



Christmas, 2010

Dear Friends,

Apparently, the announcement of Jesus' coming birth was not met with initial joy and positive excitement by those who were closest to Him. Mary asked the angel, "How can this be?" We read that Joseph was so upset that he planned to quietly divorce or dismiss Mary. After His birth, the angels had to tell the shepherds, "Do not be afraid." Jesus first days were not spent in a quiet hospital room, or even an inn; they were spent in a crowded structure that was shared with farm animals. Some of our Biblical ancestors provide us examples of approaching Christmas with confusion, fear, and a sense of making do.

Certainly there were others whose response was more on the positive side. I include the angels, the wise men, Simeon and Anna in this category, but for many, it was, at least initially, a struggle to comprehend meaning and purpose in His birth. Our questions and resistance are also welcome. He came to the poor. He came to the well to do. He came to those with questions. He came to those with none. In each of these examples, what Jesus does next is to "stay"; He is Emmanuel – God with us. So as we celebrate Christmas together and apart, give thanks for the one who has come to us. Nothing can separate us from Him.

The Vestry and I wish you a Merry Christmas.

Gratefully,

Albert A. Jennings, The Rev.

ST. TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE TIDINGS

St. Timothy's Mission: To celebrate Christ's healing love through worship, fellowship, and outreach.



JANUARY, 2011

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

- Sunday, December 19, 10:30 am, Sunday School Christmas Pageant
- Friday, December 24, 4:45 pm, Mini Cantata
- 5:00 pm, Family Style Eucharist *
- 10:30 pm, Choir/Musical Cantata
- 11:00 pm, Traditional Eucharist *
- Saturday, December 25, 10:30 am, Holy Eucharist *
- Sunday, December 26, 8:30 am & 10:30 am, Holy Eucharist
- Saturday, January 1, 10:30 am, Holy Eucharist
- Sunday, January 2, 8:30 am & 10:30 am, Holy Eucharist
- 5:00 pm, Twelfth Night: Fun, Food, & Worship

*** The designated Christmas Offering will be split evenly among:**

- Haven of Rest, Akron
- Lynn's Closet Ministry on Standing Rock Indian Reservation
- Food for the Poor for Hurricane Relief Aid to Haiti



UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 2, Sunday, 5:00 pm, Twelfth Night: Food, Fun, Worship
- January 9, Jell-o Sunday
- January 16, Sunday, Noon, St. Timothy's Annual Meeting

On a personal note:

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, notes, phone calls, and hugs. It was certainly a sad time for me, losing my sister Norrene on November 26. I was glad that I was there at her passing, also for the week after, to spend time with my brother-in-law and niece. I am so blessed to be a member of St. Tim's and have so many friends. Thank you all again,

Joan P

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Due to inclement weather, the Vestry did not meet in December.

The deadline for February Tidings is Tuesday, Jan 18, 9 am.

FUND RAISING

Cookie Sale

If you didn't get to the cookie sale you missed out on some great homemade cookies. Thanks to all who had any part in the annual event whether it was moving tables, baking/making cookies, or just the usual grunt work associated with an event. We are truly thankful for the great weather we witnessed on Saturday.



From Baklava to spritz and sugar cookies, a better variety couldn't be found anywhere and how marvelous they looked. (That too was a customer comment.)

The weather was superb for this time of year even though the forecast of nasty winter weather was imminent and may have been the reason our traffic was down. For the first time ever, we only sold out two kinds of cookies on Saturday. We realized \$935.00 for all the efforts and are appreciative of your commitment to take the time to donate your marvelous wares-especially at this very busy time of year. The income from the sale will help ECW to carry on its work throughout the year.

Once again, thanks to all who participated, we love you all.

Judy H and Mary Ann R, ECW Cookie Chairs.

Note: ECW note cards make great stocking stuffers!

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Ronald McDonald House

Save Those Can Tabs

You can help RMD House provide inexpensive housing for families with children in treatment at Cleveland area hospitals. Families pay \$20 a night toward the cost of their stay.

Set up a glass with a few tabs in it as a hint to guests to "pull tabs for a good cause". Mark it clearly for Ronald McDonald House. Holiday time is a great time to collect tabs. Remember that soup, pet food, and other tabs are acceptable, too. Such an easy way to reach out to others in this season of Giving!

Questions? Call Mary Ann P

PS Recycle those cans through our Youth Group!

United Thank Offering

Our check for the fall Ingathering was \$261.18 from thankful givers. Our Province V (of 9 provinces) collected \$202,735.96. Turn your prayers of thanks into action; tangible results from combined coins from some 700 churches equaled \$2,029,142.29 granted for mission and ministry in U.S. and around the globe. Every penny collected is granted – NO overhead costs. See info on entry table.

Pick up a Blue Box and join us in a daily prayer of thanks and a coin.

Questions? Call Mary Ann P



CHURCH HAPPENINGS CONTINUED

“Unbinding Your Heart” a Prayerful Endeavor

Last Spring, I was invited by St. John's Episcopal Church to join a summer prayer class; based on a book titled, 'Unbinding Your Heart' by Mary Grace Reese. I believed I could use some prayer guidance, so I accepted. After arriving at the first meeting and paying for my book, I realized this would be a prayer and ev ~**~*ism study. Oh yes, we know which word that is! I sat quietly, and listened to Reverend Rankin, and the others speak of their experience with this book, and bravely dismissed my previous thoughts and reactions, to this subject. “It could not hurt me to hear what another church was trying to accomplish with 'Forty days of prayer'” I thought. We were all relieved to hear we would not be required to knock on doors!

Briefly, the book is broken into two parts, there are 6 chapters about Church experiences, statistics, and the reflections on working through the book. There are questions asked and assignments to do. The second part is about the forty days of prayers; setting up an area for yourself and scheduling twenty or thirty minutes per day, for prayer, and recording a journal of your thoughts for each days' prayer assignment. The topics of the prayers, are guided. It is advised, that you have a prayer buddy, someone to share *some* of your ideas with.

The challenge began in June with weekly discussion meetings, on each chapter and a prayer from our week that touched us. During the six weeks, I remembered my early experience entering a new church and meeting a 'different kind of congregation' than what I'd been raised with. I recalled how the role of Faith evolved for me, inter-personal relationships that blossomed and some that dwindled, things I'd learned, and things I'd let go of since joining St. Tim's. Other people in the group had similar introspections, about their experiences. The prayer journal is about how faith works in our lives, to help us through ordinary and difficult times. It leads us into having 'that' conversation, not just with ourselves, and God, or our church friends.

On November 20th, 2010, Brad Purdom hosted an Unbinding Workshop at St. Paul's Medina, and I went as part of St. John's team. About eight churches discussed their results with “Unbinding the Heart”, all had planned to repeat the program prior to the workshop. Nancy Lee Gauche represented the Gracenet and the book series. She pointed out to us that “Evangelism arises out of a healthy relationship with God, within the church and beyond it's walls.” Forty days of prayer changes the heart. It allows us to be curious. When challenged by curiosity, Bishop Hollingsworth said an interesting thing, “If a person is asking a question, the point is that they are thirsting, like you. It is not necessary to know the answer” he implied that we could look for the answer together.

In Lent, St John's in Cuyahoga Falls, will be having an “E-vent”. “Unbinding” is a series of books, beginning with “Unbinding the Gospels”, “Unbinding the Heart”, and “Unbinding Your Church”. The Reverend Rankin is asking again for 100% congregational participation during the season of Lent in the Unbinding Your Heart program. Churches that have done this last year are doing it again, to increase their over all participation. St. John's is inviting me to be a group leader in their E-Vent and I would like to introduce the project to St. Tim's for use afterward in 2011.

Mara D, Communications/Promotions



There is a book in our church library entitled “Alzheimer’s Answer Book”. The first three chapters are extremely helpful. I recommend it to you.



CHURCH HAPPENINGS CONTINUED



Needles and Hooks

N&H will begin its 7th year on Thursday, January 13 at 1:00 p.m. This is a new time and day and I hope you will be able to join us. Look on the Tidings calendar for future scheduled work sessions. Bring along your tape measures, pins and fabric scissors for the projects as we will begin by putting together fleece blankets.

If you want to know more about the group you may either consult the Annual Report booklet or contact me.

Mary Ann R

MONEY MATTERS

Here are the financial results for year-to-date November 2010 compared to the budget:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Favorable / (Unfavorable) Difference</u>
Year-to-date Operating Revenue:	137,175.58	115,373.00	21,802.58
Year-to-date Operating Expenses:	115,886.59	116,447.00	560.41
Year-to-date Operating Surplus(Deficit):	21,288.99	(1,074.00)	22,362.99

Church Operating Equity: \$30,980.01

November receipts were \$2,900 under budget primarily due to reduced pledge receipts (25.7% under budget) and no income from fund raising (originally, the chili dinner was budgeted for November. Year-to-date pledge donations are 0.8% over budget (budgeted at \$97,641.00, received \$98,428.00). This amount is inflated by \$1,965 in pledges that have been pre-paid for the year. Excluding the pre-paid pledges, we are \$1,177 (1.2% under budget) behind in pledge giving for the year.

Equity decreased dramatically this month as we used over \$3,200 of October's gain. Because we continue to have positive equity and have sufficient cash, expenses are being paid when they are due. Our financial health continues to be excellent.

Year-to-date expenses are only 0.5% under budget, primarily from missing the monthly diocesan assessment payment this past month (Treasurer was slow at the trigger paying – it will double in December). Including the diocesan assessment would have put us 0.4% over budget – still an impressively low amount.

Money from the Building & Grounds Fund – New Construction Account is being used to research new expansion for the Church and to provide initial funds for that expansion. Contributions from memorials continue to be transferred to the fund and the money is invested in a combination of bank accounts, money market accounts and stocks. The balance in the New Construction account is \$165,341.71 (down \$640 from last month), with approximately 31% of the funds invested in the stock market. The volatility of the market continues to concern, but we will cash out amounts over the next few months. I will continue to report in future months on the balance in the New Construction Account.

This coming month will continue to be focused on budgeting for 2011. Each department head will be asked to consider what their needs are for the coming year financially so we can work on developing a balanced budget again for 2011.

The Every Member Canvass has yielded 30 pledges through December 12 (compared to 46 in the prior year – down 35%) and has over \$90,000 pledged thus far (compared to \$104,000 last year – down 14%). With this pledge volume, we will have to rely more on non-pledge income for next year and will have to watch our pennies next year because of the reduced pledge amounts; we will most likely have to eat into the equity we have built up the past two years.

Overall, 2010 remains a positive year financially; 2011 requires prayer at this time. Because of our built-up equity, we will survive. St. Tim's continues to be blessed.

Jim D

Tidings **WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR January, 2011**

	Jan 1	Jan 2	Jan 2	Jan 9	Jan 16	Jan 23	Jan 30
ALTAR GUILD	JUDY H Mary P	JUDY H Mary P	12th Night 5 pm	MARILYN P Marianne M	MARY R Maureen L	SANDY R Marjorie M	NANCY N Mary P
ACOLYTES	None scheduled	Mike H Ethan D	Lauren S Lily S	Ellie D Tommy K	Lauren S Simon D	Lily S Ethan D	Norb Simon D
HOSPITALITY		Terri N Fred N		Pat S Bill S	Cheryl M Suzanne	Sandy R Karen R	Pauline N Jim D
GREETERS	Marianne M	Mary P		Joan P	Mary R	Linda S	Marianne M
USHERS		Mavis R Phil W		Mike M Cliff P	Mavis R Mike M	Cliff P Phil W	Mavis R Mike M
COUNTERS		Sandy D Bill P		Jim D Nancy-Anne	Mavis R Mike M	Sandy D Lois O	Jim D Bill P
SEASON	Holy Name of Jesus, <i>white</i>	2nd Sun after Christmas, <i>white</i>		1st Sun after Epiphany, <i>white</i>	2nd Sun after Epiphany, <i>green</i>	3rd Sun after Epiphany, <i>green</i>	4th Sun after Epiphany, <i>green</i>
	Rite II	Rite II		Rite II	Rite II	Rite II	Rite II, Morning Prayer, only
CHALICE BEARER	Mary Ann P	Karen R		Jim D	Marjorie M	Nancy-Anne	Anne P
1ST LESSON	Lois O	Pat S		Barb S	Suzanne P	Judy S	Pat S
2ND LESSON	Mara D	Peter D		Cheryl M	Maureen L	Norb	Peter D
INTERCESSOR	Mary Ann P	Barb S		Jim D	Pat S	Nancy-Anne	Anne P
FORM	II	II		III	III	VI	II
PAGE	385	385		387	387	392, w/Confession	385

If you are unable to serve, please call someone on the list to change and notify the appropriate leader.



January 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<p>1</p> <p>10:30 a Holy Eucharist</p> <p>8:00 p AA Meeting</p>
<p>2</p> <p>8:30 a Holy Eucharist 10:30 a Holy Eucharist</p> <p>5:00 p Twelfth Night: Fun, Food & Worship</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 a Book Study Noon AA Meeting</p> <p>8:00 p AA Meeting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:00 p Potluck Program 7:30 p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:00 p AA Meeting</p>
<p>9</p> <p>8:30 a Holy Eucharist 10:30 a Holy Eucharist Jell-o Sunday</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 a Book Study Noon AA Meeting</p> <p>7:00 p Mission Area Council, Akron 8:00 p AA Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:00 p Potluck Program 7:30 p Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p Education Mtg</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1:00 p Needles & Hooks</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:00 p AA Meeting</p>
<p>16</p> <p>8:30 a Holy Eucharist 2 Cents a Meal 10:30 a Holy Eucharist 12:00 p Annual Meeting 3:00 p Nursing Home service</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday</p> <p>7:00 p Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 a Tidings deadline 10:00 a Book Study Noon AA Meeting</p> <p>8:00 p AA Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:00 p Potluck Program 7:30 p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:00 p AA Meeting</p>
<p>23</p> <p>8:30 a Holy Eucharist 10:30 a Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 a Book Study Noon AA Meeting</p> <p>8:00 p AA Meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:00 p Potluck Program 7:30 p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1:00 p Needles & Hooks</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:00 p AA Meeting</p>
<p>30</p> <p>8:30 a Morning Prayer 10:30 a Morning Prayer</p>	<p>31</p>					