



Tidings

September 2021

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

RECTOR'S ARTICLE

Happy Fall y'all

With fall upon us, I am looking forward to the good things we have planned.

Worship timing

8am and 10am worship will continue. When we first started planning to regather in-person worship, we made the first service at 8am to accommodate COVID cleaning protocols between services. It seemed good to me to keep 8am and 10am so that early worshipers could come to adult education along with 10am worshipers at 9am. I hope this education "halfish-hour" can serve as a bridge for our two worshipping communities as well as bridging two campuses: remote people and those who come on St. Timothy's grounds.

Adult Sunday Education

HYBRID (in person and virtual on ZOOM)

Authenticity and Safety

9am-9:35am (September 12 – October 24)

We will start meeting in the church, and if we want to, will move to Overby conference room.

Authenticity and safety are core to the human experience. Most of us want to know that we are safe and secure while at the same time we want to be bold in our faith, play, family, and/or work. The church began as an authentic refuge for the rejected, lost, and marginalized, but from the very beginning found itself aligning with those who held power to assure its safety. We will do some history, look at scripture each Sunday, and think about our own balance of safety and authenticity. God pulls us to authenticity without guaranteeing our safety.

Adults – Education for Ministry

Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 pm. (Begins on September 12) Zoom to start

EFM is a supportive community within which to learn, discuss, engage, and grow in your Christian life, please contact Lisa Perry at 925-785-8015 or Lisa@PMCAPP.com for more info.

Children's Liturgy during worship

Starting Sept 12th, we will resume Children's Liturgy at 10:00 in the Children's Worship Room in the Parish Hall. Children's Liturgy is concurrent with 10 am Worship.

Sabbatical

I am happy to share with you that with the vestry's full support, I will be taking my sabbatical starting on November 1st and ending February 1st. I am dedicated to working closely with the Stewardship team before and during the October stewardship drive. I will see you again at Annual Meeting in February of 2022. This will be a low budget sabbatical: not much travel, some writing, working on my podcast ideas.

Fruits of the Harvest

I am very mindful of the flexibility required of us to move forward. Because of the delta variant, the FOTH outreach fundraiser is going virtual again. There will be events on Sunday, Sept. 19 and Sunday, Sept. 26. Go [here](#) for the website

Looking back

If you're like me, you're a little worn out from COVID whiplash. We're virtual; we're on the patio; we're in parish hall; we're in the sanctuary! We're just on edge of ditching masks but wait...the delta variant shows up and the masks remain. With summer behind us, I want to stop and say thank you to everyone who got us here.

Thank you

Monument Crisis Center (MCC) Food Drive volunteers --Thank you to the Carolyn and Steve B, Wally and Tania D, the Gabel CH, and Sally SP for maintaining this vital connection to service throughout the shutdown to now.

Garden -- Thank you to Nora H, Jan and Rand M and scouts for envisioning and running our Gary Hunt memorial herb garden.

Reopening Team. -- Allen H was an essential to us developing a worship and campus regathering plan along with the team.

Worship -- Thank you to the Don P, Rand and Ryan M, Jacque C, Cathy M, Leslie F, and the whole Altar Guild and tech team for making worship even possible this last 18 months. Special thanks to the "wizard" Don for taking the reins of tech leadership.

Parish Administrator -- Thank you Steve and Sue O, Alison H, Sally SP, Kari D and Neal M for finding such a great addition to our staff in Rebekah D.

Music -- I continue to be grateful for Darita's work with us and am thrilled that Dave M, Carolyn H, Jennifer S, Patti F, and Rayne D are leading the charge to find the next music minister. Thank you to all who were so generous with Darita as he departed from us. I hope to have news for you very soon,

Vestry -- Thank you to our skillful vestry. I am especially grateful to Linda C for her leadership to the community as a whole and ministry to me personally. Neal M has been faithful as our treasurer, and I and continue to give thanks for his ministry.

Staff -- Shipra R has been vital to Noah's Ark since she has taken the reins and Bev M has been so important in many aspects of church life especially with Noah's Ark, the facility, and the reopening plan. I give tremendous kudos to Susan who has been co-piloting us before, during, and after the pandemic finally recedes in the rearview mirror. She is one of the most sincere, faithful, and committed people I know and sets a high bar to which I aspire. Her leadership in the community and care for me is humbling and fills me with gratitude



We hope to see you at one or both of our FOTH online events at **12 o'clock noon on Sunday, September 19th and 26th**. The link to the on-line event will be on the church website and in the Saturday announcement for our services.

NEW OUTREACH VIDEO - We are featuring an updated video created by Carolyn B that highlights what our 15 Outreach Ministries are doing and how they have coped with the pandemic.

RAFFLES - At the 26th online event we'll have a raffle of gift cards. You will be entered in the drawing if you have made a donation to FOTH by September 19th. Join us for the fun, although you don't have to be present at the event to win a raffle item.

We have now been raising funds to give grants to our Outreach Ministries for the past 24 years. We have netted almost \$750,000 at this event. Thank you for your generosity and support.

There are so many ways that we can help others, and there is certainly a tremendous need for our help in this world now. I never forget those words: ***Send us out into the world to do the work He has given us to do.***

Sponsored by Saint Timothy's Outreach Commission

Questions? Leslie F, lesliefirth@comcast.net, 683.7868 or Sally SP, sallyspotts@gmail.com 785.9823



I am delighted to introduce our interim director of youth, Robbie Frederiksen. Robbie brings experience, laughter, faith, and creativity to his role. We are committed to providing meaningful and fun opportunities so that our youth grow in faith and know they are valued in our community.

Robbie is reaching out to our youth, checking in with them, and seeking ways to support them. In addition, he will be offering in-person youth fellowship for high school youth the second and fourth Sunday of each month, starting September 12 at 4pm.

Middle school youth will have fellowship time with Robbie on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday nights of each month, and those gatherings will take place at 5:30pm, starting September 8.

Robbie is sending out all the information. And the news gets even better: as we seek to grow our youth programs, we will be partnering with San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church (SRVUMC). We will take turns hosting fellowship on each campus.

The 2nd and 4th Sundays /Wednesdays of the month, fellowship will be at SRVUMC

The 4th Sunday/Wednesday of the month, fellowship will be at St Tim's.

(Sounds like a complicated schedule at first, but we'll get used to it!)

SRVUMCs is only 3.2 miles from St. Timothy's. Robbie is also planning service opportunities, retreats and other gatherings. He'll be in touch with parents and youth as these events are scheduled. We will be encouraging parents to host other events and hope to have a parent coordinator helping us with that. We will carefully observe all current COVID protocols to keep everyone safe and ask that all parent volunteers show proof of vaccination when working with youth.

So, now it is your turn. What do you like best about this approach? What questions or concerns do you have? What event would you like to host for our youth? I want to hear from you as we continue to focus on our families and youth. As parents and pastors, both Mantu from SRVUMC and I look forward to all the good yet to come in our youth program.

Stay tuned to our webpage

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

In Person component

(One Group, Two Campuses)

St. Timothy's and San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church (SRVUMC)

SRVUMC Campus

2nd Wednesday of the month

5:30pm- Middle School

2nd Sunday of the month

4pm - High School

St. Timothy's Campus

4th Wednesday of the month

5:30pm- Middle School

4th Sunday of the month

4pm - High School

Fall events

High School Fall Retreat (October)

During the month of October, high school youth from all churches will be invited to a Fall Retreat near Santa Cruz. At this retreat, youth will intermingle through a series of worship experiences, activities, games, and challenges. Youth will also have the opportunity to participate in small group experiences based on church affiliation.

Middle School Break Out (October)

During the month of October, middle school youth will be offered the chance to participate in a full day of activities and challenges at a local Challenge Course. Activities will be chosen to align with a designated theme and discussions will be planned accordingly.

Thanksgiving Service Project/Meal (November)

The weekend before Thanksgiving, all groups will be invited to participate in a food-related service project in San Francisco that will be followed by a meal of Thanksgiving at one of the participating churches.

Youth Christmas Party (December)

A date will be selected in December to host a large intergroup Christmas celebration. The celebration will include games, food, a gift exchange, and LOTS of candy.

Sunday Children's Liturgy at 10:00

Children's worship begins Sunday at 10:00 September 12th during the 10:00 worship service in the Parish Hall Children's worship room. Children will join us for the peace and sit with their parents and grandparents.

Children will pray, lead worship appropriate to their age and learn more about worship and praising God!

Don't forget to check out our Children's bulletins with puzzles and activities around the Bible selections from the lectionary.

John G. is looking forward to welcoming back both our older children and our younger children ages 4 to 4th grade!

As with school and church, children will wear masks in The Children's Worship room in the Parish Hall.

Questions? Or would you like to help? Sgeissleroneil@sainttimothysdanville.org

Make a joyful noise!

Remember to Vote!!

VOTING at St. Timothy's, September 14th!



REMEMBER TO VOTE!! A reminder to set aside time to complete your ballot (all Registered California Voters received a ballot by mail)

– MAIL IT by Sept 14; OR Polling locations will be open 7:00a – 8:00p to drop your ballot

- OR vote in person. **Not registered?** Deadline 9/7- last day to request vote by mail ballot.

You can also register and vote same day using CONDITIONAL

VOTER REGISTRATION: through Election Day you can still register and vote in person. It is a one-stop opportunity to register and cast your ballot; available at the Contra Costa County elections office, Regional Early Voting sites, **and all polling places on Election Day**. Remember, you can drop your completed ballot at ANY polling location (work in SF?, drop your ballot in SF!) See you at the voting booths!

RESOURCES: Vote.ca.gov one stop page with all the tools you need, including links to check your voter registration status, the Voter Information Guide, the Voter Bill of Rights, and more.

- **Early Voting Locations:** CaEarlyVoting.sos.ca.gov
- **Voting by Mail:** <https://youtu.be/DjHCEBZTtCk>
- **Find Your Polling Place or Vote Center on Election Day**
<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place/>

Food Drive For Monument Crisis Center

Sunday, Sept 12th, 11am – 1 pm



While our lives are slowly returning to “normal”, many people in Contra Costa County continue to struggle to pay their rent and put food on the table for their families. One small way you can help is to contribute to the Food Drive for Monument Crisis Center. There are barrels on the front porch of Grace House that are available any time to receive donations and volunteers will be at church on Sunday, September 12 from 11 am to 1 pm to receive your donation in the front parking lot. (The banner out front says 12 – 1 pm so we don’t have a traffic jam!) Please add some of the following to your grocery shopping list and bring them to church:

rice	canned beans
canned meats	canned fruit
soup	canned vegetables
pasta	cereal
pet food	baby formula
diapers	toiletries

No glass, bread, sweets, or expired food, please.

It’s easy and **FUN** to help with this effort on Sunday. Sign up to be a volunteer at:

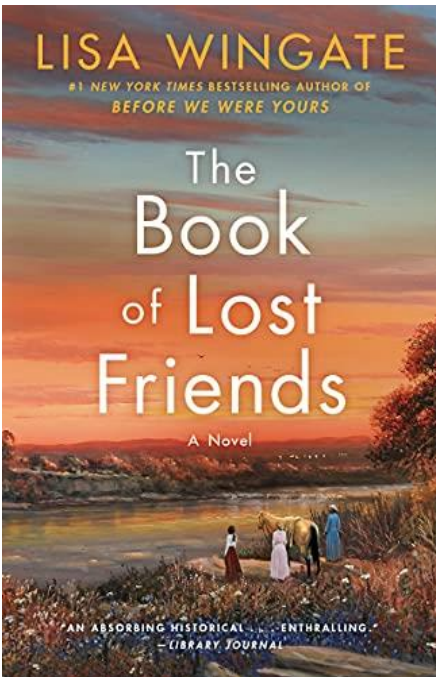
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b49acab238-sttimothy>

Thank you for your support. Carolyn Bried, Tania Hanson De Young, Sally Shea Potts

St Timothy's Book Group- September 16, 2021

Book of Lost Friends

Join the members of St Timothy's book group on Thursday, September 16th at 2:00 pm via Zoom to discuss the Book of Lost Friends by Lois Wingate.



Lois Wingate created this novel based on the “Lost Friends” advertisements that ran in many southern newspapers after the Civil War when newly freed slaves searched for loved ones who had been sold away or escaped slavery before the end of the war. It also explores the migration of many in the South to Texas after the war in search of a way to recover from the financial devastation of the war and reconstruction. The story of the three women migrating to Texas is discovered by a first-year teacher in 1987 who comes to a rural school in Louisiana to teach and cancel her student debt. Learning about the lives for the 3 women migrating to Texas in the 1870's helps her to understand her new community and the lives of her students.

Contact Sally Shea Potts for an invitation to the Zoom meeting.

Confirmation Class for Youth And Adults

Are you interested in confirmation? There will be two separate classes one for youth and one for adults (the adult class will begin early next year).

We are planning our confirmation class to be in person; we will meet the needs of the people participating. Confirmation is planned for early Spring.

We are excited to begin our Youth program with Robbie Fredericksen who will meet with High School youth at 4:00 the 4th Sunday of the month at Saint Timothy's and the 2nd Sunday of the month at SMVUMC San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church –we are 3 miles apart!. We start the High School group Sept 12th at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church (SRVUMC) and the Middle School group begins meeting September 8th at 5:30 at SRVUMC. Read more in Tidings or on the website.

Confirmation will be planned so it does not conflict with other youth activities.

Please reach out if you or your youth are interested in Confirmation. The pandemic put classes on hold; faith has continued to grow! Questions? Sgeissleroneil@sainttimothysdanville.org.

Blessing of the Animals in Celebration of Saint Francis

Bring your beloved pet to Saint Timothy's October 10th for a blessing at 12pm! We will share in a short service in the courtyard remembering how Saint Francis recognized God in all Creation. Francis had a special relationship with animals and it was told that he could speak even to the birds and they would listen to him preach about the Love of God.

We invite you to bring your pet, appropriately leashed, crated or contained—or bring a picture of pet.

We will also pray for beloved pets who died during the pandemic, remembering how much their Love continues in our lives and remember their special place in our hearts for their companionship.

Do you remember Saint Francis in your Garden? Send us a picture and we will share it!

October 10th is also our Food Drive Sunday for Monument Crisis Center. We invite you to bring pet food too! (non-perishable). You may not realize the gratitude of others who are thankful that we thought of *to eternal life. Amen.*

– Prayer of St. Francis

Confidential Prayer

Do you want confidential prayer support for yourself or a loved one? St. Timothy's 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

Treasurer's Report

August 18, 2021

Financial Highlights

- Financial results through July are positive overall despite underruns in loose plate offerings and facilities cost sharing due to the underruns being offset by higher than budgeted pledge and contributing income to date
- Year to date budget vs actual results, adjusted for amortizing "pledges paid in full" in the current year, are:

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Pledge Income	\$384,018	\$420,957	\$36,939
Other Income	\$ 25,231	\$24,779	\$ (452)
Expenses	\$439,717	\$393,301	\$46,416
Net Income	\$(30,468)	\$ 52,436	\$82,903

Pledge Income difference due mainly to:
Pledges better than budgeted.

Other Income difference due mainly to:
Loose Plate \$(4,322) and Facilities Cost Sharing \$(9,020) under budget offset by Contributing Income \$12,197 above budget.

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

Personnel expenses \$6,925 under budget due mainly to \$5,946 for administrative assistant/office manager and \$1,685 for childcare assistant positions being vacant.

Altar Guild expenses \$1,135 under budget

Music expenses \$1,591 under budget

Children & Youth Ministry expenses \$1,109 under budget

Fellowship expenses \$1,487 under budget

Administrative expenses \$5,895 under budget

Facilities expenses \$17,044 under budget

Finance expenses \$7,776 under budget

Contingency expenses \$2,108 under budget

Neal Matsunaga

St Timothy's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting Highlights

August 2021

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

MOTIONS:

- Approved the changes to the staff holiday schedule as proposed by the Treasurer. Starting in 2022 all the staff Letters of Agreement will contain the following: New Year's, Martin Luther King, President's, Memorial, Independence, Labor, Thanksgiving, Friday after Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.
- Approved enabling access to part of the church WIFI network for groups that sign an agreement for the responsible usage of the WIFI. The Administration Commission will work to isolate such usage.
- Approved the proposed clergy sabbaticals in 2021 and 2022. Pastor Todd will take his 3-month sabbatical in November and December 2021 and January 2022 – returning for the Annual Meeting. Pastor Susan will take her 2-month sabbatical starting in the summer of 2022.
- Approved the minutes of the June vestry meeting and the several reports by the treasurer, rector and several commissions submitted prior to the meeting.

OTHER ACTIONS:

- Treasurer, Neal M. with the help of the Finance Committee is drafting a revision of the Personnel Policy Manual.
- Vestry members were asked to review and provide updates for the website pages for which they are responsible. Ade A. is coordinating this.
- Pastor Todd updated the vestry on the status of the search for a new Music Director.
- Pastor Todd updated the vestry on his plans for Adult Education starting in September 2021
- Pastor Todd updated the vestry on the plan to share a part time youth minister with the Methodist church in Alamo.
- Pastor Todd updated the vestry on his plans to share the construction of the scripture slides for the Sunday services.

Parish members are welcome to attend Vestry meetings. The next meeting is on Wednesday, September 15, 2021. Currently, the plan is for that meeting to use Zoom. Contact Sally P. for an invitation to the meeting.

The minutes of the vestry meeting are filed in the Parish Office and uploaded to the website after they are approved by the Vestry.

Submitted by Sally P, Vestry Clerk

Noah's Ark Journey

The following article by Mrs. Sue Enes, highlights the history of Noah's Ark journey that started 25 years ago, how it was established and what makes Noah's Ark so special. This year marks the silver jubilee of the school. The foundation was laid by the parishioners, priests and volunteers who helped in shaping the ministry of the church for the community where future generations would cherish for years and years to come.

Noah's Ark is truly a place for everyone as we welcome voices of all ages and backgrounds, where love grows and kindness matters. Noah's Ark is also where the values of integrity and self-esteem exemplify our commitment in building a strong community with high trusting relationships. It takes no time for someone to solve the mystery that unfolds, the minute they set foot inside of the school, they instantly fall in love with the school and its surroundings. Everyone who has been part of Noah's Ark; parents, children, and staff will vouch for the "gift of time" they have had at this place. With them, everyone takes a bunch of loving memories and a piece of Noah's Ark forever!

We continue to build upon the past journey of the school and look forward to all that lies ahead.

Shipra Rastogi

Noah's news - A Closer Look by Sue Enes - Executive Director

"Several weeks ago, the thought came to me, I wonder how many Saint Timothy families and individuals know the history of our parish preschool...what was the vision that inspired its creation, how did it come to be a reality and what role does it play in our parish and the community today.

In 1994 our former rector, The Rev. Stephen Strane had a vision of an early childhood setting on parish grounds. It was to be a faith based, welcoming, and safe environment that would nurture our youngest learners...a gift to our parish children and the broader geographical areas of Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon. During the licensing application and approval period guidance and assistance was given by The Rev. Mark Spalding, associate priest, and the preschool committee. Many members of the Parish volunteered to rejuvenate and prepare the Education Building and a most wonderful transformation took place. Our mantra during the summer months was "build it and they will come" from the movie Field of Dreams...this parish did build it and the children did come! The school opened in the fall of 1996 just slightly under the full enrollment, directed by Susan MacHugh, a parishioner. The next year we had moms or dads spending the night in the breeze way, the night before community registration, to enroll their children for the coming fall classes.

Noah's Ark had always been blessed with full enrollment, 99+ children until the 2008 economic concerns and the 2011-2012 impact of the state mandated Transitional Kindergarten program. Both of these factors decreased enrollment in traditional preschools, such as ours and across the valley... no school escaped. As a Director Mentor for the state and facilitator for the Director's Network at DVC I have seen personally how these two developments affected and continued to affect enrollments.

Our staff has met this challenge by readjusting a program to meet the needs of our families. Our Pre-K program, M-Th, is now a morning program and is in session concurrently with the 4 year old program MWF, and our 3 year old program, TTH. All sessions are in the morning from 9-11:30 or 12:00, with Lunch Bunch from 12-1:30. We listened to the families, their desires and needs and are meeting them at this time. We currently have full enrollment in our Pre-K and 4 year old class. Our 3 year old class is 13

and we would prefer 15-17 children. Our teacher-child ratio remains 1-5 in our older classes and 1-3 in our 3 year old class. The state requires 1-12 and we are pleased that we offer a safer and more responsible ratio.

This has truly been a year that has required us to have new eyes for seeing...a vision for the future needs of our families, teachers, and the role that Noah's Ark will continue to play in our community. I invite you to remember the school, it's families, children, teachers and support staff as we strive to give voice to Saint Timothy's commitment and investment in the lives of the children."

Contact Us

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