
ST. TIMOTHY'S MESSENGER

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Athens

January 2011



ST. TIMOTHY'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

EST. 1867

Service of
Holy Eucharist
Rite II
Sundays
10:15 a.m.

Prayer
for the
Election
of a Bishop

*Almighty God: Send down upon your Church and the Diocese of Alabama the comfort of your Holy Spirit, that this same spirit may lead us in this time of transition. Guide us as we seek your wisdom, so that we may choose a bishop who will walk in your ways, and so draw our hearts to you, that in all that we do we may glorify your name. We pray this through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.*

The mission of St. Timothy's Parish is, by the Grace of God, to worship, to proclaim Christ by word and example, to serve others beyond the parish, and to nurture one another within the parish.

A Message From Fr. Dave

Merry Christmas---Happy New Year---and, in a few days, a Blessed Epiphany! It's always tempting at this time of the year to write about all the joys of the holiday season and to take a break from the more serious topics. However, I'd like to use this space to kick off the new year with a subject that is both joyful and serious---that's right---I want to talk about money!

Most of us have been taught since childhood that it's not polite to discuss money and so we don't--we don't talk about how much or how little we have or how much we earn or how much we give away. But I'd like to suggest that in the church we need to be more comfortable talking about this subject for one very good reason: **Jesus spoke about money more than he did any other subject besides the Kingdom of God.** Did you know that 11 of the 39 parables are about money? And one out of every seven verses in Luke's Gospel refers to money or wealth? Obviously our money and how we use it was and is important to Jesus.

Those who were running for a vestry position and those who are returning to our vestry were given information that I considered to be "food for thought" for vestry members. However, much of the information is just as applicable to all of us---whether or not we are ever on a vestry. The information covered several topics, but concerning money it emphasized the importance of meaningful financial support of the church. This is deemed important because, as Neal Michell pointed out in his book *Beyond Business As Usual*, those who are less than committed financially to the church will often be less than committed to other activities in the church. They find it easier not to show up for major parish events and not to be supportive in other ways. In addition, the financially undercommitted persons are often those who don't have the faith that God will look out for them in their personal lives and likewise they don't have the faith that he will look out for the church.

St. Timothy's is in need of your support in so many areas---but without meaningful financial support all the other ministries won't happen. We can't have outreach or inreach if there is no money; salaries, supplies, building upkeep, and music all cost money. But, beyond the practical aspect of paying bills, a meaningful financial commitment to the church speaks volumes about our own faith in God and his ability to look after us. God asks for 10% of our income---not as much as the government asks---and he does so without saying, "If you don't pay, you can't belong" as most civic and other organizations do. When we return to God a portion of what he provides for us, i.e. 10% or as close as we can get each year, we are telling God that we not only love him, and are thankful for all he provides, but that we trust him to care for us.

Think about what you have pledged to God through St. Timothy's. If it is not a meaningful pledge, I ask that you will prayerfully reconsider. I am asking that we will make at least one resolution at the beginning of this year and that is to step out in faith, give meaningfully to St. Timothy's, and then sit back and watch God at work in our lives. May God bless you richly in this new year.

In Christ, Fr. Dave+

Epiphany

The church season of Epiphany begins on January 6 and lasts until Ash Wednesday, which, this year, is March 9. We will celebrate with a Service of Light and Holy Eucharist on Thursday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Timothy's. The service will include the lighting of candles to symbolize the light of Christ that we will, weather permitting, carry out into the world. Following the service we will gather in the parish hall for King Cake and light refreshments.

The Sunday Gospel readings in Epiphany are about the importance of bearing witness to Jesus as the Son of God in the world. The season of Epiphany has a two-fold focus: God's revelation of who Jesus is and what we do with the knowledge of that revelation.

We begin with the baptism of Jesus, and John the Baptist's description of that baptism, the calling of Jesus' disciples, and then we will spend several Sundays considering his Sermon on the Mount, also known as the Beatitudes.

Christmas seems to get all the attention---but Epiphany focuses on what we do with the coming of Jesus into our world and into our lives. In the season of Epiphany we focus on who Jesus is and what we need to do to follow him. Come and see! Go and tell!

Adult Christian Formation— A Work in Progress!

We are still seeking the best vehicle for Adult Education opportunities! On Sunday, January 9, there will be a meeting in the parlor at 9:15 for all who would like to participate in a Sunday school program. Bring your interest and your ideas. We will consider possible topics of study---which can include studying scripture (either a book of the Bible or Sunday lectionary readings), selecting a book that all would read and discuss, or consideration of current topics of interest. We will also discuss the future of Thursdays @ St. Tim's and decide if we need to continue it as it is or tweak it or disband it in favor of another program. Please plan to come and share your interests and desires pertaining to Christian Formation.

Please Welcome the Rev. Rob Morpeth

The Reverend Rob Morpeth will be with us to preach and visit on Sunday, January 23. Rob is the Deputy for Finance and Administration with the Diocese of Alabama and will be bringing his gifts and talents to share with us on that day.

Your Vestry

At its December meeting the vestry bid farewell to three faithful members who have served the congregation well for the past three years: Ben Johnston, Regina Montgomery, and Delma Rogers. Beginning in January the vestry welcomes three new members who were elected at the annual meeting in December: Jorge Aunon, John Babb, and Lewis Rogers. All vestry members will participate in a retreat that will begin with a dinner on Friday, January 21 and continue throughout the day on Saturday. The Rev. Dr. Susanna Metz, director of the Center for Small Church Ministry at the School of Theology at the University of the South will lead the retreat.

Each member of your vestry is expected:

- to be committed to Jesus Christ
- to be willing to lead St. Timothy's, along with the rector, in both spiritual and material matters
- to be willing to participate in church programs, support each other, and support the church with a meaningful financial commitment.

Please keep our vestry in your prayers as they endeavor to seek God's will for St. Timothy's Church.

Thank You!

- Nine young people presented a wonderful Christmas pageant during the service on Sunday, December 19. We are most grateful to their leader, Vicki Johnston, and to the children: Sydney and Sullivan Johnston, Olivia and Nathan Montgomery, Randi and Michael Bishop, Dylan Foebert, Brody Cox, and Jesse Eberhart.
- The preschool is very thankful and appreciative to the Men's Group for funding the Christmas Party and the Christmas crafts. The children had a wonderful experience.

Mark Your Calendars!

The dates for the 2011 Cursillo weekends (Thursday night-Sunday afternoon) are:

March 3-6	June 9-12	October 20-23
April 7-10	September 8-11	

If you already know that you want to attend one of these weekends, please let Fr. Dave know as soon as possible. If you want more information before deciding, you can talk with Ellen or Jim Miner, Julie Colwell, Ron Gatlin, Kathryn Hall, Beth Magie, or Dave or Lynda Basinger.

The weekend is a priceless experience---literally and figuratively. The diocese pays for all expenses and there's a good chance that you will return with a whole new outlook on life and the church's role in your life.

Worship Schedule January 2011

If you are scheduled to serve, please plan to arrive by 10:00 a.m. so that the service may begin on time.

	January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30
LEM		Regina Montgomery	Ron Gatlin	Ben Johnston	Julie Colwell
Crucifer		Nathan Montgomery	Lane Bates Brody Cox	Sydney Johnston	Randi Bishop Dylan Foebert
Server		Olivia Montgomery	Blake Bates	Sullivan Johnston	Marlei Croucher
Lector 1	Will Weir	Ron Gatlin	Delbert Davis	Sandra Turner	Julie Colwell
Lector 2	Kathryn Hall	Allan Flack	Ellen Miner	William Pepper	Jim Miner
Intercessor	Will Weir	Ron Gatlin	Delbert Davis	Sandra Turner	Julie Colwell
Altar Guild	Sandy Oppman	Jean Anderson	Joanie Flanagan	Delma Rogers	Mary Lane Bates
Ushers	Bunny Oppman Peter Acha	Bob Noffke John Flanagan	Mark Croucher Lewis Rogers	Ralph Freehauf Dick Hall	Bucky Patton Jim Miner
Hospitality	Kathryn Hall Richard Hall	Sue Kirkpatrick Jorge Aunon	Penley Rees	Bill Davis Harriett Davis	Bobbie Patton Margaret Lane Blake
Vestryperson of the Day	Carlene Freehauf	Sandy Oppman	Penley Rees	Ron Gatlin	Kathryn Hall
Sunday School Teacher		Leila Croucher	Regina Montgomery	Vicki Johnston	No Sunday School

Please contact the Vestryperson of the Day if you are unable to serve.

We Pray For

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Catherine & Caroline Mattingly ➤ Sherry Day ➤ Barbara Hayes ➤ Josh Shoemaker ➤ Christa Shoemaker ➤ Carl Bishop ➤ Michael Bishop | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Grace Morris ➤ Betty Kimball ➤ Alline Moore ➤ premature infant Montgomery ➤ Mary Gray ➤ Charlotte Gatlin ➤ Bob Chaffer & family | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Trent Holt family ➤ Sharon Hawson ➤ D.J. Hassell ➤ Michael Hassell |
|---|---|---|

Financial News

Status of the November 2010 Operations Budget

(Note: does not include contributions or expenses for capital improvements for non budgeted items.)

Item	Actual for the Month of November 2010	Amount Budgeted for November 2010
Total Income	\$7657.85	\$11292.50
Total Expense	\$10800.58	\$13689.73
Net Income	-\$1597.23	-\$2330.49

January 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 ★ Tony Moyers ♦ Johnny & Barbara Jenkins 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist	3	4	5 ★ Sandra Davis ★ Kathryn Hall ★ Jeremy Harbin ★ Barbara Jenkins 4:30 p.m. Cursillo Reunion Grp	6 Epiphany ★ Olivia Montgomery 6:00 p.m. Epiphany Service of Light and Holy Eucharist	7 ★ Joanie Flanagan ★ Pete Stromquist	8 ★ Ryan Moyers ★ Julia Murphy ★ Alline Vanschoiak
9 9:15 a.m. Adult Christian Formation Meeting 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist	10	11 11:30 a.m. Chick's Meeting Home of Judy Wilson	12 4:30 p.m. Cursillo Reunion Grp 6:30 p.m. Men's Club Meeting China Buffet	13	14	15
16 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist	17 ★ Rick Whitaker	18	19 4:30 p.m. Cursillo Reunion Grp	20	21 Vestry Retreat	22 Vestry Retreat
23 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rev. Rob Morpeth Visiting	24	25	26 4:30 p.m. Cursillo Reunion Grp	27	28 ★ Julie Colwell	29
30 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist	31					♦ Anniversary ★ Birthday

St. Timothy's Annual Reports 2010

Preschool

- Offered a 2 month Vacation Bible School/Preschool in May and June (hope to offer this again in 2011)
- \$1500 grant was used to build cabinets for storage
(This allowed a major clean-up and much needed organization)
- 2010-2011 enrollment is up, have 2 paid employees and 5 regular volunteers
- Participated in making preschool banner to represent this church ministry

Music Ministry

- Continue weekly with music that is appropriate for the liturgy and season of the church
- Choir rehearses nearly every Sunday and usually one evening a month
- During Lent 2010, we had a vocal training workshop on a Saturday
- Upgrades and repairs are needed for the organ
(fundraiser was held November 13 to raise money----\$3500 raised)
- New choir robes are in the works thanks to a generous donor
- Alleluia III books were purchased for the choir by an anonymous giver
- Variety of instruments have been incorporated---including drums, guitar, piano, organ, violin, trumpet, saxophone
- Participated in making a choir banner to represent this church ministry

St. Timothy's Annual Reports 2010

Building & Grounds Report for 2010

- One of the major items discussed at the Vestry Retreat was safety.
 - Met informally with James Hand, City of Athens – Fire & Safety
 - Fire extinguishers were inspected (since 1985)
 - Lighted exit doors with emergency lighting
(installed thanks to generous anonymous donation)
 - Scheduled visit with the preschool for fire safety
- Cabinets installed for preschool (funded by diocesan grant)
- Consolidated and reorganized rooms in the back of the parish hall
- **Items that need attention:**
 - Drain lines from the parish hall are ceramic and must be cleaned about every six months
 - While the bell is currently working, it is in need of repair
 - Organ contacts are failing. Meeting with organ builder this month.
- Updated job description for sexton.
- Thank you to everyone who continually pitches in to keep the buildings in repair and the grounds very well kept. It is no easy task and it saves the church thousands of dollars yearly.

Christian Formation Report

- Two Christian Formation surveys went out this year
 - Outcomes were topic based forums
 - Recently Thursday's @ St. Tim's
- Adult Forum met January - May
 - Two of the forums focused on ministries from the Diocesan convention:
 - Committee on Race Relations dealing with the Episcopal Church, slavery and the path to healing
 - The Sawyerville Day Camp: a camp for underprivileged children in Hale County
 - Set goal of 250 books for the camp and the goal was surpassed
- Nursery Attendant resigned and the vestry voted to eliminate this position.
- Sunday School for youth continues during the worship service with good attendance

Search/Nomination & Transition Committees for Election of 11th Bishop of Alabama Hard at Work

Since the close of nominations in October, the Search/Nominating Committee for the election of the Eleventh Bishop of Alabama has been working hard and prayerfully to identify a slate of candidates.

"The process is going very well, and we have identified a rich pool of diverse candidates that we are very excited about," reported Dr. Drew Clark, Search Committee chair. "We are confident that we will fulfill our charge by presenting a slate of excellent candidates."

"We have a gifted group of candidates, who are united in their passion for ministry and commitment to the Episcopal Church," Clark said.

The committee began by reviewing the paper credentials of all of the candidates including resumes, letters of support, and the candidates' answers to a series of essay questions. "We met in October to screen forward a number of candidates from the original group," said Clark.

Last month, the committee broke into three sub-teams and conducted in-depth telephone interviews with the candidates. The committee as a whole met again on December 4, to review the results of the interviews and identify a more manageable list of candidates who will be visited for face-to-face interviews/discussions in January and February.

"The process calls for our best diligence," said Clark, "but our interactions with the nominees and with one another have felt like occasions of joyful discernment and spiritual growth. It's definitely a job, but it doesn't feel like work."

The committee is scheduled to announce a slate of candidates on April 25, 2011.

Meanwhile, the Transition Committee has been working to plan the walkabout, election, and consecration, according to Ms. Alleen Cater, Transition Committee chair.

The walkabout is scheduled for June 25 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Birmingham. "While open to everyone in the diocese, the walkabout provides an opportunity for electing convention delegates to see and hear each of the candidates," said Cater. Delegates will have an opportunity to submit questions in writing, which will be submitted to the candidates as they proceed from one room/group to another."

The election is scheduled for July 16 and the consecration is planned for Jan. 7, 2012. Both of these events will be held at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham.

The Diocesan Standing Committee has asked all parishioners to join in the work of the committees through individual and corporate prayer. "We would like to remind parishes to continue to include the search process in their weekly prayers of the people," said The Rev. Alison Carmody, Standing Committee president.

Confirmation Information

(or what you may have missed in confirmation class)

"Do Episcopalians believe in evolution? Some do and some don't. However, what most of us believe in is thoughtful dialogue regarding the role of science to religion. Many Episcopalians hold to the idea that science and religion are not opposed to one another, but rather are complementary. They both tell us important things about different aspects of reality. They both share the noble mission of discovering truth. In simplistic terms it might be said that science labors to tell us "how," while it is the job of religion to address "why." Most Episcopalians tend to be rather curious about the world and how it works. Many of us welcome new scientific discoveries, not because we're contrarians, but because we believe they can shed light on our understandings of God's world and therefore, God. While the Episcopal Church has never officially spoken on evolution, we have broadly accepted the theory since Darwin's era (and Darwin was an Anglican). Our General Convention has passed a resolution affirming our belief in the ability of God to create in any form and fashion including evolution."

Taken from The Episcopal Handbook

Around the Diocese

- **The Department of Liturgy and Music** has rescheduled its annual wine and cheese reception for parish musicians for Sunday, **January 16, 2011 from 3:00-5:00 PM All Saints' Episcopal Church in Birmingham**. All parish musicians and the clergy who love them are invited to attend. After a time of fellowship, we will sing some anthems together. You are encouraged to bring an anthem to share. If you plan to attend, please contact the Rev. Charles Youngson at cyoungson@bellsouth.net or (205) 969-2700.
- **Nuts & Bolts - "All in the Family,"** a teacher training event sponsored by the **Department of Christian Formation is scheduled for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Birmingham January 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** The event features a day of resource workshops for Christian education directors, clergy, youth ministers, and adult's and children's classroom teachers.

From 101 Reasons to be an Episcopalian

"The Episcopal Church taught me that Jesus came to challenge, not just comfort; to overturn, not maintain; to love, not judge; to include, not cast aside."

The Rev. Canon Elizabeth R. Geitz
Diocese of New Jersey

MESSENGER SCHEDULE

The Messenger is published
monthly.

To submit events or articles,
you may bring them to the
church office or email them to:
sainttimothys@pclnet.net.

The deadline
for the next issue is
January 24, 2011

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev'd Dave Basinger, Jr.
Rector

Ruth Moyers
Organist/Choirmaster
Preschool Director

Tarri Mason
Lead Teacher

Bess Havelly
Volunteer

VESTRY

Kathryn Hall
Senior Warden

Ron Gatlin
Junior Warden

2011
Carlene Freehauf
Sandy Oppman
Penley Rees

2012
Ron Gatlin
Kathryn Hall
Bob Noffke

2013
Jorge Aunon
John Babb
Lewis Rogers

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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!

To:

An Epiphany Prayer

Father, we thank you for revealing yourself to us in Jesus the Christ, we who once were not your people but whom you chose to adopt as your people. As ancient Israel confessed long ago, we realize that it was not because of our own righteousness, or our own superior wisdom, or strength, or power, or numbers. It was simply because you loved us, and chose to show us that love in Jesus.

As you have accepted us when we did not deserve your love, will you help us to accept those whom we find it hard to love? Forgive us, O Lord, for any attitude that we harbor that on any level sees ourselves as better or more righteous than others. Will you help us to remove the barriers of prejudice and to tear down the walls of bigotry, religious or social? O Lord, help us realize that the walls that we erect for others only form our own prisons!

Will you fill us so full of your love that there is no more room for intolerance. As you have forgiven us much, will you enable us with your strength to forgive others even more? Will you enable us through your abiding Presence among us, communally and individually, to live our lives in a manner worthy of the Name we bear?

May we, through your guidance and our faithful obedience, find new avenues in ways that we have not imagined of holding the Light of your love so that it may be a Light of revelation for all people.

We thank you for your love, praise you for your Gift, ask for your continued Presence with us, and bring these petitions in the name of your Son, who has truly revealed your heart. Amen.