

# ❖ ST. TIMOTHY'S PARCHMENT ❖

Volume 18 Issue 9

September 2021

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

As you are well aware, the pandemic is not over. The Delta variant of COVID-19 is causing havoc with our medical system and the lives of our families, friends, and neighbors. At our meeting on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Vestry and I made decisions to keep our worship more safe given current conditions. We are limiting attendance at the 11:00 a.m. in-person service in order to facilitate more distance between those attending. We are working at setting up attendance groups to give more people the opportunity to register and attend in person.

We are **not** reacting in fear – we are acting with caution, care, and concern. We are acting with caution by limiting attendance, and allowing for more space between people. We are continuing to act with caution by requiring masks for all in attendance, regardless of vaccination status, in accordance with guidance from the CDC and the Diocese of Atlanta. We are doing these things to care for our families and friends, as well as caring for ourselves. We also do these things out of concern for our community, and for those on the front lines among medical personnel and first responders. Another concern is for our children and grandchildren as they have returned to school, and for the teachers, bus drivers, and other school personnel who are at risk in the school environments.

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**A Virtual Worship Services** of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church is available on-line each week. A recording of the current week's 11:00 worship service will be available for viewing on Sunday evening or Monday. Go online on your computer or other device and search YouTube using the search phrase, "St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Calhoun, GA." You may also link through our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/sttimscalhoun>. All of our previous virtual services can be viewed on YouTube as well. Peace be with you.



## **Vestry Meeting Summary Wednesday, August 22, 2021**

**Minutes:** After review, Louise made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 18 meeting with minor corrections. Roberta seconded and motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Snapshot of financial status was presented and reviewed. Jeannie reported that pledges are coming in on schedule, and expenses are below what we had budgeted. Overall St. Timothy is in really good shape. The Vestry unanimously accepted the July Treasurers Report as written and presented.

**Update from Senior Warden:** Jeff wanted to thank everyone for the prayers and support for him while he was sick the last few weeks. He felt the Backpack Blessing went well as he watched the virtual service and enjoyed seeing the kids back in the church. With Jackie Seger's help Louise set up and passed out packaged cookies and lemonade in the memorial garden area after the service. The event was well received.

**Report from the Priest in Charge:** Bill Baxter's funeral was held last Sunday afternoon. It was by invitation only and people that attended were asked to wear masks. Louis Tonsmeire did the Homily for the service. The funeral home filmed the entire service and posted on their website for those unable to attend. A reception was held in a downtown location

Rev. Linda attended the Zoom 3-hour Stewardship workshop Saturday provided by the Diocese.

It was suggested that we hold a Vestry Retreat tentatively scheduled for January 22, 2022. Cannon John Thompson-Quartey would like to conduct the annual Ministry review; he believes a good time would be at the Vestry retreat.

While at a Clericus meeting in Rome, Rev. Linda obtained contact information for someone who might be able to do our audit, and is waiting to hear back from her.

Rev. Linda plans to be out of town the weekend of September 12<sup>th</sup> and has lined up Fr. Louis Tonsmeire to fill in for her on that date.

Rev. Linda stated that we have had fewer on-line viewers for the Sunday service

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since we stopped pre-recording and went to recording the Sunday service in May. Because of the uploading process it usually is later on Sunday before it is available for viewing. She looked into the cost of getting Comcast to provide internet services to the Church that would allow us to Facebook Live broadcast the services in real time and also available for future viewing. A URL link would be provided to the new page. Comcast quoted \$3,000 for 2-year contract for Wi-Fi services and a designated phone line in the Church Parish Hall, a bundled package with a discounted fee. We can use the equipment we currently use for recording. If people could watch the service as it is happening versus later in the afternoon or evening, Linda feels we would have more people viewing the service. Lyle Currier made the motion that we commit to a 2-year contract with Comcast for phone & Wi-Fi services in the amount of \$3,000.00 funded through the Plummer Fund. Daniel Bennett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Feedback/Discussion regarding update to protocols**

**Discuss Registration and Seating** – With the rise in Covid19 cases across the state and in our community, the Diocese and the Vestry believe it is necessary to revisit our regathering protocols. Also attendance in May compared to where we are now. It is agreed we need to reduce the number of parishioners in the pews and assure social distancing as possible. All agreed that we do not want to return to the two service each Sunday format. To insure there are no surprises or enlarged groups of attendees, everyone needs to register for the service they will attend, including lay readers, lay ministers and musicians. Daniel suggested changing to using Eventbrite system for on-line registration. Once a number of seats are set for your event, it will not let any more join. Example: if total people allowed was set at 30 and 28 already registered, and a family of 3 tried to register it would not accept their registration because only two spaces are left available. He said the Eventbrite system is free to use. We may look into this in the future. For now, we will continue to seat people or pods of people at each end of the pews with every other pew in between left empty. Large pods / families of four or more will have an entire row for their group. We need to return to 6' social distancing between individuals and/or family pods. We must continue to wear masks.

**Service Size and Social Distancing** – The Vestry decided that we will return to 27 people per service and change to a every other Sunday group schedule. The schedule will allow congregants to choose every-other (alternating) 11:00 Sunday services to attend, not both, thus allowing everyone a chance to attend at least two services per month. Senior Warden Jeff Adair will contact all the regular attendees and work with them to designate which alternating group they will be attend. Regular attendees will be determined by looking at the past two months registration forms and determining who has registered to attend at least five or six times in the past two months. There should still be a few seats left available each week for our occasional attendees or guests of our regular attendees but they will need to call and register. Once we reach our maximum allotted, the registration form will be closed and a waiting list will be generated. No walk-ins will be accepted at this time, a waiting list will be maintained and if cancellations allow for others, they will be notified and they will be placed on the registered list. We will start this new routine on September 5<sup>th</sup> and continue through November 7<sup>th</sup>. The Vestry will re-evaluate if we need to continue this alternating weekly schedule or decide what changes can be made at the October 26<sup>th</sup> Vestry meeting. Regarding the last Sunday in August, we will limit the registration to 27 in the congregation and it will be determined by the first 27 people that register. Roberta Charbonneau made the motion that starting September 5<sup>th</sup> through October we limit the number of people at each service to 27, and implement a weekly alternating schedule. Lyle Currier seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Virtual recording** – Recording the service is easy, uploading takes more time. We need a team to rotate on a schedule. We are still looking for 3-4 volunteers to help. Another note will be placed in the Parchment asking for volunteers to rotate recording and virtually upload the weekly service and/or managing the live stream service.

**Facility sanitizing** – Jeff and Lyle alternating completing it now. They also need 1-2 more people on this team. A note will be place in the Parchment again asking for volunteers.

**Wednesday night service possible start after Labor Day** Many in the group that want this service, really want it to include the sit-down dinner. At this time the diocese is stating that indoor food is prohibited. This issue was tabled until a later date considering our current situation with a rise in Covid19 cases in our community.

#### **Diocesan Assessment**

Rev. Linda filled out the paper work and sent it in on August 18<sup>th</sup>. The amount for the 2022 Diocesan pledge is \$12,350, slightly less than 2021.

#### **Stewardship Campaign**

Rev. Linda would prefer to do a letter to the parishioners, also calling some people personally, and a sermon or two on Stewardship. Stewardship information will be sent out mid-month September along with the pledge card. It will be addressed in the mid-September or October parchment.

#### **The 115<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Council Meeting November 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>**

Council will meet at the Cathedral of St. Philip. In addition to the Priest in Charge we are allotted two delegates. This meeting still maybe a zoom meeting format or could be in person. Roberta is willing to be a delegate if it is held via Zoom. Jeff stated he was willing to be an alternate delegate if held via Zoom. An announcement will be placed in the parchment asking for possible volunteers.

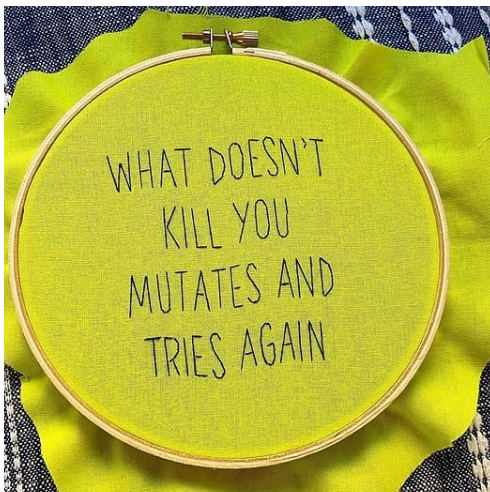
**January 2022 Vestry Retreat Zoom / In-person Set date by the end of Sept.** – Canon John Thompson-Quartey would like to attend and meet with the Vestry and Rev Linda. The meeting will be via Zoom from 9 AM to 3 PM on Saturday January 22<sup>nd</sup> if this works with Canon John's schedule. An alternate date is January 8<sup>th</sup>. The final date will be set by the end of September.



Our deepest principle as followers of Christ is to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. I encourage your daily prayers for your family and friends, our church family, our community; for all those in the schools and colleges; for all in the hospitals, both patients and staff; and for all at risk, either from medical conditions or from the nature of their work.

I also encourage you to stay involved with St. Timothy's, not only by prayer, but by participating as you can in the committees and tasks that are ongoing. I know it's not as fun on Zoom as it is in person, but our ministries need you. There are requests elsewhere in this newsletter or you can call me or any Vestry member. We are the Church, whether in the sanctuary or at home or at work or in the community. What is God inviting you to do in this challenging time?

Blessings,  
Rev. Linda+



**Church Meetings**

While there are no in- person meetings, committees will be conducting **virtual** meetings—  
**Vestry - Sunday, Sept. 19, at 2:00 pm**



- Sept 8 Ron & Marg King
- Sept 8 Dale & Jackie Seger
- Sept 9 Steve & Carol Vedrody
- Sept 11 Chas. & Linda Pineo
- Sept 15 Chris & Meghan Ensley



**Flower Guild** - It's not often we can obtain one photo with so much talent but this is one photo that represents St. Timothy's Altar Flower Guild. These women work together to assure our church has seasonal flowers to represent the love and prayers of our parish each Sunday and holiday. Back row from left: Deb Trudell, Teresa Bailey, Paige Smith, Rita Collins, Ilene White, Karen Yates, Kathleen Shirley. Front row from left: Judy Peterson, Judy Mincey, Jackie Seger, Charry Chaapel, Ann Dimon.

**CONTACTS**

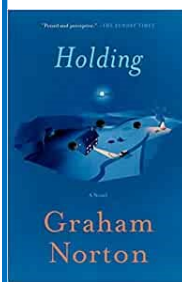
Office: 706-629-1056 or [timothyschurch@gmail.com](mailto:timothyschurch@gmail.com)  
Follow us on Facebook at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Calhoun GA or our webpage <https://www.sttimothycalhoun.org/>



- Sept. 1 Cindy Dennerline
- Sept. 1 Brian Charbonneau
- Sept. 2 Paige Smith
- Sept. 3 Michael Overlander
- Sept. 9 Amanda Overlander-Spradlin
- Sept. 11 Beth Vaughn
- Sept. 11 Jackie Seger
- Sept. 14 Mike Davis
- Sept. 18 Deb Henning
- Sept. 22 Kelli De Guire
- Sept. 23 Tim Brown
- Sept. 25 Ilene White
- Sept. 25 Erona Prenku
- Sept. 27 Lane McCoy
- Sept. 29 Susan Skaggs

**COVER TO COVER Book Club**

On Monday, Sep. 20, our Church Book Club will meet virtually from the comfort of your home via



Zoom starting at 6:45 PM to discuss **HOLDING** by Graham Norton. Described as "set in an idyllic Irish village where a bumbling investigator has to sort through

decades of gossip and secrets to solve a mysterious crime."

Oct 18 I'LL WATCH THE MOON by Ann Tatlock

Nov 15 THE FOUR WINDS by Kristin Hannah

No meeting in December.

**All are invited to join us for great reads and good conversation!** Contact Roberta, 678-773-5655, to learn more about joining Zoom



**KEEPING OUR CHURCH SAFE**

Each week after our Sunday Service, a thorough sanitizing is completed. This is done in accordance with the current

CDC and Diocese of Atlanta recommendations and guidelines to keep our sanctuary as safe as possible. We have a team of two fellows who are currently handling this task but we are seeking other volunteers to learn the protocols and safety measures that are taken each week. **Please contact Lyle Currier, Junior Warden and chair of facilities committee, if you'd like to learn more about this vital service for our church.**

**From the Altar Flower Guild** - You are invited to give flowers for our weekly services. We can contact Judy Mincey for any flower requests in August. Please call her at 770-773-0818 to let her know which Sunday you wish to have flowers at the altar. Please call **EARLY** in the month. Sept.'s dates are: 5, 12, 19 and 26. The cost remains the same at \$30. Checks are to be made out to the Guild lady purchasing the flowers, and can be mailed to them, or sent to the church office. **DO NOT** make the check out to the church.



St. Timothy's **Outreach Committee** is looking for some fresh faces. We are responsible for spending our church money on various charitable organizations in the community, state, and around the world. One ministry with continued need is VAC/Voluntary Action Center for food items.



Please learn more about St. Timothy's Outreach from Dan De Guire or Terry Overlander.



**Recording Sunday Service and Posting to Website**

This has become a vital part of the ministry of St. Timothy's. Many of our members are not able to join us and many now have distant family and friends joining us via our weekly video posts. The equipment is in

place but needs to be monitored and then uploaded to the internet. Over the past 16-months we have had several different volunteers and now would like to include others in the rotation to assure this service is completed in a timely manner. **Anyone interested in A/V production, please contact Jeff Adair or Rev. Linda.**



**Evaluating/Updating 6-month goals and establishing new goals –**

1. Expand the online/virtual liturgy to include more lessons, more music and the Eucharist. **MET**
2. Begin in-person outdoor worship as possible, with possible alternate locations for major feast days, since space is so limited at church. **MET**
3. Begin indoor in-person worship as possible under protocols, while continuing to provide online service for those who cannot attend in-person. **MET**
4. Meet with committees via Zoom to get to meet more parishioners in small groups, and learn how each committee works. **NEED TO KEEP AS A GOAL FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS.**

Jeff and Rev. Linda will get together this week and finalize the goals as discussed by the Vestry for the next six months, then Jeff will email them out to the Vestry for final approval.

**Mulching and sprucing up the Memorial Garden and Drainage issues in the Memorial Garden –**

Mulching the Memorial Garden was discussed and voted on at the July Vestry meeting. Teresa Baily would like to plant a border around the Memorial Garden and suggest Vinca. Roberta suggested using a non-evasive and low mounding plants around the border only. She will discuss with Teresa the Vestry wishes and ideas and work together with her. Daniel stated that the Memorial Garden had flooded again, he tried to fix it but it is filled with red clay which doesn't allow the water to drain. Lyle stated he had put in some drainage holes and he will clean them out and see if he needs to add some new ones.

**Facilities Update –** Rev. Linda reported that the fence between the rental property and the church is in need of repair, Lyle will look into this.

**Sunday School –** Louise thought that Backpack Blessing went really well, Jackie Seger helped her set up for the cookies and lemonade time after the service. Louise served the lemonade wearing mask and gloves. We are in need of a Youth Leader. At some point in the future once Covid19 is more controlled we would like to look at returning to a youth service format on Sunday evenings.

Submitted,  
Jeff Adair

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**"Wireless communication is nothing new. I've been praying for 75 years!"**