



St. Timothy's Church
4523 Six Forks Road
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609

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The Monthly Newsletter for St. Timothy's Episcopal Church December 2015

SAINT TIMOTHY'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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THE VESTRY OF SAINT TIMOTHY'S CHURCH

Cathy Elsea (Sr. Warden) cmelseal@aol.com; Ed Watson (Jr. Warden) ewatson@me.com

Kevin Bodiford, Bob Elsea, Mike Lewis, Deanna Lord, David Mason, John Royall and Marie Stewart

Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church Mission Statement



**Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church is a traditional,
 welcoming, and scripture-based place of
 worship that leads to salvation
 through the celebration of the sacraments,
 service, fellowship, and outreach.**

Dear Members and Friends of Saint Timothy's,

We have just begun another Church year with The First Sunday of Advent being last Sunday, November 29th. We will use these four weeks to prepare ourselves for Christmas. What is Christmas, but the coming of Our Lord, the Son of God, to earth? We need to receive Him as the Baby Jesus as He has come into the world as every other human; being born of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He has come, though, as the Son of God, to save us from our sins. We now know that God loves us so much that He wants to save us from sin and death and we love Him by receiving Him into our hearts and souls as the one who can save us. What a great beginning of a year! We are granted a possible new start, a new beginning in our life with Jesus and we are shown how to prepare for our life with Him forever.

With the beginning of the secular year, on January 1st, we have a custom of making new starts and new beginnings. We make New Year's resolutions. We attempt to convince ourselves that "things will be different". We actually list what things we will do differently to improve our lives. Not many of these New Year's resolutions are ever fully "resolved" as about half of us, statistics show, give up on them in the first few months of the year. I would like to propose that we make a new start and a new beginning with this Advent. Since it's the beginning of the Church year, and we want to prepare our lives for receiving Jesus, why don't we focus on our attendance and involvement at Saint Timothy's?

What better way to be prepared to receive Jesus than worshipping Him regularly and showing Him our love and devotion by regular weekly attendance at His Church? Why is it that we are enjoined to "come together Sunday by Sunday" to love Him and praise Him? Is it something we are to do when we feel like it? Is it something we should do when our lives have taken a downturn and we need help to make it through a difficult time? What is the reason we should be in Church at least once per week and why will this be a good way to live our lives?

There is really only one reason why we need to be in Church each Sunday and that is love of God. Out of love we have two more reasons emerge and I think they are duty and discipline. We don't like to hear the dirty words of "duty" and "discipline". We would much rather only hear about "love". The duty and discipline really come out of love and praise. What are we doing when we come to Church on a Sunday, but showing God that we love Him, and we are accepting His love for us? Our worship is our outward sign and expression of a need we have to love

God and the bonus is that we receive His love for us in hearing His Word and receiving His Son in the Blessed Sacrament. If we're coming for other reasons, that may be fine, but ultimately it is our love and praise for Him that ought to be our reason. I was reading an article this week by The Reverend Christopher Yaw that emphasized this principle that we need to come to Church to worship and love God first, and that ought to be our primary reason for attending. Father Yaw is a priest in the Diocese of Detroit and the title of his piece, from a newcomers' guide, is "More Than a Feeling". *One Sunday morning following services, a Bishop I know was standing by the back door of the church greeting parishioners as they left. A young man stopped to shake hands. He said, "Bishop, I really didn't like that last hymn." The cheeky bishop smiled and said, "That's O.K., we didn't sing it for you." One of the most significant trends we're witnessing today is this growing sense of cultural and person narcissism. Many of us see it in the Church. Subtly but increasingly, many people no longer come to church to give but to get. In Christian circles I've heard people talk about whether or not they were "fed" at church. This is a harmless enough comment, but it betrays a self-centeredness that seems to miss the whole point of going to church. As the bishop might explain, we don't come together on Sundays primarily to please ourselves, but to worship God. Now this doesn't mean that we should choose our churches by finding boring ones (we may discover a depressingly wide selection). However, it is to point out that we all have a tendency to let our own individualism adversely affect our church-going decisions. Our decision to go to church is one that is made out of fulfilling the duty to come together week by week to love God. Everything else flows from that choice to worship God and serve Him by this expression of loving Him.*

That is the "duty" part of love. The "discipline" part of loving God by worshipping Him is a matter of conforming our lives to what God wants, and not what we want. It's very easy to get out of the habit of going to Church and the more we get out of the habit, the more our worship and spiritual lives are affected. This has been illustrated to me by a telephone line that is held up by a telephone pole. Now, I'm hoping that most of us can remember when most telephone lines were held up by telephone poles. Some still are, but it is becoming a rare picture in suburban life to have telephone lines "above-ground".

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

If you can remember, or your telephone lines are still on telephone poles, then this illustration will be more vivid. Think of the telephone poles as the Sundays we go to church. Think of the telephone line as our life and relationship with God. If we attend regularly, then everything is fine. The line works, stays working and communication is open and healthy. If we miss a Sunday, by removing a telephone pole, then the line, or our life with God, will still be fine, but the line has dropped significantly. If we miss, or stay away for two or three Sundays, removing two or three poles, then the line is still connected, but is probably on the ground and being covered with dirt and debris. Our life with God is still connected and working, but it will not take long for rust and decay to eat away at the line and in weeks or months the line will stop working and eventually could break completely. Our life, love and communication with God have been stopped. The healthy spiritual life will require what God demands and that is regular worship of Him



Nursery Care is provided for both Sunday morning services and between the services. (9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.) Our Nursery accepts children ages 3 months to 3 years of age. Kyllie Nicholas is our Nursery care attendant and loves taking care of children. Kyllie offers child care during the week, she can be reached at 919-264-1973.

Men's Fellowship Volunteer Opportunity

The Men's group will be delivering fire wood on these dates

- December 5th
- January 23rd
- February 13th
- March 12th

The address is 7044 Wildlife Trail in Raleigh. Contact Duncan Culton for more information at sdculton@gmail.com



If you are interested in helping on Sunday, December 20th at 12:30, please put your name on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board by the parish office.



If you are interested in becoming an Usher for one of the services on Sunday, please contact Ed Doolittle at 919-847-0663.

Sunday by Sunday. Maybe that's why God made this the Fourth Commandment: *Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath Day.*

A new church year is a great time to take on the love of God or renew your love of God. This will improve your spiritual life, make for a healthier and more vibrant Christian community that we call Saint Timothy's Church and help us prepare to received Jesus, not only before He arrives on Christmas, but each day of our lives.

May you have good and holy Advent and truly joyous Christmastide. Please remember me and my family in your prayers and please be assured of our prayers for you.

Yours faithfully in the Incarnate Lord, Jesus Christ,

Jay C. James +

The Reverend Jay C. James
Rector

DECEMBER SERVERS' SCHEDULE



	December 6 (Purple)	December 13 (Purple)	December 20 (Purple)	December 27 (White)
ALTAR GUILD	Midge Silberman Mary McDaniel Everlyn Boro Shawna Hastings	Darlene Sholtis Bonnie Searcy Danielette Coleman	Marie Stewart Princess Cheetham-Smart Jennifer Wainaina Carol Rippetoe	Pennie Bliss Scotty Martin Sandy Wheat Princess Byass
ACOLYTES	C: Millie Soler 1st Server: Christopher Stewart 2nd Server: Taylor Wamser C: Izayah Lamont Torch: Parker Johnston Torch: Brody Culton	C: Aly Persing 1st Server: Christopher Bain 2nd Server: Matthew Bain C: Fei Persing Torch: Danielle Lewis Torch: Michael Lewis	C: Roma Boren 1st Server: William Johnston 2nd Server: J James Bodiford C: Elijah Williford Torch: Sean Manuel Torch: Parker Johnston	C: Michael Lewis 1st Server: Aly Persing 2nd Server: Izayah Lamont C: Elijah Williford Torch: Fei Persing Torch: Danielle Lewis
9:00 LAY READERS	L/C: Al Clement P/C: Pennie Bliss	L/C: Tom Donegan P/C: Al Clement	L/C: Pennie Bliss P/C: Mike Spencer	L/C: Mike Spencer P/C: Pennie Bliss
11:00 LAY READERS	L/C: Connie Wilson P/C: Simon Naylor	L/C: Jon Castro P/C: Meghan Lord	L/C: Kevin Bodiford P/C: John Castro	L/C: Margaret Soler P/C: Kathryn Carroll
LECTORS	Alfred Garshong	Meghan Lord	Sam Logan	Melville Richards
9:00 USHERS	Pete Gattis Ed Watson	Derek Doolittle Doug Jurney	Arthur Cheetham-Smart Martin Whitley	Freddie Martin
11:00 USHERS	Rob Stone John Poole Rick Smothers Bob Elsea	Kevin Bodiford Mike Lewis John Royall	Duncan Culton Steve Sholtis Jim Caldwell	Bill Marley Dave Elsea Van Vreeland
9:00 GREETERS	Doug Jurney	Doug Jurney	Doug Jurney	Doug Jurney
11:00 GREETERS	Ann Wamser	Carol Rippetoe	Mary Watson	Patty Hunt



December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	30 Saint Andrew the Apostle 12:00 HC	1	2 9:00 Staff Meeting 10:30 Holy Communion and Healing Service 6:30 Bible Study	3	4	5 8:00 - Men's Fellowship assisting with Warmth for Wake
6 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:00 HC Annual Meeting Church School 11:30 Youth Group	7 7:00 DOK Dinner	8	9 9:00 Staff Meeting 10:30 Holy Communion 6:30 Bible Study	10	11	12
13 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00 HC 11:00 HC Church School 12:30 Men's Fellowship Meeting	14	15	16 9:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 School Christmas Pageant 6:30 Bible Study	17 3:30 Pastoral Care Committee 7:00 School Christmas Pageant 6:30 Vestry	18 8:15 Middle School Communion Service	19 9:00 Acolyte Rehearsal 9:30-11:30 Church School Pageant Rehearsal
20 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00 HC 11:00 HC Church School 12:30 Hanging of the Greens 12:00 Youth Group Christmas Party	21 Saint Thomas the Apostle 12:00 HC 7:00 Choir Practice	22 First Day of Winter	23 9:00 Staff Meeting 10:30 Holy Communion 6:30 Bible Study	24 5:30 pm Communion Service and Pageant 10:30 pm Music 11:00 pm Midnight Mass	25 9:00 HC The Nativity of Our Lord 	26 Saint Stephen 12:00 HC
27 First Sunday after Christmas Day 9:00 HC 11:00 HC No Church School	28 Saint John the Evangelist 12:00 HC	29 Holy Innocents 12:00 HC	30 9:00 Staff Meets 10:30 Holy Communion 6:30 Bible Study	31	1 The Holy Name 12:00 HC Parish Office Closed	2



Looking at the calendar, it is hard to believe we are in the middle of Advent and looking forward to the Christmas season. 2015 has been a quick but productive year for me personally, and I am looking forward to 2016! But before we bring in the New Year there are still some programs and items we are going to be celebrating and wrapping up in 2015.

This year we have experienced a cash flow issue due to pledges not being current. This was addressed by Junior Warden, Ed Watson, last month. As we are nearing the end of 2015, we are hoping to close this gap and end the year in the green!

Regarding 2016, I want to sincerely thank the 2016 Stewardship Committee for all their hard work on the Growing Together in Faith campaign! They worked well together and produced a video which greatly enhanced the campaign and will be put to future use. In addition, we introduced the on line pledging option, and hope this concept will be utilized even more next year! Also, for those of you who have made your commitment to Saint Timothy's for 2016, a big THANKS!!!!

With that being said, we are hoping to close out our 2016 campaign and have begun our follow-up

campaign. We are optimistic those who pledged last year will also pledge in 2016! So, again if you have not pledged yet, there is still time, and I hope you will prayerfully consider your commitment to Saint Timothy's and all our goals for 2016!!

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be on Sunday, December 6, 2015. Please plan to attend the meeting and hear all the updates from the parish organizations as well as from Fr. James. The Youth Group will also have an Angel Tree Project during and after the meeting. On December 20, 2015, following the eleven o'clock service, we will be Hanging the Greens in the church. If you have not made this part of your Christmas tradition, I invite you to do so!! It is great time of fellowship and laughter, as well as a little work!

This year the choir will be singing beautiful selections to include traditional carols. We are all thrilled as John Herrmann distributes the pieces of music to us during choir practice. Please join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve at either 5:30 or 11:00.

On behalf of the Elsea family, we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!

Faithfully,
Cathy Elsea



Our choirs have already begun working on music for the Advent Season. Christmas music has been rehearsed since October 11 and will be until our final rehearsal on December 21 with a string quartet and brass. We are delighted with our preparations and our participation in the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Evensong last Tuesday, November 24th. It was so good to have the members of other choirs from other Six Fork Road churches with us.

Our Advent Services this year will begin with a new (to St. Timothy's) song while the Advent Wreath is being lighted. The congregation will respond "Kyrie Eleison" and "Christe Eleison" after each invocation by the choir. Our anthems will include Gregorian chant, a Chorale set by Dietrich Buxtehude, "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" by the American composer, Paul Manz and finally

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus", set in the great British cathedral style by Ley.

This year, before the two Christmas Eve services, our adult choir will sing Gustav Holst's "Christmas Day". Written in 1910. It is a Choral Fantasy based on 4 carols: "Good Christian Men, Rejoice", "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen", "Come Ye Lofty, Come Ye Lowly" and "The First Nowell". We will sing it with the string quartet along with other traditional carols. "The Holly and the Ivy", "Ding! Dong! Merrily On High" and others.

As reported in the last *Tidings*, this coming Christmas Eve, in addition to the much-loved and anticipated Christmas Pageant, some of the children will sing a special song from the choir loft at the beginning of Communion. They will hold glow candles during their performance. Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve as your music director and organist.

John Herrmann

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jane James	12/03
Doris Brock	12/04
Joffre Fisher	12/07
Michael Lewis	12/07
Clare Smawley	12/07
Danielle Bryant	12/08
Alyce Poskel	12/08
Gillian Boardman	12/09
Michael Mathis	12/09
Susan Patton	12/09
Paul Farris	12/10
Jacalyn Farris	12/10
Shane Mason	12/10
Carolyn Matthews	12/10
Kathleen Collins	12/14
Rugiatu Thompson	12/15
Charlotte Collins	12/16
Sydney Bullock	12/17
Laurie Casey	12/19
Laura Carrico	12/20
Peggy Hume	12/20
Kayla Bryant	12/21
Andiana Slack	12/21
Corey Bullock	12/23
Taylor Fagan	12/24
Emeka Anen	12/27
Rachel Joseph	12/28
Lidah Saylor	12/29
Ronnie McDaniel	12/30
Peter Bourey	12/31
Jonathan Mason	12/31

Happy Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Clay Turpin	12/07
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Caldwell	12/11
Mr. & Mrs. B.J. Mooneyham	12/15

Prayer Requests

- Browning Altizer
- Doris Brock
- Robert Brown
- Tom Casey
- Kathleen Collins
- Vicki Cannefax
- Mark Dwyer
- Charles Hensley
- Garland Johnston
- Merryanne Kagan
- Leslie Kincheloe
- Martha Lewis
- Tillie Marshall
- Terri Northcutt
- Shelby Norwood
- Boaz Odhiambo
- Boo Parker
- Rorin Platt
- Father Presler
- Rachel Rutledge
- Herbert Scott
- Gaye Setliff
- Gary Shelton
- Barratt Sturtevant
- Jennifer Wainaina
- Roger Watson
- Alexander Wheat
- Nathan Zook



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

November has been a busy month for the Youth Group preparing for our Angel Tree project which we hope you've seen at coffee hour!

The Youth Group will meet on Sunday, December 6th following the 11:00 communion service in the parlor to wrap the gifts collected for the Angel Tree. You may bring the gifts wrapped or, for a suggested donation of \$10, you may leave the presents unwrapped and the Youth Group will wrap them for you. All gifts are due by December 6th. We want to thank everyone who contributed with our annual project that brings some Christmas joy to those who need it most this time of year!

Our final meeting of 2015 will be December 20th, where we will celebrate with our Annual Christmas Party. Deck out in your tackiest Christmas attire, and we will celebrate with lots of food and fun!

Please contact Olivia James at 919-604-3767 with any questions.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

It's December and that means the Church School will be focusing on the Christmas Pageant it presents on Wednesday, December 24th during the 5:30 p.m. Family Service. Information about available cast parts, the dates for the practices and the costumes we have on hand have been emailed to our Church School families. Have you received your copy? We want everyone to participate in the Pageant. If you did not receive this information and would like to participate, please see the information below and call or e-mail Sarah Culton. Please help make our pageant a success by having your child participate.

Practices will be during *coffee hour and Children's Chapel* on the following dates- **November 29th** (Church), **December 6th** (Children's Chapel Service) and **December 13th** (Church) **Saturday, December 19th** - Dress rehearsal 9:30—11:00 a.m. in the Church **Wednesday, December 24th** Pageant Night please come to the Parish Hall at 5:00 p.m..

Pageant Cast	Middle or High School Students
Narrators	4 th /5 th Grade
Gabriel	4 th /5 th Grade
Star Bearer	4 th /5 th Grade
Mary	4 th /5 th Grade
Joseph	4 th /5 th Grade
3 Wisemen	4 th /5 th Grade
Angels	K-5 th Grade
Shepherds	K-5 th Grade
Barn Animals	Preschool-1 st Grade

Costumes

Narrators	Sunday Dress or robes we provide
Gabriel, Star Bearer and Angels	Light colored clothing-we will provide cottas, wings and halos
Mary & Joseph	Dress/Shirt and slacks-costumes will be provided
3 Wisemen	Shirt and slacks-ropes and crowns will be provided
Shepherds	Shirt and slacks-we will provide tops and headdress
Barn Animals	Brown or Black Sweat suits-please see list of available costumes

We have the following Barn Animal costumes available: Camel (3), black sheep (1), lamb (3), and cow (4).

Upcoming Special Events

Sunday, December 27th -No Church School

Sunday, January 3rd-Church School will resume