













SAINT TIMOTHY'S ANNUAL GATHE



St. Timothy's Annual Meeting Minutes 2023

Sunday, January 22, 2023, 11:36 am Meeting

The Annual Meeting opened at 11:36am with the opening prayer from Rector Kyle Carswell.

The minutes of the 2022 Annual Gathering were presented. Dan Montgomery moved to approve the minutes as printed, Paul D'Anna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Suzy Coen, Senior Warden, was greeted with hearty applause, welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked the meal preparers, and talked about the big year that was 2022.

Coen gave a special thanks and recognition to all involved in the search committee, and spoke to the transitions; Mary Cole Duvall's retirement, Abigail Livingood's call, and Kyle Carswell's answered call.

Coen also lifted up the return of fellowship events for all ages in many contexts. She ended her report with a round of thanks for Vestry, Clergy, Staff, and parishoners.

Her full report available on the fourth page of the Annual Gathering document.

Carswell thanked and recognized our outgoing Vestry members (Suzy Coen, Abby Rech, Mark Slocum, Abby Luhrs and Liz Brennan). Those present rewarded Coen with a standing ovation for her five years of service, including three as Senior Warden.

Carswell introduced the new Vestry Executive Team (Senior Warden Dave Leigh, Junior Warden Jacob Nastruz, Clerk Alan Feirer).

Carswell thanked the Vestry Nominating Committee (Dave Leigh, Alex Volker, and Abby Luhrs) and introduced the 2023 Vestry candidates: Maggie McGill, Mel Rambo, and Wava Shirbroun. They each introduced themselves. The Vestry slate was affirmed by acclamation.

Carswell gave the Rector's report. He began with a long list of thanks, and spoke to the action of the 2023 Diocesan Delegates (Vince Preston, Gloria Blondino, Lexi Brennan, Jenna Parker, Amy Rech, and Lyndy Wells along with Deacon Jeanie Smith and himself). The report of the Diocesan Convention is on the eighth page of the Annual Gathering document.

Carswell then spoke about his first months as a part of St. Timothy's, and highlighted significant events from the year. Carswell also spoke to several of our outreach efforts, with special focus on raising over \$61,000 with our Second Offering program. He led us in acknowledging those who passed away this year; they are listed on the ninth page of the Annual Gathering document. He lifted up "All Things New" as a celebration of what we have done in 2022 and what lies ahead, then closed by talking about what's next for us. Special focus was placed on Genesis II, a program of the Diocese, and named Dale VandeHaar, Mark Slocum, Emily Nastruz, Marcy Luft, Julie Feirer, and Deacon Jeanie Smith as members who will represent us in that multi-year initiative.

His full report is available on the third page of the Annual Gathering document.

Treasurer Scott Andrews, standing in for Junior Warden Mark Slocum, gave a report on Buildings and Grounds. He lifted up Dan Montgomery for his work on the property over the last few years, and Montgomery reported on the campus beautification project.

The report of the Junior Warden can be found on the fourth page of the Annual Gathering document.

Scott Andrews gave an overview of St. Timothy's finances, and directed us to see the full report, including detailed numbers, found on the tenth and eleventh pages of the Annual Gathering document. He acknowledged and thanked the members of the finance team.

Deacon Jeanie Smith dismissed us with a blessing. The meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Feirer, Clerk

RECTOR'S REPORT The Rev. Kyle Carswell



"God is love. Those who live in love live in God, and God in them." (1 John 4:16)

This has been one of my favorite bible verses since I was a kid. As our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, is fond of saying, "If it's not about love, it's not about God." It also seems to me to be a fitting verse when thinking about the work of St. Timothy's in 2023. As we have striven to be the hands, feet, and voice of Christ in the world, we have shown love to God through worship, to each other through fellowship and formation, and to the community around us through our outreach. Where we see that love, we see God at work.

2023 was my first full calendar year at St. Timothy's. During that time, I've had the chance to get to know the people of the parish and its many ministries. As I've had the opportunity to discuss people's hopes for St. Timothy's with the vestry, staff, and various ministry leaders, three areas of concentration have emerged:

- 1. Connecting Newcomers to the Life of the Congregation and Members to the Parish's Ministries
- 2. Strengthening Our Formation Programs
- 3. Maintaining and Improving Our Building and Grounds.

These three areas have been drawn from several sources in the parish: the discernment work completed during the rector search, my own personal goals, priorities identified by the vestry in spring of this year, and the work of the Genesis II Team. Below are some ways work has already begun in these areas, as well as hopes for how that work will continue in 2024 and beyond.

Connecting Newcomers to the Life of the Congregation and Members to the Parish's Ministries.

St. Timothy's held two Newcomers Dinners in 2023, attended by a total of 27 newcomers! These newcomers got the chance to connect with each other and with longer-time members of the parish, while learning more about the congregation. In the fall, we launched our virtual directory, Instant Church Directory, to help both new and long-time members connect with each other more easily. Our new Ministry of the Month program also helped highlight many of the parish's ministries. I received comments from several parishioners who have been at St. Timothy's for years that they were delighted to learn about a ministry they never knew existed.

Strengthening Our Formation Programs.

In late spring, the vestry created a Christian Formation Team to help staff examine the bigger picture questions of our Children and Youth Formation. In the wake of the pandemic, fewer children and youth have been engaged in those programs, though we did see growth in 2023 over previous years. A couple of programs returned this year for the first time since COVID, including a regularly meeting high school formation program, and a week-long VBS. At the same time, the Formation Team is discussing how our programs might be adapted to meet our current needs. We recognize we don't have to do things "the way we did before," and we continue to explore other options. One priority for 2024 will be hiring a new Christian Formation Coordinator who can step into the role that Heather Preston filled so faithfully for the last five years.

In the area of Adult Formation, the Genesis II Team piloted a program called Wednesday Night Connect (becoming Tuesday Night Connect in 2024). You can read more about our children's, youth, and adult formation on pages 6 and 7.

Maintaining and Improving Our Building and Grounds. This year St. Timothy's completed a number of projects related to our building and grounds. See our Junior Warden's Report on page 4 for more details. The vestry also established a Long-Range Property Team to look at some of the longer-term needs of our campus, establish priorities, and create a plan for reaching those priorities. At our Annual Gathering, Jacob Bylund will present the Team's plans to address needs like the HVAC system, East Campus Renewal, the parking lot, and more.

Of course, not everything St. Timothy's did in 2023 fits into those three areas. We continued to do important work of outreach to the community around us. After a great deal of discussion about how best to use our preschool space, we entered into an agreement with Head Start to rent the space to them beginning this January.

St. Timothy's remained a community of vibrant worship, both in person and online. Our streaming numbers have remained pretty consistent over the last few years, indicating that streaming continues to provide an important service to those unable to attend in person as well as to newcomers checking us out for the first time. Some special services in 2023 included an Instructed Eucharist, the bishop's visit, a combined service with Covenant Presbyterian, and a Children's Service.

In addition to helping out with Adult Forum, I also led several other formation offerings this year. There were two Discovery Classes in January-February for those interested in being confirmed or received, one class for youth and another for adults. Then there was another Discovery Class in the summer for youth who were unable to attend the first. In total, 20 youth and adults participated in these classes. I also led the Lenten Series on Wednesday nights on "The Enemies of Jesus," looking at some of the biblical characters who opposed Jesus, and how we might have more in common with them than we realize.

As I have moved into my second year of ministry at St. Timothy's, I've been delighted to be part of a community so defined by love and service. I know that same love and service will continue to guide us as a parish through 2024 and beyond!



SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Dave Leigh



In the last year, we have gathered in many ways. Picnics, Bible Study, small groups, coffee hours, all gatherings which we couldn't do in COVID. We have the largest choir we have had in years due to many newcomers. We are excited about the new people who have come and contributed in many ways. Our streaming of Sunday worship has brought us newcomers and reached people who are homebound. Neil Guy has done great work in streaming and building the Gathering Center for small groups. We also thank the Diocese and Vestry for supporting this effort. Through the efforts of Jacob Nastruz, our Junior Warden, many projects around the church have begun that will help keep our sixty year old building going.

We have had many volunteers work on Building and Grounds. We are blessed with many ministries that our parishioners do on a daily and weekly basis. This outreach to communities and the world brings Christ to the world.

As we move forward into a new year, we have many projects ongoing. We appreciate all who contribute their Time, Talent, and Treasure to St. Timothy's. Without it, St. Timothy's would not function. We also appreciate our dedicated staff who keep the church running on a daily basis. This church is my home and I appreciate the blessings it gives to me and to all of us throughout the year. I am sure many of you feel the same way.

I am so thankful for St. Timothy's and for the love and joy I see here. This could not happen without all of you. You are the Hands, Feet and Voice of Christ in this world. God has continually blessed us. Blessings as we move forward in 2024.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Jacob Nastruz



2023 has been a busy, but also slow year for the building and grounds here at Saint Timothy's. With many projects being planned and talked about, but just barely starting to be on the horizon. This year we really wanted to take time and focus on how we can stop being reactive to things as a Church when it comes to our building and grounds, and really start being responsive as we look to future needs for God's Holy Ground here at Saint Tim's.

With that said, we have put together both a Grounds Maintenance Team to help care for our campus throughout the year, and have our Long-Term Property Team to imagine the future needs of our space. A BIG "Thank you" to everyone on these teams listed below.

I especially want to thank Dan Montgomery who has been coordinating our Grounds Maintenance Team and Jacob Bylund who is the head of the Long-Term Property Team for the copious amount of work each of them has put in this year. Jacob Bylund will give a presentation at our Annual Gathering about the plans made by the Long-Term Property Team, and we are excited to get the entire congregation's support to make these projects happen!

Grounds Maintenance Team (Dan Montgomery, Pat Genereux, Jim Taylor, Randy Pettit, Scott Andrews, and Larry Shea)

Long-Term Property Team (Jacob Bylund, Jacob Nastruz, Scott Andrews, Bev Blaha, Susan Vande Haar, Larry Anderson, Tim Goldman)

The major projects that you may have seen being conducted this year are the new roof put on this spring following the damage done in the August 2022 hailstorm, our new landscaping on the east side of the campus, and our new Gathering Center. A huge thanks to Suzy Coen for her work on the East Campus Renewal and Neil Guy for all his work on the Gathering Center.

I am thrilled to be passing the baton off to our next Junior Warden, Mel Rambo, and am excited to help him in any way that I can to make sure his time in the role is a success.

Outreach Report The Rev. Jeanie Smith

What a wonderful year we've had for our various Outreach ministries. Take a look at what we've accomplished! As we talk over and over again about being the hands and feet and voice of Christ, these are some of the ways we put those words into action.



SECOND OFFERING PARTNERSHIPS

We contributed \$24,636.32 in 2023 to our Second Offering Partners! This doesn't even count the \$7,029.33 that we also collected through the Second Offering program for the creation of our new Gathering Center. See our list below. This is an impressive outreach to and support of our colleagues in ministry:

Center for Social Ministry | \$1,053.75

Simpson Youth Academy | \$1,746.32

Women at the Well | \$2,160.76

The Faith and Grace Garden | \$2,244.75

The FreeStore | \$2,773.42

Archbishop Samuel Peni and the Diocese of Nzara | \$6,329.49

Episcopal Relief and Development | \$1,349.02

West Des Moines Human Services School Supplies Drive | \$1,431.96

Children and Family Urban Movement | \$1,153.54

The Faith and Grace Garden | \$1,240.00

NAMI of Iowa | \$1,544.76

The Faith and Food Fund | \$1,608.75

Grocery Ministry

Ten families here at St. Timothy's purchase and deliver one week's groceries for four families each month. This is a largely silent ministry that goes on behind the scenes, but is sustaining for some of our neighbors who really need this extra help! Many thanks to Sue Genereux who coordinates this effort and to the ten families who provide the funds and the hands-on shopping and delivery.

Casserole Ministry

A faithful group of St. Timotheans work to prepare, bake, store and deliver "Salvation Army" casseroles to food pantries and other locations where hungry people need to be fed. Scott Andrews has taken over coordinating this work, which was so integral to Marilyn McKinney's life. During 2023, we baked 695 casseroles. Want to be involved? You can celebrate a life event (birthday, anniversary) or be a regular baker. Kids welcome!

Youth Justice Initiative

St. Timothy's is the site for the YJI Thursday evening Study Table. We provide space, a meal and tutors for these young people who are part of a restorative justice program run by the West Des Moines Police Department and West Des Moines Public Schools. Over the course of 2023, our faithful crew of 16 volunteers fed and tutored an average of 37 kids in 25 sessions on Thursday evenings. Wow!

Faith and Grace Garden

So many volunteers! So much produce! We even exceeded Mark Marshall's goal for the year by donating over 33,000 pounds of fresh produce to food pantries, the domestic violence shelter, Central Iowa Shelter and Services, and other places where hungry people get food. Thanks to Mark and Tim Goldman for their stewardship of this amazing effort... and to the scores of volunteers who worked tirelessly so others might eat.

Women at the Well

In 2023, six wonderful and dedicated St. Timotheans formed a Reentry Team to support a woman who had been incarcerated for over 20 years. The year was full of ups and down, as we walked with her through her husband's death and a fractured relationship with his family, her own multiple health issues, moving twice and so much more. This is a labor of love. Our Reentry Team members are truly walking in the footsteps of Jesus! Want to know more about this ministry or get involved. See Jeanie Smith.

The Angel Tree

Wow! We adopted 10 families this Christmas! So many gifts so lovingly purchased and wrapped. Special thanks to Maggie Bice who prepared the tags and set up the Angel Tree and to Sarah Bunch and Kayla Crann who re-tagged and sorted all the gifts into family groups and to Sarah, Kayla, Marcy Luft and Jeanie Smith who delivered them. This is Christmas in action!





Adult Formation Report

The Rev. Jeanie Smith

ADULT FORUM

Our Adult Forum program welcomes all to a video and discussion hour before 10:15 church each Sunday morning during the program year (i.e., not in the summer months). During 2023, we averaged about 15-18 participants each Sunday and had robust discussions of the Gospels of Luke, Mark and John; discovering a practice of prayer; what happened at Easter; friends of Jesus; the Sabbath; faith after doubt; and money, wealth and the Bible.

BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study group meets every Thursday from 9:30-11 am. We have about 18 people who are "regular" attenders and welcome anyone else who would like to join, either in person or by zoom. During 2023, we read and discussed Matthew's Gospel, the formation of the canon of the Bible, the book of Acts of the Apostles, some of the minor prophets (Micah, Joel, Amos), the Book of Ruth and, at the end of the year, spent many weeks reading selected parts of the Old and New Testament looking at how God is depicted.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONNECT

One of the results of our Genesis II work during 2023 was the initiation of a "Wednesday Night Connect" program focused on both adult formation and on providing a time for some of our parishioners to get to know each other better. We began this hour-and-a-half evening program in September with a five-week series entitled Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi with Amy-Jill Levine. About 10 folks gathered to hear these familiar yet puzzling stories and discuss them. In Advent, we continued with three weeks on The Journey with Adam Hamilton.

BOOKS, BREW AND BANTER

While not strictly an adult formation program, our book club, which meets on Friday mornings from 10-11:30 (and by zoom), is a strong and long-standing group of avid readers. To see what we've read - and to read our reviews of our reading - visit our blog (sttimothysbbb.org). We love to welcome new readers!







CHILDREN + YOUTH FORMATION

The Rev. Kyle Carswell

In 2023, we continued our Children's and Youth Formation programs for children ages 3 and up at the 9:00 hour. This fall saw the return of a regularly meeting High School group at that time for the first time since COVID. This was also the first year back since the pandemic for a full-week VBS, cohosted with other Des Moines area Episcopal congregations. During Lent, we provided programs for children and youth at our Wednesday night Lenten Series. A number of other special events were held throughout the year, including an Epiphany celebration, a Metro Youth Gathering where youth worked in the Faith and Grace Garden, and a Children's Worship Service in November. With Heather Preston stepping down as Christian Formation Coordinator at the end of December, we will be looking to hire a new coordinator as soon as we can. Huge thanks to Heather, and to all the teachers and volunteers who made our children's and youth programs possible!

GENESIS II REPORT

Julie Feirer, Marcy Luft, Dale Vande Haar, Emily Nastruz, the Rev. Jeanie Smith

The Genesis II team has been active at St. Timothy's since November 2022. Our mission, as we interpret it, is to open ourselves to new possibilities, with emphasis on making connections in the neighborhood and tapping into the resources we already have. The team meets regularly by Zoom with cohorts from other participating lowa Episcopal churches, and most of this work is about discernment. Notable projects we have undertaken to aid in the discernment process are the Map and the Timeline.

For our first 90-Day Micro-strategy we started a mid-week adult formation opportunity for those who aren't available on Sunday mornings. This was an effort to expand connections, thus called "Wednesday Night Connect." It was a success and will continue (on Tuesdays, to allow more participation). And for our second 90-Day strategy we are planning an event to which we can invite the neighbors—not to gain members, but to serve and connect. Looking further ahead, we plan to offer a spiritual gifts class in 2024 to help people identify the strengths and talents they bring to the community.

We want to hear from our fellow parishioners about what skills and passions you have. If you're looking for opportunities to plug in, we want to connect you with the organizations St. Timothy's is already supporting, or new ones. If you see an opportunity for outreach that we aren't currently meeting, we want you to tell us about it. Our goal is to help connect people with the church, with one another, and opportunities to channel your interests into outreach that fill a need and fulfill your heart.











DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Delegates from Episcopal churches across Iowa met in downtown Des Moines October 20-22, 2023 for the 171st Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa. The delegation from St. Timothy's was made up of the Rev. Kyle Carswell, the Rev. Jeanie Smith, Maggie Bice, Gloria Blondino, Alan Feirer, and John Wheeler.

Bishop Betsey Monnot spoke in her convention address about the work the diocese has done related to her three priorities of strengthening congregations, supporting clergy and lay leaders, and deepening our connection with God.

The convention approved the diocesan budget for 2024. Due to declining income from the Stewardship Share that each congregation is asked to pay, and the increasing costs in recent years, the diocese is working to adapt and transition to a more sustainable model over the next few years. In the meantime, this year's budget made up the difference with two income sources. First, a \$50,000 Blessings Fund will seek gifts from individual donors to the diocese. Second, the diocese will make a limited withdrawal of up to \$117,000 from its investment funds.

The keynote speaker at the banquet Saturday night and the preacher at the Closing Eucharist on Sunday morning was the Rt. Rev. Craig Loya, bishop of the Diocese of Minnesota. Bishop Loya spoke passionately about the need for the church to let go of its nostalgia for the past and embrace more diverse ways of living out the church's mission.

SACRAMENTALS

BAPTISMS

Michael Preston
Louisa Jordan-Heintz
Grant Conover
Sydney Conover
Graham Conover
Bwogo Along
Aiden Spivey-Garcia
Landon Crandall
Marie Maxey

Confirmations/Receptions

Austin Coen Paige Krantz Caroline Seley Isabel Hodges Amelia Bylund Molly McGill Luke Luft Lucy Luft Lillie McManus Sang Min Preston Max Preston **Jefferey Spivey** Jairo Garcia (received) Kayla Crann (received) Steve Crann (received) Amy Johnson (received) Mary Bartusek (received)

IN MEMORIAM

Tom Sheldahl Norman Rodgers Diane Halbrook Denny Morman Marilyn McKinney









FINANCE REPORT

Scott Andrews, Treasurer



I would like to recognize the Finance Team for their thoughtful and faithful stewardship of our finances in support of St. Tim's mission: David Blaha, Larry Anderson, Mary Sheldahl, Lyndy Wells, and Darin Krantz (Vestry Liaison). Also, a huge SHOUT OUT to our bookkeeper Amy Wachter for her excellent maintenance of our Books and Records!

The following is an overview of our 2023 financial results and 2024 budgets thanks to your generous support of our mission and ministries. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you have on our financials.

OPERATING FUND

Blessings – we ended 2023 with an operating surplus of \$10.9k. While Pledge and Holiday income was below plan, Non Pledge, Rental and Interest income more than offset that. Expenses are (\$15.5k) under YTD budget primarily driven by Property.

The 2024 Operating budget is -2% below the 2023 budget, primarily driven by lower Pledge income due to attrition, mostly offset by HeadStart rental income and the removal of a Designated Funds transfer required to balance the budget. On the expense side, ministries are relatively flat. Personnel is +5% reflecting salaries increases to get employees to a \$15 per hour wage as well as a 2% increase for other staff and increased benefit expenses. We continue to increase our Diocesan pledge (+7%), and Office and Communications expenses reflect some inflationary increases. Property expenses are lower reflecting the removal of a \$20k reserve to fund an HVAC replacement.

FAITH & GRACE GARDEN

The garden ended 2023 with a surplus of \$3.1k driven primarily from Grant and Fundraising income above plan as well as volunteer support expenses below plan. The garden raised \$6.5k from grants and contributions to build a fence around the Northwest area cleared for garden use.

The Garden's 2024 budget is +3% over 2023 reflecting a plan to hire a garden assistant as well as the extension of the garden into the NW lot. The Garden funds 100% of its operations mostly from your generosity. Please continue to support this amazing ministry.

PRESCHOOL

The Preschool balance sheet sits at \$39.2k as of 12/31/2023. The Head Start agreement is a very good use of our space, and the revenue contributes to expenses freeing up some monies in support of our ministries. The Vestry is prayerfully considering the long term best use of the Preschool funds.

ENDOWMENT FUND

In December, the Endowment fund received a generous \$12.4k gift from a parishioner. As of 1/9/2024, the endowment fund balance is \$309.8k in the following accounts:

- Capital Permanent Account \$192.4k
- Columbarium Account \$95.5k
- Community Outreach Account \$21.9

A few other general updates. We completed an annual summer Diocesan desktop audit with a clean report. In addition, we have provided financial support and recommendations for East Campus Renewal Project, the Gathering Center, and building repairs and maintenance initiatives (e.g. restore main entrance red doors, repair, seal and paint rotting arches, and refinish wood around gutter, caulk exterior trim and beam-to-brick joints, and replace damaged gutters). Finally, we have supported discussions on a capital campaign to raise funds beyond our annual operating budget for initiatives such as HVAC replacement, Campus Renewal, driveway pavement, and other long-range building/property capital improvements.

END OF YEAR OPERATING FUND 2023 2024 APPROVED BUDGET

2023 OPERATING FUND (End of Year)	2023 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET
INCOME		
Regular Pledges	\$ 391,568	\$ 402,854
Loose Plate/Non-Pledge	\$ 33,078	\$ 17,500
Easter/Christmas	\$ 2,280	\$ 6,500
Flowers, Vacation Bible School, Rentals, Other	\$ 5,864	\$ 3,500
Interest	\$ 8,037	\$ 1,200
Designated Funds Transfer	\$ -	\$ 13,887
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 440,827	\$ 445,441
EXPENSE		
Diocesan Pledge	\$ 57,000	\$ 57,000
Community Ministries	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600
Christian Formation	\$ 1,969	\$ 3,812
Music	\$ 2,368	\$ 3,450
Liturgy	\$ 5,339	\$ 4,450
Pastoral Ministry	\$ -	\$ 500
Parish Life	\$ 3,332	\$ 4,500
Personnel	\$ 208,361	\$ 210,585
Administration	\$ 19,432	\$ 16,989
Communications	\$ 5,508	\$ 5,383
Property	\$ 123,018	\$ 135,172
Surplus Administration	\$ 429,927	\$ 445,441
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 10,900	\$ -

2024 Final	2023 Final
\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
\$ 17,500	\$ 15,000
\$ 394,775	\$ 402,854
\$ 1,000	\$ 6,500
\$ 17,165	\$ 3,500
\$ 4,500	\$ 1,200
\$ -	\$ 13,887
\$ 437,440	\$ 445,441
\$ 61,000	\$ 57,000
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2024 ANNUAL GIVING

BY THE NUMBERS		
Total Operating Pledges	116	\$ 394,775
No Pledge	3	
Increased Pledges	49	\$ 241,541
New Pledges	16	\$ 22,183
Stayed the Same	35	\$ 83,389
Went Down	13	\$ 47,662
2023 Total	116	\$ 394,775









