to Noah's Ark Preschool, 1550 Diablo Road, Danville, CA 94526 or email to <u>noahsark@sainttimothysdanville.org</u>. If you would like to do a tour, please call the preschool at 925 362-8565 or send an email.

HAPPENINGS AROUND CAMPUS



COFFEE HOUR UPDATE



Fellowship Many thanks to those who have signed up for February and March! Looking for After hosts on February 19 and 26. In March, we are in need of hosts for March 5,12 and 19. Questions? Contact the church office, parish@sainttimothysdanville.org

CARE PACKAGES FOR **OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS**

Thank you! Thank you to everyone who donated items or money and baked treats. Thank you to our volunteers who helped assemble the packages. We hope that over 20 of our students feel the love from home! We sent them a great assortment of items including homemade treats, playing cards, chips, candy, chapstick, cough drops, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, post-it notes, mints and gum. Best of all, they are also getting Kathy W's beautiful prayer bookmark and a handwritten note from St. Timothy's.

If you have a college student (living at home or at college) who wasn't included in the mailing, please let us now for future packages! Email the office at parish@sainttimothysdanville.org.



LETTERS OF GRATITUDE

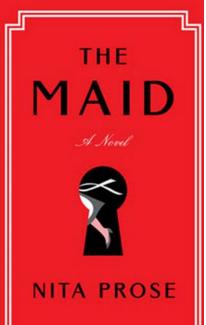
Our grants for the Fruits of the Harvest (FOTH) fundraiser for Outreach Ministries went out in November 2022. We have received many letters of thanks from the ministries that we support. These are temporarily displayed on the big red rolling bulletin board with silver border in the Parish Hall. Come take a look during coffee hours and see what it means to these organizations to

receive the funds you all so generously donated. You did make a difference

SAVE THE DATE FOR FOTH 2023 - SEPTEMBER 9th The theme is "MAMA MIA. That's Italian!"

The other big red bulletin board has our Ministry flyer and the Outreach calendar of big events and God's Hands Projects (these are short term jobs that people with limited time can join in to volunteer.) Newcomers, check it out to see where you might like to put your toe in the water and get involved.

BOOK CLUB



Come join the monthly (mostly) discussion of a variety of books on the third Sunday of the month after the 10:00 service and coffee hour in the Grace House library. We read a variety of books – fiction and non-fiction. The group is always interested in new books that you have found interesting and everyone's viewpoint on the book we read. One person volunteers to lead the discussion which is always lively and interesting.

On February 19, we will discuss **"The Maid"** by Nita Prouse. Goodreads tells us about this book: "Molly Gray is not like everyone else. She struggles with social skills and misreads the intentions of others. Her gran used to interpret the world for her, codifying it into simple rules that Molly could live by. Since Gran died a few months ago, twenty-five-year-old Molly has been navigating life's complexities all by herself.

No matter—she throws herself with gusto into her work as a hotel maid. Her unique character, along with her obsessive love of cleaning and proper etiquette, make her an ideal fit for the job. She delights in donning her crisp uniform each morning, stocking her cart with miniature soaps and bottles, and returning guest rooms at the Regency Grand Hotel to a state of perfection. But Molly's orderly life is upended the day she enters the suite of the infamous and wealthy Charles Black, only to find it in a state of disarray and Mr. Black himself dead in his bed. Before she knows what's happening, Molly's unusual demeanor has the police targeting her as their lead suspect. She quickly finds herself caught in a web of deception - one she has no idea how to untangle. Fortunately for Molly, friends she never knew she had unite with her in a search for clues to what really happened to Mr. Black—but will they be able to find the real killer before it's too late?

CONFIDENTIAL PRAYER GROUP

Do you or someone you know need prayers? Send a request to St. Timothy's confidential Prayer Group. Your request will be forwarded to a group of pray-ers who will pray for you for a week, or longer if needed. We don't talk to you or each other about your request--we just pray.

Send requests to: prayers@SaintTimothysDanville.org

For more information, contact: Patti <u>farrisintheland@yahoo.com</u> or Helen <u>colemanhelen@pacbell.net</u>

LITURGICAL ART FOR THE SEASONS

LENT: Help is needed to install banners for Lent on **Sunday, Feb. 12**th after the last service. We will need the big ladder to install the "Crown of Thorns" banner overhead. The white and gold banner behind the cross will be replaced by a simple white banner.

EASTER: Can you help us change the Lenten banner to the colorful "Circle of New Life?" We will be installing this on **Saturday morning, April 8th, at 11:00 am** in time for the Easter Vigil. The big ladder will be needed. Please let Leslie F know if you can help with either installation. <u>Lesliefirth@comcast.net</u>

SPECIAL LIGHTING: You may have noticed the new special lighting that we created for the cross and banner. The cross is now the focal point of the sanctuary. Many thanks to the anonymous donor who made this possible.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION DURING LENT

Adult Formation

February 26th - Lisa P will lead an overview of how the Bible came to be. It will *not* be a Bible study, but an exploration of the interesting ways we have inherited this document we call "The Bible."

March 3rd - PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will lead a presentation / discussion on being a more informed ally.

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Children's Liturgy will continue to meet in the Godly Play room in the Parish Hall during lent. We will learn a little about the tradition of Lent and challenge each other to learn a few Bible verses. We will continue to pray, sing, and do an activity before joining families during the Peace.

<u>Sunday School</u> during Lent will be for all ages with different activities during coffee hour and adult formation. We will include activities, preparation for Easter and a special Stations of the Cross reflection on our relationship with Christ and the World in our own labyrinth. Parents may join the education time or be together as a family for our time with children and youth.

Easter will bring a fun time for our little ones and children immediately following the 10:00 service.

WINTER NIGHTS FAMILY SHELTER

THANK YOU!

With the help of St. Timothy's and Beth Chaim volunteers, the Parish Hall was transformed into a family shelter. Thank you to all the volunteers, to the overnight heroes, generous donors, Bev M. for facilities help and the congregation for providing your loving support to these families during a time of crisis.

My Experience - by Joshua Sandy

Being able to volunteer at St. Timothy's Winter Nights program has been a true blessing and an eye-opening experience for me as a Junior at Monte Vista High School.

Click <u>HERE</u> to read Josh's entire story.













OUTREACH NEWS



Monument Crisis Center On The Road!

Monument Crisis Center (MCC) is taking their Food distribution and other services "*on the road*" to Community Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg. Starting on January 19th, they are hosting food distribution twice a month on Thursdays between 12 and 2 pm. Items will be available while supplies last. In addition to food, information on community resources and programs in the Pittsburgh area will be available to MCC clients and others who register.

Monument Crisis Center is open for food distribution and other services Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings in Concord. *Contact: Sally P*

OPTIONS

Options Recovery Services Offender Mentor Certification Program, which will have trained 1000 prisoners to be certified Drug and Alcohol Counselors in 7 California prisons by the end of the year, is featured in a movie, entitled The50, and features three of the 50 trained in Solano in 2009. Watch for the movie. Beautiful example of redemption. It was part of the New York film festival in the fall and will be shown in two more film festivals this year. Also, Options opened housing in an old convent in East Oakland to help 30 former orisoners adjust to life outside. The Options latest trestment center in Concord is now open, with a treatment center in Richmond soon to come. Options is working with Berkeley Mental Health to have a team of trained people to deal with the mentally ill and addicted people on the streets.. This same Outreach will begin soon in Livermore.

SHAWL MINISTRY

The members of the Shawl Ministry at St. Timothy's took hats and scarves to the Oakland International Maritime Center before Christmas.

They also contributed to the Seaman's Church Institute Christmas at Sea program which sends gift boxes to mariners. St. Timothy is the patron saint of mariners. *Contact: Mary Louise G*



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY EAST BAY

Habitat for Humanity East Bay will have Unity Build Days at their Esperanza project site near the Pleasant Hill BART station on the following dates this winter and spring: Please sign up!

Saturdays: February 25, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17

Contact: David K

WARM WINTER DRIVE

COLLECTION of items to keep our neighbors warm.



THANK YOU, St. Timothy's for donating new and used items in the blue boxes.

Our drive lasted from Dec. 15th to Jan. 18th. You filled the blue boxes with the following items: 85 pair Men' socks, 30 pair Women's socks, 7 pair Gloves, 10 knit hats and headbands, 3 neck scarves, jackets, sweaters, 3 wool sports jackets, large cuddle blanket, 6 beautiful hand knit baby blankets and wraps, 3 pair pants, two large bags of toiletries, 33 Mylar blankets and 27 rain ponchos.

These items will be distributed at Loaves and Fishes and as the L & F helper said when we were delivering them: "These will go fast." They are so grateful. You are all awesome!

CONTRA COSTA INTERFAITH COALITION (CCIC)

I am excited to introduce an organization that St. Timothy's is now supporting. Their mission aligns with ours and we can support them with our gently used items as they become available.

Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition began in 1992 with 3 local churches and the goal of helping the needy in the county. CCIC works with case managers from 20 different agencies through Contra Costa County to provide basic needs for individuals and families that are newly housed. Today several churches are involved in collecting donated items. The items are stored in a small retail space in Walnut Creek and distributed by volunteers.

St. Timothy's community recently began donating gently used kitchen essentials and has been very generous. Seeing the potential for our community to further support the work, I joined the board of CCIC in December. The website is <u>www.ccichope.org</u>

CCIC could benefit from regular donations of gently used items of household goods and furniture (click <u>HERE</u> for a list of needs), volunteers, and new energy to further expand their essential service. There is a great need for volunteers with trucks to pick up and deliver items. For more information, please contact Tania at <u>taniahd@comcast.net</u>.

THE GRETTA FOUNDATION (TGF)

Since 2008, The Gretta Foundation (TGF) has been supporting the development of front line highly-skilled nurses and midwives working in diseased disburdened countries, primarily Uganda. From the beginning, St. Timothy's has been a faithful supporter of our work and our nurses and midwives. It has been a blessed partnership-a partnership that has help support 121 scholarships! We should be very proud.

Now after 15 years, TGF is dissolving, but the work we did together lives on in the care provided by our Gretta Graduates and the increased capacity of those who teach nursing and midwifery. Thank you, St. Timothy's, for the many blessings and ways that you have supported us along the way. We walk away with many cherished memories. Much love to your congregation and many thanks for the huge impact you have in your community that those you embrace a world away.

In gratitude, -Meg



ADOPT - A - FAMILY BIKES



After a two-year COVID hiatus, Adopt-a-Family Bikes held its 18th annual bike program. The program originated at St. Timothy's in 2002 as an offshoot of the Adopt-a-Family program.

Bikes were donated from residents of the Tri-Valley and the program was run in 6,000 sq. feet of donated space in the Alamo Safeway shopping center. Volunteers from St. Timothy's and the local community cleaned, repaired, and safety checked 283 bikes. Each bike was delivered with a new helmet, and bikes for teens/adults were also given with a U-lock.

Options Recovery & Monument Crisis Center (FOTH recipients) received 35 bikes. Student's Rising Above received 60, and 14 went to

newly arrived Ukrainian refugees. The balance of the bikes went to non-profits (including schools) supporting low-income individuals. The program was funded completely by donations, and St. Timothy's provided much needed bookkeeping, storage, and insurance. Look for our website <u>www.adoptafamilybikes.org</u>, and Facebook page Adopt-A-Family Bikes, for more information and photos. Tania H-D

THE 50 FILM

The 50 is the film on Options Offender Mentor Certification Program. It is a feature-length documentary that asks how a group so underestimated became agents of radical change and the first men to become California certified counselors while inmates of that same state's prison system. We step alongside these men in an exploration of trauma, redemption, and the complicated humanity of their stories.

The film can be streamed online on February 25th at 5:15pm. (Part of the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in Missoula, MT.)



SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY UPCOMING FORUMS

After taking a break in January, the Social Justice Ministry will resume townhall discussions on relevant topics on February 19 after the 10:00 am service. Below are the scheduled topics in the coming months. We are looking forward to seeing you for lively discussions:

Торіс	Date
1. Mental Health	
Anxiety	February 2023
Depression	March 2023
• Suicide	April 2023
2. Hunger	May 2023
3. Poverty	June 2023
4. Bullying	August 2023
5. Crime	September 2023

The purpose of the forum sessions are in alignment with the goals of the ministry to:

- Discuss what's going on around us as it relates to social justice
- Suggest opportunities for improving lives
- Educate and bring awareness to the community

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact: Cecilia O <u>oduwole@yahoo.com</u>

VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 2023

The vestry met on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Overby Conference Room of Grace House

MOTIONS:

- The vestry voted unanimously to allocate the **2022 net income** of \$84,521 to the Pledge Reserve.
- The vestry voted unanimously to approve the draft **2023 budget** submitted by the treasurer.
- The **minutes** of the December 2022 meeting, the treasurer's report, the rector's report and the several submitted vestry commission reports were approved as submitted.

OTHER ACTIONS:

- Pastor Todd updated the vestry on the candidates for delegates to the Diocesan Convention and the Deanery meetings. There are currently 8 candidates. The Convention/
 Deanery representatives will help elect the next Bishop of California this fall.
- Pastor Todd updated the vestry on the efforts to enlist parish members to join the **vestry**. Pastor Todd and the committee are still recruiting.
- Pastor Todd updated the vestry on the **impacts on the church campus of the recent rains** (water damage in the basement of Grace House and water in the Grace House elevator well and the planned campus maintenance projects. The re-roofing of the Parish Hall will begin soon – after the rains abate. The Noah's Ark AC/Heating system project is on hold.
- Pastor Todd briefed the vestry on meeting plans for 2023.

Parish members are welcome to attend Vestry meetings. The next meeting is on Wednesday, March 15, 2023at 6:30 pm in Overby Conference Room of Grace House. The minutes of the vestry meeting will be filed in the Parish Office after they are approved by the Vestry.

Submitted by Sally P, Vestry Clerk

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

Shipra Rastogi -Noah's Ark Preschool Director (925) 362-8565 NoahsArk@SaintTimothysDanville.org **Bev Matsunaga** - Facilities (Volunteer) (925) 837-4993 x111 Facilities@SaintTimothysDanville.org

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

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

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

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