

October 6, 2025



Dear People of St. Timothy's,

As we began thinking about how this community might be called to focus on stewardship for the year ahead, I have been holding the fear and pain of our divided world alongside the true joy, delight, and connection found in this community of faith. It can be tempting to ignore the challenges of society and immerse ourselves in the comfort of this place; or conversely, to be so overcome by the needs of our wider context that we don't allow ourselves to fully sink into and receive the goodness offered in this congregation. The challenge and invitation is to hold both in balance. Facing the reality of the world, strengthened by God and one another, we continue to work with what is while we insist on more just, more life-giving, possibilities for all.

This is what we mean by fruitful hope. Hope, scripture tells us, does not disappoint (Rom. 5:5). Neither is it easy. It's not wishful or magical thinking. It's the very love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, moving through us to bear fruit in the world.

In learning about the results of our CAT survey (in which 91 people participated!), the vestry was inspired and encouraged to learn that the strong majority of St. Tim's parishioners are both very satisfied with their involvement in the life of this congregation and highly energized about our purpose and making a difference in our wider community. This parish is vibrant and thriving! And, from our interpreter we clearly heard the call to share this incredible gift more widely. People long for the belonging and meaning that our parishioners experience on a regular basis. We're called to turn our focus toward sharing and inviting others into the rich life of this place.

To that end, parishioners identified as priorities: to reach and incorporate new people; to deepen connection to God and ministry; to create more opportunities for relationships of substance; to expand our offerings for spiritual formation across the lifespan; and to reach beyond our walls in for those on the margins. The vestry is excited to see what fruit comes from focusing on these areas. We'd like to continue being intentional in our planning; to reach for both more intimate relationships and broader connections; and to consider funding a part-time Children and Youth Formation Minister beginning in 2026. All of these possibilities require your intentional and faithful giving, as you return back to God both your time and resources for the work and mission of this parish.

Imagine what fruit you'd like to see ripen at St. Tim's and in our community, and prayerfully consider how you can enact hope through your contributions here. **Then, we invite you to gather with us on Sunday, November 2 for a Single Service at 10am, where we will offer our pledge cards. Be sure to stay after the service for a fruitful potluck and a more detailed conversation about the results of the CAT survey.** Thank you for all the ways you help this joyful community to grow and flourish.



Blessings,
Nikky

The Rev. Nikky Wood, Rector

Guide to Giving Intentionally

The Biblical standard for giving to God is the first ten percent of harvest or wages, otherwise known as a tithe. This fosters a deep spiritual connection to our trust in the Holy One (and is easy math!). Many people find they need to work their way up to 10% over time. Any amount, given intentionally, is a blessing to the parish and the giver.

Income *Annual or Monthly*

Salary: \$ _____

Other: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Current giving assessment

Current pledge: \$ _____

Total income: \$ _____

Percentage *divide pledge by income*: _____%

Does this reflect my/our intention?

After prayerful reflection and conversation, I/we feel called to return back to God ____%.

Total income \$ _____ x 0. _____ = \$ _____ pledge
(percentage expressed as a decimal, ie. 10% is 0.1)

St. Timothy's by the Numbers

