

❖ ST. TIMOTHY'S PARCHMENT ❖

Volume 22 Issue 1

January 2024

Dear St. Timothy Folk,

Last year I wrote: "As we start 2023, I suspect we have some contradictory feelings. We may have optimism about the new year, but that is tempered with some skepticism and caution, especially with Covid, flu, and RSV in the air. And then there is the usual wondering what Mother Nature is going to throw at us for weather..." And here we are facing 2024 with those same concerns.

Liturgically, it is also a bit mixed. We are beginning a new secular calendar, but we are halfway through the school calendar year. We are midway through the twelve days of Christmas, still celebrating the Incarnation, with Epiphany and the season of Epiphany in view. Because of the way the calendar falls, we jump from the First Sunday after Christmas Day (December 31) to the First Sunday after the Epiphany, the Baptism of Our Lord.

On the first Sunday of January we will hear Mark's very brief report of Jesus' Baptism. During the next three Sundays of January we hear about Jesus calling his first disciples, and the beginning of his ministry and preaching. As we reflect on these Gospel stories we are invited to ask how Jesus has been and is being revealed to us in our lives. Christmas, the Nativity, is only the beginning of the story of Jesus for us. How does the story continue and connect with our own stories? If we proclaim Jesus born in Bethlehem, how do we also acknowledge him as the Son of God proclaimed at his baptism? This idea of revelation and proclamation will continue through the whole of the season of Epiphany.

There is, however, something very different about this January. On

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Recording Sunday Service and Posting to Facebook

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. Our new equipment allows us to record and broadcast our service live from the back of the church. The equipment is in place but needs to be monitored. Jess Shirley is looking for interested members to train and join in the rotation of operating the recording and sound equipment. Anyone interest-

ed in being a part of our A/V production, please contact Jess Shirley.

Links to Sunday Services

<https://www.facebook.com/sttimscalhoun>

or <https://www.sttimothycalhoun.org/>

You may have to scroll down when you get to Facebook.



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes December 26, 2023

Present: Rev. Linda Pineo (Priest in Charge), Lyle Currier (Junior Warden), Beth Vaughn, Kelli De Guire, Louise Purdy,

Lisa Dunbar (Senior Warden), Jeannie Vaughan, and Susan Skaggs
Absent: Jess Shirley, Charlie Phelps

Call to Order with Prayer

Designate Secretary for this meeting – Lisa

Approval of previous Minutes – all approved

Treasurer's Report November – all approved

Established VPOD for each service through January 2024

2024 Pledge amount was discussed. It is much lower than previous years.

Letters have been sent to past pledgers that have not yet returned a card.

Beth suggested mentioning pledge card submissions at a few more services.

2024 Vestry discussion

Installation of Vestry will be January 7th

Vestry retreat was discussed. Rev. Linda will email possible dates.

Future Calendar

January Vestry meeting proposed to be Jan 10 at Wednesday night dinner to approve 2024 budget, assign Feb VPODs

Adjourned with prayer



In the Western churches (including the Episcopal Church), Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the Wise Men from the East to the Christ child in Bethlehem. The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "revelation" or "appearing". It makes sense that Epiphany season comes right after Christmas.

Celebration of Magi and Shepherds

Join us on January 7th for Sunday School as we follow the star to experience the journey of the Magi and enjoy a Shepherd's Feast. Kids (and teachers) are encouraged to dress as shepherds or wisemen. Costumes are available at church as well.

The Bishop is Coming!

Bishop Rob Wright will be with us at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 28th to celebrate St. Timothy's Semicentennial (50th anniversary) as a parish in the Diocese of Atlanta. He is not a visitor or guest as he is properly the head of all the congregations in the Diocese. He will preach, receive and confirm several of our members, and celebrate the Eucharist. Past clergy and other special guests have been invited to join us for this occasion. Following the service, there will be a celebratory luncheon in the Parish Hall.

In order to prepare for the luncheon, we ask that you sign up on the Parish Hall bulletin board, or call or email the office by January 21st, so that we can be sure of having sufficient food for everyone. If you are willing to help out in any capacity, please contact Deb Trudell or Beth Vaughn.



The Right Rev. Robert Christopher Wright is the 10th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta.

2023 A busy year for our Outreach

St. Timothy's supported some diocesan ministries like; Emmaus House, Episcopal Relief and Development, Episcopal Sex Trafficking Victim Assistance, Episcopal Community Foundation, and others.

We also helped in our own community through the following places and programs: Healing Hands, Family Resource Center (Prevent Child Abuse), Christmas in July with new underwear, SE Firefighter Burn Foundation, Backpack Buddies (provides bag of food for the weekend for at risk youth, GC & Calhoun Schools' Samaritans Closets, GC Domestic Violence Center, The Hunger Walk, Sewanee School of Theology, Foster Care Christmas gifts, 23 VAC Christmas Children, supported VAC Senior Christmas Box program, GC Senior Center, 50 "birthday party in a bag" and missionary blessings.

Please join us in 2024!. If you have any questions about what we do ask any committee member. Terry, Ann, Dan, Roberta, & Susan

Once again St. Timothy's sponsored 8 families with 23 children through the VAC program. Thank you each who sponsored smiles and joy for Christmas morning!

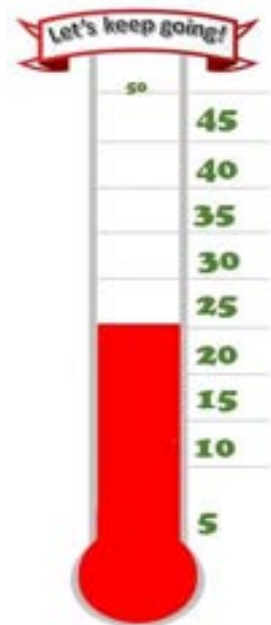
50 Birthday Bags for our 50th Anniversary

A quick recap of what this is: As we celebrate the birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ and to celebrate St. Timothy's Church 50th birthday, we would like to provide 50 "birthday party in a bag" kits to the Gordon County Domestic Violence Outreach Office.

We ask each family to bring in two (2) each of the following by January 7th:
 cake mix
 frosting

The Outreach Committee provided the party bags, baking pans, small plates, utensils, napkins, and boxes of birthday candles.

We are off to a great start so far and almost halfway to our goal; **26** bags have been completed.



January 28th, we will celebrate the semicentennial, the 50th anniversary, of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church as a congregation of the Diocese of Atlanta. Bishop Rob Wright will be with us to preach and celebrate, and will also confirm and receive several members of our congregation. Former clergy of St. Timothy's and others have been invited to join us for this special occasion. After the service, we will gather in the Parish Hall for a celebratory luncheon. Several members are working on a scrapbook with photos chronicling the history of St. Timothy's, which will be on display.

As we begin the new year as a church family, I also want to remind you of the challenge I gave a year ago. How is God inviting us to celebrate this occasion with our ministries? How can we show the world around us the gift that our parish is in our lives and is meant to be in the life of our community? One of our projects is the 50 Birthday Bags (see page 2). How can we grow more Christ-like as individuals and as a congregation? How can we show more of the love of Christ? May this semicentennial celebration be the beginning of growth and new ways of living as followers of Christ.

Blessings in 2024!

Rev. Linda+



CONTACTS

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Follow us on Facebook at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Calhoun, GA or our webpage www.sttimothycalhoun.org/



What is the difference between being received or being confirmed in the Episcopal Church?

Confirmation is for those wishing to affirm the commitments made for them at their baptism. Reception is for those previously confirmed in another Church who now find their ministry in the Episcopal Church. Reaffirmation is for those who desire to recommit themselves to the vows made at their baptism.

Bishop Wright will receive John Lampe and Janet Lonvick. He will confirm Harrison Hughes, Zelly Avery, and Alex Avery.

If anyone wishes to reaffirm their Baptismal vows, please speak to Rev. Linda early in January.

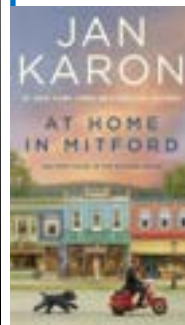


- Jan. 6 Julie Leggett
- Jan. 10 Mary McCoy
- Jan. 10 Kate Leggett O'Toole
- Jan. 11 Sally Tonsmeire
- Jan. 15 Deke Findley
- Jan. 17 Reed Findley
- Jan. 20 Tom Chaapel
- Jan. 21 Jessie McCoy Feller
- Jan. 22 Allen Dutch
- Jan. 26 Lyle Currier
- Jan. 27 Kay Baxter
- Jan. 28 Heath Richardson
- Jan. 28 Annie Barnes Gamble



COVER TO COVER Book Club

All are welcome to join our Church Book Club. We meet at the Parish House starting at 6:30 PM with discussion beginning at 7:00. On Monday, Jan. 15, we'll discuss AT HOME IN MITFORD by Jan Karon. "In these high, green hills, the air is pure, the village is charming, and the people are generally lovable. Yet Father Tim, the bachelor rector who yearns for something more, suddenly finds he has more than he can handle ... Heartfelt and moving, this is the book where it all (The Mitford series of books) began." All are invited to join us for great reads and good conversation! Contact Roberta, 678-773-5655, with any questions.



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A monthly calendar is posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall for sign up to offer flowers for the altar. Post your name, "in honor of ...", and submit

your payment to the indicated flower guild person listed for the month. Remember checks for \$30 are not made to the church.



The most significant part of the visit of the Magi is the fact that they were not Jews.

They were "from the east", i.e somewhere outside of Israel (most probably Mesopotamia), i.e gentiles (non-Jews). The shepherds were Jewish and God sent them to worship Jesus but, more surprisingly for any Jew at the time, God sent for non Jewish people, the Magi, to come worship Jesus. The arrival of the Magi was part of the message that salvation was not just to the people of Israel but to everyone. God wanted to unite both together in salvation. Salvation for all was a concept that the Pharisees hated during Jesus' ministry.

Also the gifts the Magi brought signified Jesus status and destiny: the frankincense signified his divinity, as incense was offered to gods; gold signified his kingship, gold was offered to kings; and myrrh signified his future death as myrrh was used to embalm the dead for burial.

