

History

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church was founded in May 1952 by the Rev. Charles Adams, who served as chaplain at nearby Naval Air Station Moffett Field. In 1954, the Rt. Rev. Karl Block, bishop of the Diocese of California, announced the purchase of a 1.5-acre site, later enlarged to 2.5 acres, on a historically prominent farm in Mountain View. The 50-year-old farmhouse on the property served as a combination church, Sunday school, and parish hall.

BUILDING: 1955 TO 1972

Dwight W. Edwards began serving St. Timothy's while still a seminarian. Shortly after being ordained deacon, Dwight became St. Timothy's full-time vicar on July 19, 1955. He was ordained to the priesthood in time to celebrate Christmas Eve Eucharist for the congregation. Dwight guided the church's growth and expansion. As the county was growing, so was St. Timothy's. Sunday school students filled the courtyard on registration Sunday. The preschool, then called a nursery school, was added in 1961. At the diocesan convention in 1963, St. Timothy's was presented as being ready to move from mission status to full parish and the Rev. Edwards became our first rector.

The last great building effort was the church building, which was dedicated in September 1970, with great joy and celebration. When the Rev. Edwards returned from his 1972 sabbatical, Bishop NAME suggested that, after 18 years, it was time for a change. Dwight and his wife left for St. Mary's-by-the-Sea, Pacific Grove, in 1973 with our best wishes.

ORGANIZING: 1974 TO 1992

In February 1974 the vestry called the Rev. Ralph W. Jeffs as our second rector. The Rev. Jeffs recognized that with our growth as a parish, we needed to change our ministry leadership model from that of a pastoral church with the rector and vestry at the center of all activities to a program-centered church with empowered lay ministers leading various programs. He began a process of developing lay leadership. We instituted a commission system with lay leadership and vestry membership on each commission to provide coordination across ministries. Soon after our annual meeting in February 1992, the Rev. Jeffs announced his plan to retire after 18 years.

GROWING: 1993 TO 2004

During the subsequent search, we recognized our need for new, young families to keep our parish diverse and vibrant. After a year-long search, the vestry called the Rev. Kevin A. Phillips as our third rector.

Adapting a venture capital model to the mission of the church, Kevin was a charismatic leader. He developed lay leaders through a combination of Bible study and spiritual development, and encouraged people to come forward with new mission ideas. These entrepreneurial activities led to many new programs at St. Timothy's, including Making Disciples through Bible Study, the Bethel Series Book Classes, creation of the Patricia Westlake Sammel Memorial Garden and Columbarium, renovation of the sanctuary, a 9:00 family service, Godly Play curriculum for Sunday school, covenant groups, and Stephen Ministry. In 1995, a team of parishioners successfully worked to purchase the rectory in Sunnyvale, securing an outstanding legacy for St.

Timothy's future. A full-time youth minister was added to the staff and the Reverend Maly Hughes was hired as our priest executive in June 2000.

CONTRACTING: 2005 TO 2010

In December 2005, the Rev. Phillips announced he had accepted a call to become the rector of St. David's Episcopal Church, Ashburn, Virginia. He left us a lasting gift of empowered leadership. We were saddened by the departure of Kevin, but we felt the community was strong. With our priest executive still in place, the rector search and transition time to calling a new rector went very quickly. The search committee brought the Rev. Nathan Speck-Ewer to the vestry in July 2006, and he was called soon.

Our financial position was solid, but our operating budget was stressed because of a buyout and mortgage of the rectory. By the end of the year, we had a general fund deficit of almost \$27,000. Although we launched a successful stewardship campaign, the funds raised were more than offset by the increasing cost of benefits, on-going mortgage costs, and a decrease in our preschool enrollment.

Nathan launched a strategic planning process that engaged the whole parish. The tree-diagram we created spanned the entire front wall of the parish hall. It showed us key elements of our structure such as our covenant groups (now known as small groups) and Sunday worship services for all ages. It also highlighted some areas where we felt called to do more. was exacerbated by budget difficulties and conflicts over outreach, parish programs, and a long-term vision for St. Timothy's. We struggled to create a balanced partnership between clergy and lay leadership. Pledge income dropped by 40% leading to contractions of ministry programs and staff reductions, including the Rev. Maly Hughes priest executive, who was laid off in December 2009. After working with two consultant teams, and with the assistance of Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves, we discerned that Nathan and St. Timothy's were no longer called to work together.

RESTING: 2010 TO 2012

The bishop asked the Rev. Donald Schell to lead us while we created an interim search committee. Donald was only with us for a few months, but his engaging style and challenges to our liturgical practices helped us to focus on the future and to begin to heal the divisions that characterized our recent past. In September 2010, our interim search brought us the Rev. Janet Wheelock. A skilled interim pastor, Janet engaged deeply with the parish community and helped us to examine ourselves and what we felt called to do.

REBUILDING: 2013 TO PRESENT

After an introspective interim period, St. Tim's called the Rev. Ronald Griffin, who joined us in December 2012. Together with the vestry, Ron's first focus was on continuing to stabilize the parish and to move us back into a mode of development and growth. There were two unexpected challenges early on that became the critical focus of most of 2013. First, the Rev. Beth Parab, director of children and family ministries, was called in March to a full-time position at St. Jude's, Cupertino. This was followed quickly by the retirement of our preschool director in June after 36 years of overseeing the school. After an intense discernment process, the parish chose to invest fully in the preschool and to hire a new director and teaching staff. Other changes included an additional service on Sunday morning, which created a space between services. That

space was filled by The Point, which was a time for adult formation consisting of worship, study, prayer and service. A youth program was revitalized through the efforts of parish servant leaders. Delayed maintenance on our campus and rectory was undertaken including roof repairs and bathroom upgrades. Ron also inspired us to actively participate as the hands, face and heart of Jesus in our local community.

Ron retired in January 2016. He left St. Tim's with vibrant outreach programs and a positive outlook for our future. In April 2016, the Rev. Karen Cuffie arrived as our interim priest. During her year with us, our community outreach continued. Parishioners slept in their cars overnight in the church parking lot in order to better understand how St. Timothy's might be able to provide safe parking for vehicle dwellers. This effort later led directly to the Lots of Love program. More families participated in our neighborhood beautification project called "Beautiful Day," volunteers assembled and handed out "manna bags" to those in need. Additionally, we formed the "In Our Backyard (IOBY)" mission to serve in the larger community. Finally, we nearly tripled our donation to Santa Maria Urban Ministry (SMUM) in San Jose with proceeds from the annual fundraising Vestry Dinner. Karen remained with us until June 2017.

On August 15, 2017, the Rev. Lisa McIndoo was called to be our sixth rector. During Lisa's tenure with us, we expanded Christian formation educational opportunities for children and families. The church also began to support Lots of Love on our church premises, a safe parking program for people who spend nights in their vehicles, overseen by the non-profit, Move Mountain View. We also installed a Little Free Pantry (LFP) near the entryway to our church, which is a resource for the in our area. She challenged us to get involved in connecting with our neighbors, to give generously of our time and treasure. She introduced an annual Advent Festival that was attended by preschool families and members of the community. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, our music director, tech team, livestream team, and Lisa were able to launch engaging online services, maintain pastoral care, and deliver meaningful education in record time, while everyone sheltered in place. On October 31, 2021, the Rev. McIndoo returned to Memphis, Tennessee due to the needs of her family. Today, we are a highly intentional congregation, and we look forward to meeting the new priest-in-charge God is sending to us.