



The St. Timothean

DECEMBER 2011

FOCUS: LITURGY AND MUSIC



Liturgy and Music: Magical Ministries

Here is a tale of a magical ministry called Liturgy and Music. This ministry is a magical ministry not only for the service it provides in planning and guiding our worship together but because it exists in both the visible world and in the invisible world, too. Much of the work is performed before or after services though some is quite apparent to watchful observers.

First is a guild, St. Martha's Altar Guild—a group of brave defenders of the altar. Okay, there is not much

defending these days but they play an important role in readying the altar and vestments for the clergy and worship. Invisibly they scurry before and after the service putting things in their place.

The acolytes are mostly visible in their ministry escorting the cross and torches and leading the procession into our worship. Their pizza parties are not visible to most though the aroma can cross into the sanctuary for those who dally after a service.

The flowers seem to magically appear each weekend as though elves or other magical creatures

Liturgy and Music

Tammy Guy

tam_guy@mchsi.com

arrange the masterpieces Friday night. Those in the Flower Guild use their existing talents and learn new techniques too.

Editors for the St. Timothean are: Liz Brennan and Jennie McKinney

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On Being Episcopalian: Advent First, Then Christmas

by Terry Swanson

December! What a month. First we have Advent and then it's CHRISTMAS – all in one month. That's a lot to manage. In today's environment it's difficult to keep them in their proper places. Well, actually it's been difficult to keep them in their proper places since the beginning. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, Advent began sometime after the 4th century as a time of preparation for Epiphany. Epiphany is one of the earliest holy days. It recognized the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles by remembering the visit of the wise men. Celebrating Christ's birthday was not very important to the early Christians – perhaps because the date isn't in the bible.

In the second and third centuries, church leaders even disagreed about the appropriateness of birthday celebrations in the Christian church. Some felt birthdays were pagan rituals for pagan gods. And since the date of Christ's actual birth had not been recorded, these early leaders speculated and argued about the date. Some early church leaders suggested December 25th as the date – though shepherds were not usually in the hills with their sheep at that time of year. (Many historians put Christ's

The Magical Ministries, continued from page 1



The Lector and Litanist help lead the congregation during services with readings from the Bible and with prayers.

Many of the musicians would prefer to be invisible because while they love to sing they don't want to be seen doing it. They meet secretly in an undisclosed location (the choir loft) each Wednesday night at 7p.m. – easily the worst kept secret at St. Timothy's. They meet to practice new and inventive ways to sing a lot of notes all at once and to hold their breath for impossibly long periods of time.

The lector, litanist and ushers may be some of the most visible members of the ministry as they lead us through scripture, prayers and welcome us into our place of worship. Also visible are our chalice bearers and oblation bearers who participate in our Eucharist.

And so ends a tale of a magical ministry – both visible and not – of Liturgy and Music at St. Timothy's. Let us know if the mystery and intrigue of these ministries call you by contacting:

Acolytes: Liz Brennan (222-6920) and Ann Koopal (253-9585)

Chalice Bearers: Jana Montgomery (440-0632)

Choir: Scott Jeneary (462-1415)

Flower Guild: Beth Bice (965-0922) and Dena Losen (276-6431)

Lector/Litanist: Dan Montgomery (440-0632)

Oblation Bearers: Office (225-2020)

St. Martha's Altar Guild: Priscilla Sayeed (256-0101)

Ushers: Office (225-2020)

ADVENT: Our Journey to Bethlehem



This year, beginning with the **First Sunday of Advent** on November 27, we will journey through Advent into the Christmas Season, as one worshipping community with only **ONE** weekend service at 10:15 AM. You and your family are encouraged to experience this journey with an open heart and an inquiring mind, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you in seeing anew the gifts of the Christ Child

Sundays in Advent – November 27, December 4, 11 and 18

9 AM Christian Formation for all ages
10:15 AM Child-Friendly Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays in Advent – December 7, 14

5:30 PM Holy Eucharist – Rite III
6 PM Simple Supper and Activity/Conversation

Wednesday, December 21

7 PM Service of Remembrance and Hope with Holy Eucharist

Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24

5 PM Christmas Pageant with Holy Eucharist
10 PM Christmas Eve Service with Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25

9:30 AM Christmas Day Service with Holy Eucharist

New Year's Eve – Saturday, December 31

5 PM Service for a New Year with Holy Eucharist

New Year's Day – Sunday, January 1

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Please visit <http://sttimothyiowa.org> for up-to-date happenings at St. Timothy's. You can also find St. Timothy's on Facebook at [sttimothyiowa@groups.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/sttimothyiowa@groups.facebook.com).

On Being Episcopalian, Continued from page 2

birthday as sometime in March or April because that fits with the shepherd/sheep thing.) Probably the date was chosen by the church because it aligned closely with a major pagan festival, *dies natalis solis invicti* (birth of the invincible sun god). This allowed Christians to continue their winter celebration by giving new purpose and meaning to the date. As a fourth century theologian penned, "We hold this day holy, not like the pagans because of the birth of the sun, but because of Him who made it." (You gotta adapt if you wanna win!)

Later, Advent became a solemn season with abstinence and fasting as a serious part of a Christian's behavior. The joy and celebrating did not begin until December 25th and then continued for 12 days. Today many of us seem to slide over the Advent part, start the partying Dec 1st, and take down the tree before the new year dawns.

My take on it is that Advent is a solemn season and we should make a conscious effort to remember and embrace the awesome idea that our Savior is about to join us, to take on human form. The very thought takes your breath away doesn't it? On the other hand, how can you not be buoyant and excited when you know what's ahead? He's coming! He's coming, indeed!

I think we just have to keep it all in balance. We need to be responsible for keeping the purpose of Advent in our hearts and to express it when we can. We can keep an Advent calendar, we can make and faithfully use an Advent wreath, we can set aside time (five minutes a day will do) to just give thanks for the season and the reason.

And, this year we can actually make the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph. Think about it – 80 miles, on a donkey, 9 months pregnant, no McDonalds or Holiday Inns along the way, sleeping on the ground, eating dried fish and fruits. All of us at St. Tim's can experience that trip each Advent Sunday by joining Mary, the choir and our fellow parishioners on a *Journey to Bethlehem*. Don't miss it!

Merry Christmas to all!



On behalf of the Vestry, I would like to thank:

Mark Slocum, Mary Sheldahl, Kim Harmon and Lynn Daugherty for their hard work and long hours towards Stewardship Weekend.

Tammy Guy and Elizabeth Maxwell for organizing the most successful Trunk or Treat yet! There were over 100 parishioners and pre-school family members in attendance!!

Scott Brennan and the "Men's Team" for feeding our parish the first of every Sunday for the past 4 years. It's always a great time and turn out.

Stephanie Andrews
Senior Warden





Calling all Singers!

Our celebration of the Advent season this year gives all of St. Timothy's singers a unique opportunity to sing in our choir. If you usually attend either the Saturday service or the early Sunday service, we invite you to take advantage of our single service to join the choir for Advent. Also, if you normally attend the 10:15 Sunday service but cannot commit to a full year of choir, this is a perfect time to try it out for just a short while.

We rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 7:00p.m. and Sunday mornings at 9:00a.m. During rehearsals we learn the anthems we will be singing during the service. We also learn any hymns or service music that may be unfamiliar. Previous experience is not required...just the desire to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Although we have highlighted Advent as being a great opportunity to try out the choir, we welcome new participants all the time. A full year commitment is not required for this ministry. If you only have a few weeks or even a special Holy Day open in your schedule, please consider sharing your voice in our worship service. Just check with our choir director, Scott Jeneary, to find out appropriate rehearsal dates for the services in which you want to participate.

We have a lot of fun and welcome new singers at all talent levels. So....please come join us!

What's With the Flowers at the Altar?

And so, there the flowers are. Why do we put them up there? ... To remind us, even in December, of the Easter Springtime that fills our lives year round; to remind us that even as the Father cares for the lilies and wild flowers of the field, He cares for us too. Why do we put the flowers up there? Remember when you were first in love and gave flowers to the one you loved? Well...



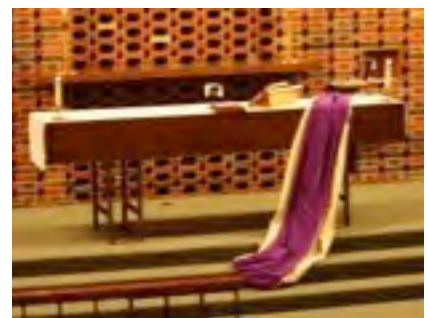
There the flowers are. . . Just quietly sitting below the Cross, praising God.

Credit: The Rev. Scott Fisher, St. Mathew's Episcopal Church, Fairbanks, Alaska

A Prayer for the Altar Guild

The beauty of God's altar, lovingly tended by altar guild members day after day, across the church, gives us glimpses of that same joy for which we were created. The joy of God. It is easy to forget in your day to day duties, but to be on the altar guild is to be part of something big. You help us know the beauty and joy of God that keeps us going, that keeps us loving and serving, until we see face to face.

Credit: Rt. Rev. Henry Nutt Parsley, Jr., Bishop of Alabama as quoted by the National Altar Guild Association



Vestry Minutes - November 2011

Treasurer's Report: Jack Hovden presented the Treasurer's Report of behalf of Mary Sheldahl and the Finance Team. Income vs. expenses is looking very good right now, we are currently approximately \$4500 to the positive. The Building Fund is a little behind on income year to date, but not significantly. Finance Team is recommending moving \$25,000 to a Certificate of Deposit with Veridian Credit Union from MetaBank to take advantage of higher yield rates.

Stewardship Weekend Update: Mark Slocum and Jack Hovden presented a update on the results of Stewardship Weekend. To date, of 172 pledge cards that went out, 110 have been returned. Reminder cards have been sent out to parishioners who have not made pledges yet. Mark is waiting until the week after Thanksgiving to decide how to proceed. 33 parishioners who have pledged in the past have not returned their pledge cards yet. At the outset of Stewardship weekend, the hope was for pledges totaling \$374,000. Pledges received so far total \$283,000. If all remaining past pledges are renewed at the same amount as last year, we can expect an additional \$52,000. This will bring us in about \$40,000 short of our hope, and pretty even with the pledging received last year. The breakdown of received pledges is 8 new pledges, 46 pledges increased, 39 pledges stayed the same, and 17 were decreased. Increases vs. decreases balanced each other as far as actual dollars. New pledges brought in \$5000 and we've lost about \$7500 in pledges through attrition.

Jack Hovden proposed amending the by-laws to require that the Vestry only pass a non-deficit budget. Concern was expressed that a canon change would prevent future Vestries from making budgeting decisions as a "leap of Faith" for larger goals. A policy was proposed instead that will state that the Vestry will keep as its goal during the budgeting process to pass non-deficit budgets.

Advent Season: Mary Cole-Duvall discussed the reasons that she has chosen to have one weekly service during Advent. Mary mentioned that through a number of conversations she has come to realize that having three weekly services has caused the parish to split into three different communities. She feels that Advent is a perfect time to bring the community back together and remind everyone why we come to worship.

Vestry Nominations: There will be an insert in the service leaflet asking for people to list those they see as leaders within the parish. The Nominating Committee will then begin approaching people about running for the Vestry.

Admin Updates: The Pre-school is asking to be allowed to open a credit card to make purchases. Currently, when the Pre-school needs to use a credit card they have been using the Parish's and then reimburse the Parish. Having their own credit card will allow increased streamlining of finances between the Parish and the Pre-school. Mark Slocum proposed that a policy be adopted regarding the issuance and use of credit cards. Mark will send a suggested policy to the Finance Team for comment. A completed policy will then be voted on by the Vestry once its terms have been finalized.

Program Updates: Building and Grounds- Marshall informed the Vestry that Tom from Air-Con is going to remove the old condenser as an independent contractor. He will remove the condenser at no cost to the parish and will sell for scrap. Marshall believes that he has found the last of the leaks in the sanctuary. Tammy Guy reported that Trunk or Treat was a huge success. There were over 100 people there this year, including a good mix of parishioners and pre-school families. Dick Leonard said that this month's Hungry Flock dinner went well. He said that turnout was good, and a number of people had told him that they were interested, but the timing was not good this month. In a conversation about the Weekly Lunches at the Cubs Club, it was suggested that there be occasional reminders about what some of the regular activities are.

Upcoming Events: Saint Timothy's Day and Annual Gathering is January 29th. New Vestry members will have their first meeting in February. Stephanie Andrews provided a Month at a Glance calendar to help keep everyone informed about all of the current programming events and activities.

Lacey Howard is stepping down as EYC Coordinator. The Vestry was asked to start thinking about possible new leaders for the EYC. Josh Wilson and John McManus have been working on building a new website for St. Timothy's. They hope to have a new website up within the next few months. This will also include a transition in the church's e-mail to a Google based e-mail to reduce costs to the church.

Jack Hovden led the closing prayer.

Prayers & Celebrations

For those who suffer in body, mind or spirit:

Jacob, Bill, Betty, Patti, Angela, Heather, Nelda, Ronda, Cameron, Ala, Glenn, Tom, Marilyn, Chuck and Jeanie

For those in service to our country:

Jacob, Trevor, Mary, Joel, Phillip, Christopher, Joseph, Jeremiah, Ted, Keith, Nathan

Happy Birthday to:

Dec. 3: Krystal Cudworth

Dec. 4: Hillary Gaebler, John Johnson, Daniel Willadsen

Dec. 7: Christopher Ellerbroek, Madison Nastruz, Meredith Nastruz

Dec. 10: Dee Mable

Dec. 11: Dave Mable, Robert Waskom

Dec. 12: Gail Cudworth, Caroline Seley

Dec. 14: John Roberts

Dec. 16: Gerald Graff

Dec. 17: Luke Luft, Iselda Ortiz

Dec. 20: Mark Marshall

Dec. 21: Barbara Segelke

Dec. 23: Sandra Pray

Dec. 25: Shawn Jahner

Dec. 26: John Koopal

Dec. 27: Isabelle Arnold, Cindy Soddors

Dec. 28: Evelyn Jackson, Hanny Mason

Dec. 30: Simon Preston, Audrey Tanner

Dec. 31: Jonah Blondino,

Katherine Graham, Dale Wayman

Happy Anniversary to:

Dec. 2: Scott & Stephanie Andrews

Dec. 16: David & Ronda Menke

Dec. 17: Dennis & Patti Christensen

Dec. 18: Patrick & Laura Rice, Lyle & Marilyn McKinney

Dec. 23: Casey & Debi O'Connell

Dec. 27: Ken & Colleen Johnson, Hanny & Carrie Mason

Dec. 28: Gary & Mac Amerman, Michael & Sally Hood



EYC News by Lacey Howard

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS

On Tuesday, November 1, a group of EYCs gathered at Eddie Davis Community Center to serve dinner to about 40 of our neighbors. As always, the food was well received and we accepted many compliments to the chefs. (PHOTOS TO COME)



EYC BAKE SALE

The first weekend of November, EYCs rolled up their sleeves, put on their aprons, and baked hundreds of cookies. The annual EYC Bake Sale's first weekend netted almost \$170 toward our adoption of a family for Christmas. We will be baking and selling again the first weekend of December in hopes of raising at least \$400 so that we can provide a very merry holiday to a local family in need. Thank you for your support of this worthy cause!



EYC LOCK-IN

We are so thankful for our youth community, we celebrated with a super-fun lock-in on Friday night, November 25.

We began at Skate North Incrediroll at 6:30pm for skating and all-you-can-eat pizza and soda. At 8:30 we moved to the Ramada Tropics Hotel on Merle Hay Road for swimming until 10:30pm (that's when the pool closed). Then, we retired to our rooms for movies and snacks. The next morning, the pool opened at 9 am.



SKI TRIP!

The weekend of January 20-22, youth from around the state will gather at Pictured Rocks Camp for the annual Diocesan Ski Trip. The St. Timothy's group will gather in the church parking lot Friday afternoon and head out around 4:30pm, returning Sunday noonish. More info and paperwork to come, so stay tuned!



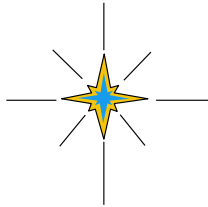
PLEASE RSVP for all events to LACEY HOWARD
at 205-516-3052, LNHoward@hotmail.com, or on Facebook!

St. Timothy's

Episcopal Church & Preschool

1020 24th Street, West Des Moines, IA 50266

Celebrating and sharing God's love in a
welcoming faith community



TO:

Upcoming Events at St. Timothy's

Saturdays:

9:00am Centering Prayer

Sundays:

8:45am Child Care available

9:00am Christian Formation for all ages

10:00am Children's Ark

10:15am Holy Eucharist with Children's Chapel

Mondays:

6:30pm Boy Scouts

7:00pm O.A.

Wednesdays: (Except Dec. 21)

10 am Staff Meeting

11:30 Men's Lunch at Cubs Club

3:45pm Evening Prayer

4:00pm Book Study

5:30pm Holy Eucharist

6:00pm Lectionary Study with light supper

7:00pm Concluding Prayer

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays:

7:45pm Recovery Group

Fridays:

10:00am Books, Brew and Banter

Dec. 2: 6 pm, Boy Scout Overnight

Dec. 3: 8:30 am, Prayer Group

6 pm, Hungry Flock

Dec. 4: 8:30 am, First Sunday Breakfast

11:15 am, EYC Cookie Sale

Dec. 6: 6:30 pm, Boy Scout District

6:30 Executive Team Meeting

Dec. 8: Cookies for the Homebound due

6 pm, Geodes at Eddie Davis Center

5 pm, Holding Tiny Hands

Dec. 9: Casseroles Due

5:30 pm, Preschool Winter Sing & Dinner

6 pm, Boy Scouts (downstairs)

Dec. 11: Liturgy & Team Meeting following service

Dec. 13: 6:30 pm, Vestry Meeting

Dec. 14: 7:15 pm, Confirmation Meeting

Dec. 16: 6 pm, Geodes

Dec. 18: The Greening of the Church

Dec. 20: Preschool Winter Break begins

Dec. 21: 7 pm, Service of Remembrance and Hope

Dec. 23: Poinsettia delivery & installation

Dec. 24: 5 pm, Holy Eucharist & Pageant

10 pm, Holy Eucharist

Dec. 25: Christmas Day-No Christian Formation

9:30 am, Contemplative Holy Eucharist

Dec. 26: Office Closed

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve

5 pm, Holy Eucharist

Jan. 1: New Year's Day

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist