

MARCH 7, 2010

St. Timothy's



Welcome!

For Our Guests Today

Welcome to St. Timothy's. We are glad that you are here. You are welcome to use the "connection card" at the end of this bulletin to learn more about our community, ask questions, or make comments. Please place the card in the offering plate, or hand it to one of the clergy at the door as you leave today.

On My Heart and Mind

Dear St. Timothy's Family and Friends,

Scripture reminds us that there is a season for everything. In this season of Lent, we move through a season of self-examination and penitence. If we look closely, we will notice that beyond what we want to see, we are challenged to take stock of who we really are. This is true for us individually as it is for us as a whole church.

On that note, we have received an important report from New Beginnings Consulting at a congregation wide meeting last Sunday. (You can get a copy of the report by contacting Peter Sammel at peter@sttims.org) The report reflects the participation of over 80% of St. Timothy's. The gathered response to the report reflected the diverse views, opinions, and perspectives that make up the congregation. We also felt in that meeting, I think it's fair to say, lots of different emotions as we walked through the report. In a word, it was tough. The assessment and recommendations provided by New Beginnings are complex and clear. We now begin the implementation phase. It's important to me to tell you that of utmost concern to Bishop Mary and me are the safety of any possible victims of sexual misconduct, and establishing a process for any possible victims to safely be heard (recommendation 5).



I would like to share a little about my experience of receiving the report. I received the report three times—on Friday with my wife April, on Saturday with the Vestry, and Sunday with the congregation. It's humbling to learn so much about how I come across to people. I see some important areas for my continued growth and learning in my role. Three things stand out: 1) round listening 2) for a third of the church, sermons that could be more challenging, and 3) improvement of my teaching skills. The truth is, I have made mistakes around not listening fully to a viewpoint before making a decision. And I can think of other instances where I seem to give someone the impression that I agree with them when in fact I don't. I know that in the past I have changed my mind after I thought about something more, and then forget to tell someone about it. Perhaps, reading this, you can think of some way that I personally have failed to listen/communicate with you. I seek to learn if you personally have had a particular instance where you felt misheard by me, unheard, or not communicated with afterwards, or I was mistaken and I might not even be aware of it. Please email me or call: it's important for me to learn because this is a season to make amends. In the coming weeks, I will also seek ways to learn more about the hopes that some have for more challenging sermons. I feel that in every one of these areas in my ministry—listening/communication, sermons, and teaching ability—I have a lot to learn. I appreciate the opportunity to see this now more clearly than ever.

Please join me in prayer for St. Tim's, for our self-examination and penitence as we move into the heart of Lent.

Love,

Nathan

P.S. Here's a prayer to encourage us as we live into Lent:

O God, who has revealed in Jesus a new spiritual power that can heal broken relationships, open our eyes that we may know and understand him. Stir our hearts that we may admire him as we continue on into the self examination and penitence of this season. We ask this, O God, in all humility, knowing the limitation and inadequacy of our thinking and the weakness of our wills. Amen.

Ways to Get Connected

Adults

Ministry Teams are how we care for others and one another while growing in faith. Find a team where you can make a difference in our community! Email equip@sttims.org.

Covenant Groups are small groups meeting in parishioners' homes, helping us know the presence of Christ in one another. To find the covenant group right for you, email Anne Wilde at anne@sttims.org.

Wednesday Night Dinner is a great way to meet people over a nice meal. Dinners begin every Wednesday evening (except during the Christmas season) at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall. "Kid Food" and a vegetarian option are always available. The cost is \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children, and a \$30.00 maximum per family (including parents and children under 18). Consider yourself personally invited by Nathan, our pastor, who keeps a chair open at his table.

Children

Godly Play nurtures children's relationship with God in Christ through experiencing the stories of Scripture. Classes are provided for children 3 years and above and begin immediately following the 9:00 a.m. service. Everything that happens in a *Godly Play* classroom – the classroom set-up, the carefully chosen and placed materials and the management of the community of children – serves the child's relationship with God. Wyn Schuh (at wynsttims@boardsailor.com) is the coach of the Godly Play ministry team, and would love to help you learn more about how we can help with your child's faith and religious education.

Kids Music and Movement is a joyful half-hour of music and rhythm play on Wednesday evenings at 5:15 in the church building. Children of all ages sing simple (and sometimes silly) songs, play drums and other instruments, and move their bodies. "Kid's Music" wraps up just in time for Wednesday night dinner. The class is free and registration is not necessary. Our Music Director, Peter Sammel, (at peter@sttims.org) can provide you with more details.

St. Timothy's Preschool has been serving children and families in the Mountain View, Los Altos and Sunnyvale communities since 1961. Our school offers a play-based program that includes academic and social readiness in preparation for kindergarten. Within a peaceful, nurturing, co-operative environment, children experience art, literature, music, math and reading readiness, cooking, science and creative drama. For more information, contact Helen Wooldridge, Preschool Director at (650) 967-4724.

Youth

Youth Group is for youth in 6th-12th grade. Youth meet from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. on Wednesday nights and from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. on Sundays, to grow in love together and set an example in life by doing a project for the community. These projects were generated by youth matching the community's needs with their own gifts. For more information contact Youth Director, Nancy Livak, at nancy@sttims.org.

Breakfast Club happens every Sunday from 9:45 to 10:25 a.m., after the 9:00 a.m. service and before the 10:30 a.m. service. Youth, grades 6-12, meet to explore the meaning of the gospel together. For more information contact the coach of the Breakfast Club Ministry Team, John Heltzel (at jheltzel@gmail.com).

Serving Today

Danelle Hanson
Candace Hanson

Tellers

Dana Peak
Julie Hansen

Floral Designer

7:45 a.m.

Althea Parks
Chuck Utley
Althea Parks
Nelson Frick
Barbara Blancke
Althea Parks
Darlene Frick
TBA

Altar Guild
Newcomer Welcome
Greeters/Ushers

Lector
Eucharistic Minister
Healing Prayer
Sound

9:00 a.m.

Melissa Malley
Ellis Family
Ellis Family
Alex Mendoza
Katie Watkins
Lucas Mendoza
Lucas Mendoza
Laura Casellas
Madeleine Gerdes
Scott Rotondo
TBA
TBA
TBA
TBA

Altar Guild
Newcomer Welcome
Greeters/Ushers
Lectors

Prayer
Acolyte
Eucharistic Minister

Healing Prayer
Sound
Projector
Floor Director

10:30 a.m.

Julie Hansen
Caroline Aoki
Lavonne Bieber
Wilde Family
Natalie Six
Jen Ezell
Caroline Aoki
Susan Slakey
Susan LaGassa
Grace Schmidt
TBA
TBA

Altar Guild
Newcomer Welcome
Greeters/Ushers
Lectors
Acolyte
Eucharistic Ministers
Healing Prayer
Sound
Projector

Flower Dedications

Celebrate a birthday, anniversary, a memory of someone, or simply give thanks for your many blessings. You are invited by the Altar Guild to dedicate an arrangement of flowers by signing up on the Flower Chart on the back of the front door of the church.

The suggested donation is \$35, and it is okay to have more than one dedication per week if you wish.

Prayer List

If you have a prayer request, call the church office or email prayer@sttims.org.

Please Pray For: Virginia and Carlos Bean; the Cummings Family; Frank Davis, Jr.; Kate Drew; Terry Field; Betty Sue Frost; Liz Gogolewski; Patricia Greene; Ron Holt; Mateo Kohler; Elizabeth Luce; Bob Parsons; Ed Sammel; Carol Saslow; the Schroeder family; Slater and her family; Alan and Tracy Stevenson; the Tapella Family; the Diocese of El Camino Real and Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves; our Companion Dioceses in Western Tanganyika and Gloucester, England; Stephen Ministers and their care receivers.

Service Notes

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

March 14, 2010

Lent Four

JOSHUA 5:9-12

PSALM 32

2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

LUKE 15:1-3, 11B-32

THIS WEEK'S HYMN

March 7, 2010

Lent Three

HYMN #648 WHEN ISRAEL WAS
IN EGYPT LAND

Collect of the Day

Third Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



Third
SUNDAY
IN
LENT

Today's Readings

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 3:1-15

1 Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." 4 When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5 Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." 6 He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. 7 Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, 8 and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9 The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. 10 So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." 11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" 12 He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." 13 But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" 14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" 15 God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

Psalm 63:1-8

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live *
and lift up my hands in your Name.
- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

- 6 When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches.
7 For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
8 My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.

1 Corinthians 10:1-17

1 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. 6 Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. 7 Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” 8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. 10 And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. 13 No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it. 14 Therefore, my dear friends, flee from the worship of idols. 15 I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. 16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

Luke 13:1-9 **Repent or Perish**

1 At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” 6 Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7 So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ 8 He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

Comments on Today's Readings

With special thanks to the Rev. Reginald H. Fuller and the Rev. Daniel Westberg, of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal. While not intended to be exhaustive, these comments are an aid to reading the Scriptures with greater understanding.

Exodus 3:1-15

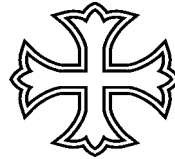
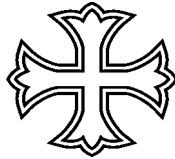
A single thread runs through today's readings. It is indicated by the name of God as revealed to Moses: "I am who I am," or, as many contemporary exegetes interpret it, "He causes to be what comes into existence." Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, not the God of the philosophers (Pascal)—that is to say, not an abstract, impersonal reality, but the transcendent One who intervenes powerfully in human history. God calls Moses and sends him to lead his people out of Egypt through the wilderness (second reading), refreshing them with water from the rock and bringing them into the Promised Land. Then finally he sends his Son, offering his people one last chance to repent and accept his salvation (gospel). Once again the exodus story functions in the liturgy as a type of the saving act of God in Christ. God sees the affliction of his people. He "comes down," that is, intervenes in history out of God's transcendence, to deliver them from the slavery of sin and to bring them into the land "flowing with milk and honey," the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 10:1-17

The situation confronting Paul at Corinth is that the Christians there are supposing that the sacraments automatically confer the fullness of salvation here and now. Probably the Corinthians were under the influence of early Gnostic enthusiasm. Paul therefore has to stress the "not yet" aspect of the sacraments. They anticipate symbolically the fullness of salvation, but effectively they initiate and foster a process that looks to its final completion at the end. To illustrate his point, Paul draws an analogy with Israel in the wilderness and finds in the exodus story types of the two major Christian sacraments of baptism and the Eucharist: the children of Israel were baptized when they passed through the cloud and through the Red Sea, and they were nourished with spiritual food and drink by the manna and the water from the rock in the wilderness. It is probable that Paul did not invent this typology but took it over from earliest Christianity. It may well have had its origin in Jewish speculation about the messianic banquet and may have been taken up in pre-Pauline Christianity to interpret the eschatological banquets of the early community, such as those alluded to in Acts 2:42, 46. Certainly there is rabbinic influence present in the idea that the Rock followed the Israelites, an inference from the fact that it is mentioned twice in the Pentateuch (Exod 17 and Num 20). More extraordinary is Paul's claim that "the Rock was Christ." Probably the basis for this identification is the equation of Christ with the divine "wisdom," the personified agent both of creation and of all God's acts in salvation history. "Wisdom" stands for God's going out of God's self in self-communication and activity. For Paul, as for the New Testament as a whole, God's going out of God's self culminates in the redemptive act in Jesus

Luke 13:1-9

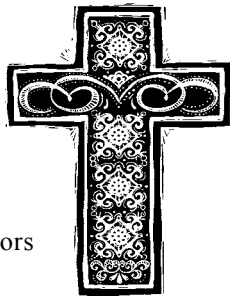
Jesus here refers to two recent disasters, otherwise unknown to historians. One was the outrage of a tyrant, the other an accident involving construction workers in Siloam. From both events he draws a warning for Israel. Unless the nation repents, it too will perish. For Jesus, repentance means accepting his message of God's kingdom. The parable of the fig tree reinforces the challenge to repent. This provides watch a link with the second reading: "So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall." Neither the old Israel nor the new dare presume upon a false sense of security.



News & Notes

Celebration Leader Needed for Grant-Cuesta Sunday Service

St. Tim's new ministry at Grant-Cuesta Rehabilitation Center is seeking an additional volunteer to lead one Sunday morning service a month. The established 30 - 40 minute program uses video from St. Tim's 9:00 am Sunday services plus pre-selected prayers. The welcome you receive from an appreciative audience of 25 - 30 seniors will warm your heart.



For more information, please call Dick Yarp at 650-964-6432.

Palm Leaf Cross Folding

All are invited to join the Altar Guild in the annual Palm Leaf Cross Folding on Saturday, March 26. Treats will be provided. A good time will be had by all.



News & Notes

Prayer Vigil

A Prayer Vigil held in the Priest's Sacristy during Holy Week, beginning at the close of the Maundy Thursday service and continuing to the beginning of the Easter Vigil. The Prayer Vigil is divided into 3 hour blocks of time with prayer guides provided to facilitate making the most of your experience. Plan to come pray with a friend, family, or covenant group member, "For wherever two or more are gathered in MY Name, there I am in the midst of them."



Contact Nyna Dolby at nlcdolb@yahoo.com to sign up.
(Note: Thursday from 9-midnite and Friday from midnite to 6am are already reserved.)

Thank you for prioritizing prayerfulness during this Lenten season!

youth group news

Small Groups coming soon! All youth, stay tuned for dates and times. You will be receiving a call from your Youth Small Group Leader.

sunday, mar. 21st - youth family broomball

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

Meet at Winter Lodge at 1:30 p.m. (Be on time!) Broomball, "Hot chocolate picnic" and fellowship until 4:00 p.m. \$20 for Youth, OR, \$50 maximum per family.

Don't miss this fabulously fun event!

friday, april 2nd - youth overnight easter watch

WATCH!.... Wonder, Why?

Watch a movie, watch the "Son-rise", hide Easter eggs Saturday morning. Mark your calendars for Good Friday. Great things are being planned... Stay tuned for more details!

wondering what to do this summer?

Summer Youth Mission Trips with the Diocese of El Camino Real to Native American reservations in Northern California.

The Jr High trip is from July 3-9 and the High School trip is July 17-24.

The cost for the trip is \$450 which includes lodging, food and travel expense from El Camino Real. It does not include food on the travel days.

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity! (Financial assistance is available.)

News & Notes

“Send Us Out:” Reading and Practicing the New Testament meets Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., January 13 through June 2, in the Guild Room.

Participants will come away with an understanding of the New Testament and with practice together, showing God’s love through acts of kindness with no strings attached. Taught by the Pastor/Rector.

No previous knowledge or experience is necessary. Childcare is available upon request.



Workshop

Canon Timothy Dombek presents a workshop based on the book, *Ask, Thank, Tell* by the Rev. Charles Lane, a succinct and incisive guide for congregational planning, study and help in stewardship ministry. He will address the theological foundations for “discipleship based stewardship” as opposed to membership and maintenance. The workshop will equip parish leaders to undertake both educational and practical skills needed to address the challenges every parish faces today. This one day workshop will be held on Saturday March 13 from 10 am to 3:30 pm at St. Paul’s in Salinas. If you are interested in attending please contact Nathan at nathan@sttims.org

St. Timothy’s Preschool

Preschool Registration Has Begun

We have openings in our 3 year old class. Children must be turning three years old on or before December 2, 2010.

Tuesday and Thursday 3s

9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Tuition is \$285 per month

We have openings in two classes for 4 year olds. Your child must be turning four on or before December 2, 2010.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 4s

9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Tuition is \$385 per month

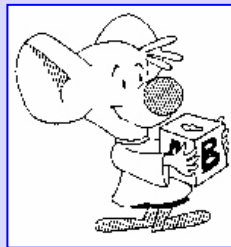
Tuesday and Thursday Science 4s

12:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Tuition is \$285 per month

Registration Fees must be paid to hold a place for your child. The fees are June, 2011 tuition in advance, plus a \$75 enrollment fee and a \$5 insurance fee. Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis. We opened registration to the public on January 4.

If you are interested, please call Preschool Director Helen Wooldridge at (650) 967-4724.



Coming Up

This Week

Sunday, March 7	
7:45 a.m.	Quiet & Meditative Worship
9:00 a.m.	Dynamic & Kid-Centered Worship
9:45 a.m.	Godly Play
9:50 a.m.	Breakfast Club
10:30 a.m.	Joyful & Inclusive Worship
Monday, March 8	
9:30 a.m.	Bridge Club
10:00 a.m.	La Leche League
Wednesday, March 10	
5:15 p.m.	Kid's Music and Movement
5:45 p.m.	Kid's Choir
6:00 p.m.	Parish Dinner
6:00 p.m.	Youth Group Dinner and Meeting
7:00 p.m.	Jesus in the Gospels Continuation
Thursday, March 11	
7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
Saturday, March 13	
11:00 a.m.	Kid's Choir

Tech Team Openings

The tech teams for all services need new members. We're looking for people 10 years and older who would be interested in running the projection slides and learning the sound board. Knowing how to run multimedia presentations is a great learning situation, it's fun, and it looks good on a college application! It's also a good way to learn more about the **Church's liturgy. Please contact peter@sttims.org for more information.**



2010 Dates to Note:

March 28 Palm Sunday
 April 4 Easter

Contacts:

Clergy

The Rev. Nathan Speck-Ewer	Pastor/Rector cell for emergencies	nathan@sttims.org 408 470 8058
Nancy Livak	Parish Secretary	nancy@sttims.org
Peter Sammel	Music Director	peter@sttims.org
Lyn Cuenca	Financial Administrator	lyn@sttims.org
Steve Swayze	Building and Grounds	steve@sttims.org
Holly Hem	Youth Ministry Coach	hollyhem@gmail.com
Gwen Bindon	Stephen Ministry Referrals	gwenbindon@sbcglobal.net
Wyn Schuh	Godly Play Coach	wynsttims@boardsailor.com
Joseph Hodgkinson	Parish Host	info@fodacatering.com
Helen Wooldridge	Preschool Director	helen@sttimothypreschool.org

Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church
 Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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Day by Day



Day by Day is a daily, brief, thought-provoking meditation based on the day's Bible readings and published by Forward Movement, an official, non-profit agency of the The Episcopal Church. Full copies of the Day by Day publication are located at the back of the church for your convenience. This material is copyrighted by Forward Movement and may not be printed elsewhere without permission. For more information about Forward Movement or the Day by Day please visit www.forwardmovement.org

The year 2010 marks the 75th anniversary of Forward Movement. To celebrate the occasion this year's meditations will be reprints from the last seventy-five years chosen by a team of fifty volunteers. These selections were chosen to correspond to the lectionary citations from the 1979 Prayer Book and Revised Common Lectionary on which the meditations for this year would normally have been based.

Monday March 8

Mark 5:21-43. But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."

Reporters used to go down to the Bay to interview notable visitors. Often the reporters first asked silly questions because it was hard to start the visitors talking.

Similarly, it would be silly to ask a great Bible scholar, "What is the greatest word in the Bible?"

Yet it is not an altogether idle question, for one great Bible scholar, Bishop B. F. Westcott, records a visit to his old schoolmaster, Bishop Prince Lee, who said: "People quote various words of the Lord as containing the sum of the gospel—the Lord's Prayer, the Sermon on the Mount, and the like. To me the essence of the gospel is in simpler and shorter terms: Be not afraid, only believe. Ah! Westcott, mark that only," and his eyes filled with tears as he said it.

The opposite of belief is not unbelief; it is fear. Mark that only! Fear of loss, fear of death, fear of consequences, fear of unpopularity, of neighbors' opinions. We have our intellectual difficulties, but deeper than that is lack of courage. (1942)

PRAY for the Diocese of Bolivia (Southern Cone)

Tuesday March 9

Genesis 45:1-15. Come closer to me.

When his brothers draw closer, Joseph tells them, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt." He speaks of his life as Pharaoh's son and how God intended him to be there to preserve life through the years of famine. Having told them the truth, he kisses all his brothers and weeps upon them; and after that his brothers talk with him.

Until this moment the brothers are silent. Then they talk to Joseph. The harsh wrong they have done to Joseph cannot be undone. Nothing Joseph says changes the past. The turning point in the story happens only after the one who has been betrayed speaks and forgives. Only then do they talk.

Reconciliation often waits out the tongue-tied guilty who will not or cannot speak first. Why must words of forgiveness precede confession of guilt and remorse? That seems unfair. But if starting over depends only upon justice, where would we be? If new beginnings require confession before being forgiven, who can be healed?

Who in your life stands in guilty silence waiting for you to speak? What reconciliation depends upon your decision to be the first to draw closer and to weep? (2006)

PRAY for the Diocese of Bondo (Kenya)

Wednesday March 10

Psalms 119:97-120. Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path.

How we react to guidance reveals much about the state of our souls. There are days when even the gentlest reproof can cause us to be defensive or become angry. At other times we are grateful for guidance and good counsel.

We are told that the people of Israel rejoiced “because they had understood the words that were declared to them” when Ezra the priest read from the book of the law in the square before the Water Gate (Nehemiah 8). They heard the words as life-giving. They understood that the law was not a burden but a light to their lives, a lantern to their feet.

To know what is right is one thing. To know what is right and rejoice in it is another. That makes possible a life of perfect service. When we care and earnestly desire God’s will upon earth, we discover the freedom for which Christ has set us free. (1985)

To receive guidance appreciatively requires the humility to acknowledge that we do not have all the answers and need the wisdom of others. Guidance is also more likely to be well-received if it is offered with humility. Humility helps on both sides.

-Editor's Note

PRAY for the Diocese of Bor (Sudan)

Thursday March 11

Mark 6:30-46. After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

In this chapter of Mark, Jesus learns about John the Baptist’s terrible murder, finds a lonely place apart to collect himself, and then tackles the teaching and feeding of five thousand persons. Mark depicts an active, can-do Jesus, but we also see one who prays every chance he gets.

Prayer is unlike vitamins or exercise—it is impossible to overdose! Brother Lawrence prayed joyfully as he washed dishes. A rancher friend of mine prays as he spends hours alone in the saddle. Richard Foster, the Quaker writer and teacher, has joined a covenant of friends who take five minutes at noon to stop every other activity, assess how their morning has gone, and ask God’s continual guidance.

Perhaps you can experiment with some new ways of praying. You might try a short prayer of thanksgiving for every person with whom you speak in a given day. Or you might offer a stoplight prayer: “You are patience and joy, O God. Help me be more like you.”

Teresa of Avila said: “There is but one road that reaches God, and that is prayer. If anyone shows you another, you are being deceived.” (1992)

PRAY for the Diocese of Botswana (Central Africa)

Friday March 12

1 Corinthians 9:16-27. To the Jews I became as a Jew...To those under the law I became . . .To those outside the law I became . . . To the weak I became . . .

“Son, remember who you are.” My dad’s frequent advice accompanied me on my first day of school, my first date, first job, first day in prison. For a long time, the depth of his advice went right over my head.

Remembering who I am is an intricate part of following Paul’s advice—basically, don’t say one thing and do another.

Most of my life, I’ve been pretty insecure about who I am, and consequently have spent my energy trying to impress others and present my continuously updated, what-I-think-will-make-me-acceptable-in-your-eyes image of myself.

In learning what my beliefs are and how to live in tune with them, I am slowly coming to know that God loves me. That knowledge empowers me to be who I am, not who I think everyone else wants me to be.

If you’ve spent your life wondering who you are, finally being comfortable in your own skin is quite a gift. Attraction is much more effective than promotion. We do have a message. What we do, not what we say, will spread it. (1998)

PRAY for the Diocese of Bradford (York, England)



For Your Notes



CONNECTION CARD
ST. TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WELCOME TO ST. TIMOTHY'S. WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE YOU WORSHIPPING WITH US TODAY. SO THAT WE MAY WELCOME YOU,
PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM AND DROP IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR HAND IT TO AN USHER AFTER THE SERVICE.

I'm a first-time visitor or guest I'm a second-time visitor or guest I'm a returning visitor or guest Please update my information

Service Attended _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

To find out more about our weekly happenings, please add me to the parish email announcement list. (You can opt out at any time.)

I'd like more information about:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptism/Confirmation | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Ministries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Ministries | <input type="checkbox"/> Covenant Groups/Bible Study |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Ways to Meet Others at St. Timothy's |

Prayer Requests/Comments/Questions: _____

How did you find out about us? _____