

January 2010

St. Timothy's
Episcopal
Church
Centennial, CO

The Epistle

Reaching Out

"To celebrate and
proclaim Jesus'
love"

For six months Rev. Sandy and I have been trying to put the pieces together. As she's gotten to know the congregation better, a hunger for adult spiritual renewal has become apparent. Yet despite this desire, it's been hard to realize the potential of our Adult Forum.

A dedicated group of volunteers tried to re-invent that program last spring, but despite their efforts attendance remained low. In a review meeting in early summer they named the obvious problem: adult education can't compete with coffee hour. Yet in our busy world it's clear that Sunday is the best day for church activities, and the only open slot for Adult Forum is after the 9:30 service.

The members of our congregation are well-educated and have many questions and observations about spiritual subjects. We need to provide opportunities for conversation and interesting program content. But because there seemed to be no alternative, we kept coming back to reworking the forum after church on Sunday. You know the tongue-in-cheek definition of insanity: doing the same thing and expecting a different result.

Slowly and a bit reluctantly, I began to consider a new approach. What if we created a space for the Adult Forum between the services? Would people come earlier or stay later in order to participate? Not everyone could, but careful testing of the possibility indicated significant interest. Enough energy was generated by this idea, and the need for adult programming is so important, that a change in our Sunday routine is warranted.

Beginning on February 17, the First Sunday of Lent, our worship services will be celebrated at 7:45 and 10:00 am. The new Adult Forum will be held each week at 9:00, downstairs in newly-redecorated Room 8. Childcare will be provided in the nursery. Rev. Sandy will host a planning meeting in her office on Wednesday, January 20 at 7:00 pm, and anyone who's interested is welcome to participate.

I don't make this change in our schedule lightly, because Sunday worship is at the heart of our community life. But opportunities for spiritual growth are desperately needed, and reflecting thoughtfully on religious questions is a big part of who we are. I pray that this new program will help meet the need for spiritual renewal and that many of you will find that it has a place in your faith journey.

Michael+

From the Senior Warden

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a festive New Year's! I continue to treasure many memories from Advent and the Christmas celebration at Saint Timothy's. The wonderful decoration of our worship space, the special music on Christmas Eve (especially singing Silent Night by candlelight) and seeing so many children participating in our nativity pageant were among the highlights for me.

Now we are starting a new year, with fresh opportunities and challenges. While the economists tell us that the recession is likely over, many families are struggling with job losses, underemployment and holiday expenses. The economic challenges do not stop at the doors to our church. Your Finance Committee and Vestry are trying to cope with the impacts of a 2010 pledge campaign that remains about \$70,000 short of our original goal. I am concerned that many cuts to the church budget may be unavoidable. Please attend the annual meeting of your church on January 31 to learn about potential responses to our financial situation.

At the same time, I see opportunities for a positive response to our situation. Thank you to everyone who responded to our Treasurer's challenge to finish 2009 on a strong note financially! If we could generate the same level of support this month in support of our 2010 programs and ministries, we could adopt a balanced budget without drastic cuts to our expenses. For those of us blessed with employment and financial resources, please consider helping Saint Timothy's compensate for those in our church family who are unable to contribute as much as in the past. If you have not yet made a pledge, please do so now. And as your church leadership seeks to identify additional sources of revenue, please prayerfully consider how you can help. And if you are unable to do more in the way of financial support, please help by volunteering for the many ministries and committees that could benefit from your involvement.

I carry with me into 2010 the warm memories of this past Christmas season. I know how much Saint Timothy's means to our family throughout the year. I invite you to join with me in carrying the giving and generous spirit of Christmas into the New Year, as we work together to address the challenges facing our church.

Bob Fullerton, Senior Warden

From Our Associate Priest

HAPPY NEW BEGINNINGS 2010 --- THE "YES" MOMENT

"...at some moment I did say yes to someone or something --- and from that hour I was certain that existence is meaningful and that, therefore, my life, in self-surrender, had a goal. From that moment I have known what it means 'not to look back, and to take no thought for the morrow.'"--- Dag Hammarskjold, U.N. General Secretary

Due to the extravagant generosity of long time friends in Aspen that gave the gift of their condo to the Blakes from Christmas to New Years Day 2010, I (we) got to return to this place of happy new

beginnings again exactly eleven years later. I kept finding myself infused with an uncommon joy – something like sensing again sparkling electric new possibility in that rarified air. Eleven years ago we came with our newly wed “kids.” This time our “kids” brought their “kids” to introduce them to skiing. That was special enough. But I also had a profound sense of new beginnings revisited.

It was in the Kwei’s Aspen home eleven years ago that I first read Tom Keating’s Open Mind, Open Heart and began the practice of contemplative prayer. This was a real turn in the road for me. This prayer drew me into a new beginning in my spiritual life -- from being a believer in Jesus into beginning a “Yes” relationship with Jesus. It was the beginning of an adventure beyond my imagining. “From that moment I have known what it means ‘not to look back, and to take no thought for the morrow.’” My life in self-surrender had a goal.

We are going to kick off our Study Brunch this month with the sharing of our new beginnings as we begin to study Acts and Paul’s new beginnings. Plan to join in the conversation 9:30 Wednesday mornings. Come any time even if you have missed classes. It promises to be an adventure beyond our imagining.

Rev. Sandy

The Deacons’ Corner

Aaacck...its 2010!!!

You know, every year I feel really sorry for January. I mean...gloom month. Everything stops, no more excitement, the parties are over, we all have to go back to school and work, the bills come in and it’s cold. Poor little January; poor little month. There are no more “Big Deals”. Well, we do have the Stock Show, but then again it’s the Stock Show. What can we do to make poor little January happy?

What makes anyone happy? What brings a smile? I noticed with all our giving over Christmas and New Year’s how happy we made all those people. It sure made me feel good too. So, I’m thinking that I’ll keep it up and see if January gets happier this year.

I’m beginning to work at a Domestic Violence shelter this week. Now that may seem to be a downer, but I’m excited to be able to do something to help. I’m also tutoring at House of Hope and I know several of you like to go there too. And, you will be pleased to know, I’m beginning to work with “Love, Inc.” to find a solution for the emergency homeless situation I got so bent out of shape about a few weeks ago. Many of you got as upset as I, and wanted to think of ways to help. I will keep you posted as to what can be done, and I encourage you to keep coming up with ideas. I’m looking forward to all of this and hope that I can lift poor little January’s spirits.

What do you think? Do you have some ideas or ways to make January happy this year too?

Peace and Blessings, Cammie

St. Timothy's Financial Picture

A detailed presentation on our finances will be made at the Annual Meeting, but as your Rector I'd like to take this chance to introduce the subject. First, it's important to correct the misconception I've heard that the congregation "lives beyond our means."

It's true that St. Timothy's ran up six-figure operating deficits in the first two years after moving to our Dry Creek Road location. After the fallout from the 2003 General Convention and the sudden retirement of the previous Rector, reserves were depleted and operating funds were drawn on the mortgage. Interim Rector Garry Horle generously served at a greatly-reduced salary, so 2007 was our first year with full staff costs. During my tenure we have always adopted balanced budgets and accrued small surpluses.

A clear pattern has emerged in this regard. Each year we've failed to meet pledge projections, but thanks to careful management by staff and finance leaders, expenses have run below budget. In 2009 pledges fell far below projected amounts, leading to a plea from our Treasurer for additional contributions to reduce the deficit.

In both 2008 and 2009 we conducted supplemental pledge campaigns to enable us to avoid budget cutbacks. The Vestry approved these actions and waited to have pledges in hand before authorizing expenditures. In each case we were blessed by anonymous donations of \$10,000 from member families.

As this Epistle goes to press the Vestry has not yet adopted a final budget for 2010, but anticipating a pledge shortfall we've taken some steps to trim our expenses. By eliminating our ad in the Denver Metro Yellow Pages, cutting back the cleaning service to once a week, and reducing the frequency of lawn care, we'll save \$10,000 this year. We're also grateful for the revenue from our cell tower, which amounts to \$12,500.

Unfortunately, there just aren't any more reasonable cuts to make. 57% of our budget goes to salaries and benefits, with 26% going to facility expenses (including mortgage payments, and with far too little spent on maintenance). That leaves only 8% for administrative expenses, 6% for programs, and 4% for outreach.

You can see that with such a bare-bones budget, additional cuts will have to come from salaries. While that's not uncommon in today's world, it would be heartbreaking for the church to lose any part of the ministries of our amazing staff members. We all see their impact on our lives and the life of the congregation, and cuts which diminish St. Tim's vitality would eventually reduce our pledge base.

The only reasonable option is to increase our revenue, 95% of which comes from pledges and cash offerings. On Jan. 26, after receiving recommendations from the Finance Committee, the Vestry will make a financial plan for 2010. They need to adopt a balanced budget, no matter how costly that will be in human terms. They need your help in softening the impact of their decision.

We all know how tough the times are for everyone. Our staff is committed to a delicate juggling act, providing additional pastoral support (for members who are ageing, have lost jobs, or are struggling with the direction of the national church) while welcoming new members and nurturing young families. It's exciting to report that we have 18 new pledges and celebrated 13 baptisms last year. Your response to the Treasurer's plea was incredibly generous, and all of our leaders are grateful for that.

Please pray for our Vestry members and financial leaders as they wrestle with these questions. And please reflect prayerfully about what you may be able to do to help, in the context of your resources.

If you haven't made a pledge already, consider making one at an amount you know you can sustain. If you're already a pledging member, think about giving back a percentage of the income with which you are blessed. And if your circumstances permit, a one-time matching gift would really make a difference right now.

No matter what happens with our budget, St. Timothy's will continue to be a warm and worshipful community of faith, welcoming people of all generations and reaching out to those in need. Thank you for all the ways you help to build the Body of Christ in this place.

Rev. Michael



Thank You, Thank You

Many thanks are in order after the Christmas season. All of us on the staff are grateful for providing a purse (bonuses) again this year. The Vestry and finance leaders join in thanking all the people who made extra contributions to reduce our 2009 operating deficit. Your generosity during tough economic times means a great deal to St. Timothy's!

We're also thankful for everyone who helped to make our Christmas services possible. Five hundred people (including many visitors) worshiped at St. Timothy's that night, enjoying pageant and music, prayers and preaching. The church was beautifully decorated, and singing "Silent Night" by candlelight touched all of our hearts.

Blessings to all of you in 2010!

Rev. Michael



Samaritan Outreach

I would like to let you know the results of our efforts over the last month on behalf of Cherrelyn Health Care Center and others.

First of all, we had an amazing outpouring of love and participation!! Over 62 people participated in the “Cherrelyn Manor Christmas” in one way or another. Here’s a breakdown:

- 30 seniors received personal gifts from our parishioners.
- We collected at least 200 Christmas Cards with ornaments, so every resident got one.
- There were TRAYS of cookies provided: many, many trays.
- About 20 people came on Dec. 13th to sing Carols and deliver the gifts and cookies.
- And, we gave \$655.00 to Cherrelyn to provide money for senior accounts for “extras”.

Everyone at Cherrelyn was very thankful and appreciative of our generosity. Thank you all for making this Christmas project so successful.

Along those lines I would also like to thank all the “unsung heroes” of the parish who do so much for others. A sample:

- 3 complete Christmas Dinners (turkey, pie, potatoes, stuffing, gravy, fruit and vegetables) were given to Warren Village Residence for struggling single-parent families.
- 178 Mittens, hats, gloves and scarves, many of which were hand crafted by the Dorcas Ministry and others, were collected and donated to House of Hope and other Family Tree clients.
- December House of Hope dinner was lovingly prepared by Nancy van Hall, Mary Schwarz, and Karen Littlefield. Resident mothers were delighted to receive Christmas bags filled cozy new bathrobes, slipper socks, and sweet smelling lotion prepared by Margaret Utter.
- And the masses of poinsettias left after the clean-up were delivered to Littleton Hospital, Life Care Center of Littleton and Cherrelyn Health Care Center.

Thank you St. Tim’s, you really are amazing!!!

From...Cammie Houpt

Help and Thank You

I am offering my own version of these two essential prayers (help and thank you). First, thank you to the Outreach Committee for their generous gift to help pay for my upcoming trip.

January 12th I will be leaving for Haiti as part of a medical mission with the Colorado Haiti Project. We are going to Petit Trou de Nippes where there is an Episcopal church and school that CHP has been building with the local priest and people for about 20 years. Our stay will begin with a glorious

celebration of the Feast of St. Paul, their patronal saint (a bit early). Then we get to work. I will be a “gofer,” getting or doing whatever the doctors and nurses need. The mission will do check-ups for the younger students and will see about 2000 additional people in the five days we have the clinic set up.

Haiti is the largest diocese in the Episcopal Church with well over 100,000 members. It is hard to be sure of the exact numbers, not least because there are fewer than 40 active clergy in the diocese. It was founded in 1861 by one of the first African-American priests, the Rev. James Theodore Holly, who became their first Bishop and the current Bishop is the Rt. Rev. Jean Zaché Duracin. Approximately 80% of the population of Haiti lives below the poverty line and medical care is almost non-existent, especially in the rural areas of the country.

So, secondly, please pray for the mission trip to Petit Trou, for those of us going on the trip and for our brothers and sisters in Haiti, especially those we will be serving. I will be sharing about my trip when I return.

Helen Breyfogle

Last Words

I have never been know to be without words or maybe even an opinion or two, however as I approach the end of my service on St. Tim’s Altar Guild I find myself lost for words. The Lord has blessed me and you have honored me with the opportunity to serve at the Lord’s Table for so many years. None of the wonderful services or events the Altar Guild has performed could have been accomplished without the dedicated and loving members. They have stepped up and gone beyond any expectation I had and really went beyond what I asked them to accomplish. They are truly the ones who are the heart of St. Timothy’s Altar Guild. I hope and pray you will all embrace them and the new Directress, Lorie Newey with the same affection you have given me over the years. As I move on to other adventures in my life, I would like to take this last chance to say I LOVE ALL OF YOU and God Bless my St. Timothy’s Family.

Roberta Denham

Adult Inquirers

Thankfully we keep growing in faith throughout our lives, a process which is more noticeable in some seasons than others. If this is a time when you’d like to strengthen your faith foundations or puzzle out questions which keep coming up, consider joining our new Adult Inquirers group.

This small group meets every other Tuesday from 5:30 to 7:00 to for presentations, discussions, and prayer. Using the Baptismal Covenant as our outline, we’re beginning to work our way through important questions of our faith tradition and how we live in today’s world. If you think you might be interested, let me know. It’s not to late to join this group during January—we’ll finish our sessions this May.

Rev. Michael

Lent Series

During the season of Lent we make a journey from the Wilderness to the Garden. Our cycle of Gospel readings takes us from the Temptation of Jesus in the desert to His Easter morning appearance at the tomb. At the pivotal point of Holy Week, after the Last Supper, Jesus struggles with his fate and faith in the Garden of Gethsemane.

While thirsting in the desert is physically challenging, it has traditionally been a place of cleansing and simplicity. And while we all appreciate the beauty of a garden in bloom, it was in such a place that Jesus struggled with doubt and desolation.

Our Lent Series will trace this journey from temptation to resurrection. Kathy Hendricks will begin by speaking on “Stones to Bread: Encountering Christ in Arid Places.” How do we find spiritual opportunities in the times which seem bleak and barren? The next Wednesday I’ll lead a session on discovering spiritual gifts, once we’re stripped down to the basics.

The third week of our series will be very special, as Rev. Sandy joins with musician Kate Eaton in presenting “The Wilderness at St. Tim’s.” Inspired by the wonderful new worship service at St. John’s Cathedral, it will bring us into a transformed worship time: visually, musically, and prayerfully.

Following that I’ll present a session on “Generosity: Encountering Christ in Serving Others.” With all of us so pressed for time and energy, do we miss opportunities to fill our own hearts by making a difference for those in need? Finally, Kathy will conclude the series with a program on “Encountering Christ Across the Generations,” sharing wisdom gained through decades of experience with families. Telling the story of our faith is an ongoing process that is seeded within the context of our families and bears fruit in our relationships.

We’ll follow the familiar pattern of the past two years: gathering on Wednesdays at 5:30 for Eucharist, sharing a soup supper at 6:00, with the program presentation at 6:45, discussion groups at 7:30, and Compline at 8:00. Please come when you can and leave when you must! (Childcare will be available upon request.)

Instead of observing the Stations of the Cross with a very small group each Friday, we’re planning a special service incorporating that ritual on a Sunday afternoon (date TBA). Along with our new Adult Forum at 9:00 each Sunday morning, we hope these programs will offer opportunities for you to prepare yourself for the amazing journey of Holy Week, which beckons on the horizon.

Rev. Michael

Events in the Episcopal Church

Many of you know that on Dec. 4-5 the Diocese of Los Angeles elected two women as Suffragan (Assisting) Bishops, one of whom has lived for years with her female partner. In order for these bishops-elect to be consecrated, consent must be received by the beginning of April from a majority of diocesan bishops and standing committees.

After both services on Sunday, January 17, I'll facilitate conversations on this subject, providing background information and giving people a chance to make comments and ask questions. As in the past, I promise to maintain a mutually respectful atmosphere, ensuring that we listen carefully to every point of view. I'm grateful for the way we've conducted ourselves in previous conversations and trust that the bonds of our community will continue to grow stronger.

My impression is that the coverage provided by newspaper articles on this subject tends to be incomplete. I encourage you to seek more thorough reports on the Episcopal News Service or the Anglican Communion News Service (easily found through a search engine). Another interesting resource is the website of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Dallas, Texas (<https://www.saintmichael.org/resources/audio-library/>), where retired Colorado Bishop William Frey and Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori spoke at a lecture series on Dec. 12.

If you are not able to attend the conversations on Jan. 17, please contact me any time to talk about this subject. I plan to speak informally with our region's representatives on the Standing Committee before they take action on these elections.

Rev. Michael

Fundraising Dinner and Concert

Don't miss a chance to support the church and have a great time in the process! Presented by your Vestry on Saturday, February 6th, this event will help us to minimize cutbacks in the church operating budget and provide an opportunity for the fellowship we enjoy.

Drinks and dinner will be served starting at 6:00 pm, with the concert at 7:30. No tickets are necessary, but donations will be accepted for beverages, food and music. Childcare will be provided. Please sign up in advance so we'll know how many people to plan for.

Terry Mitchell is an accomplished acoustic guitarist who started out playing in Memphis twenty years ago, with the likes of Mama Toy Norwood and other blues musicians. He also studied for years with one of the top flamenco guitar teachers and has refined his personal style through that influence. Terry will be accompanied by Michael Carney on percussion and vocals and by Greg Hoskinson on bass and vocals.

As well as raising much-needed funds for the church, this evening will be a golden opportunity to invite friends to St. Timothy's. Everyone enjoys a relaxed dinner, and the music should be excellent. Take this opportunity to let others know why your church family is so special.

St. Timothy's Vestry

We Pray for Those in the Military Service

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need.

The Reverend Carl Andrews
Captain Damon Bird
1st Lt. April Bowman
2nd Lt. Cody Comer
Pvt. Kevin Comer
Spec. J.T. Davis
Capt. Lance G. Curtis Fletcher
Private Stephanie Fowler
Ryan Frushour
Lt. Louis Greek
Captain Drew Hoskinson

Gunnery Sgt. John Humphrey
Airman Alex Newey
P.O. 1st Class Grant Probst
Joe Rice
Sgt. Michael Simoni
Airman Andrew Simoni
Seaman Appr. Benjamin Tolle
SR Brian Troutman
Tim Weaver
Robert
Christopher



Our Missionaries

Esther Miller in Malawi

Joanne LeClair in Africa

Susan Craig in West Africa

Audrey Ross and Mr. Bariago in
Togoland

*** Deadline for Submissions for February's Epistle is Monday, January 25th.***

Annual Meeting

We apologize for incorrectly reporting this date in the December Epistle. Our Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, Jan. 31, directly after a single, combined 9:30 worship service. Please get some coffee and come directly back to the church so we can get started as soon as possible.

Childcare and children's activities will be provided downstairs during the meeting.

Attention Ministry Group leaders: please submit a brief report for 2009 to Lindsay by Monday, January 18. It will be very helpful to her if you can send it by email to sttims@sttims.net.



We Celebrate with Those with Birthdays in January



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Marty Chambless, Noel Wagner | 18 Christine Sneden, Brett Johnson |
| 3 Foy Richey | 19 Fiona Blois |
| 4 Barbara Perkins, Mitchell Fisher | 20 Perk Gibbs, Dick Ten Eyck |
| 5 Rick Ingraham, Katie Bartholomew, Abigail Clark | 21 Rick Carroll |
| 8 Bob Sage, Jimmy Cruze | 22 Janice Johnson, Donna Jenks |
| 9 Patricia Gagnon, Dana Max | 26 Jane Dickinson, Caelem Poates |
| 10 Eric Sutherland | 27 Florence Davis, Clive Bonner, Rick Thornton, Joe Casson, Katie Rudolph |
| 11 Bill Storey, gene Culwell, Beth Jesmer | 28 Bob Rushforth |
| 14 Vernetta Philben, Julie Watson | 29 Priscilla Franklin, Arnold Dittmer, Cassie Thornton |
| 15 Jennifer Spahr, Audrey Thiel, Luke Thiel | 30 Clarke Stroud |
| 16 Doug Thomas | 31 Rt.. Rev. Elliott Sorge, Samantha Ochoa |
| 17 Sarah Bruner | |



And with Those with Anniversaries in January



- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 Andre and Nancy van Hall | 7 Dana and Carla Max |
| 3 Joel and Jennifer Perry | 23 Reid and Linda Fudge |
| 4 Elwin and Bernie Slack | 27 Sean and Denise Burgess |

BTW

Don't forget to share...

- Clothing and personal care items for St. Francis Center.
- Clothing - jeans, under ware (size 32-34) shampoo (travel and sample sizes) and
- Inter-Faith Community Services - Non perishable food - (Protein and Pasta, Veggies & Fruit) and Clothing for families

Out To Lunch Bunch



The Ladies Out to Lunch Bunch will meet on Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 11:30 am at Mama Roma's at 8100 S Quebec, Suite B-16, which is on the NE corner of County Line and Quebec). The phone is 303-796-7662, and their email address is www.mamaromaonline.com. For reservations call Marian MacFarlane at 303-346-9274.

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

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The Epistle
January 2010

Return Service Requested

**Nonprofit
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Permit #80**

**St. Timothy's embraces all people with the love of Jesus
through joyful worship rooted in tradition,
ministries for all generations
and reaching out to those in need.**



**St. Timothy's Fundraising Dinner and Concert
*Featuring Terry Mitchell and Friends***

Saturday, February 6

Beverages and dinner at 6 pm, Concert at 7:30

Donations accepted for food, wine, and music

Childcare provided

Please sign up for dinner in the narthex

or by contacting the church office

(303-794-1565 or sttims@sttims.net)

Can you help with setup or cleanup?

Invite your friends! Help support our ministries!