



THE CHIMES

January / February 2023

Happy New Year!

2022 was filled with joyful moments and ministry to a hurting world, and we celebrate these accomplishments! Now we look ahead to 2023 and imagine what God is calling us to be and to do, and it can be a time of excitement and hope. In preparation for responding to God's call in the years ahead, The Episcopal Church denominational offices joined with a major research firm to conduct a study during the past year called "Jesus in America." About the findings, our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry said:

We are encouraged that the research shows Americans still find Jesus compelling, but we also see that the behavior of many of his followers is a problem, and it's not just certain Christians: it's all Christians... This is a wake-up call for us, and based on what we have learned, we are refocusing our efforts on being a church that looks and acts like Jesus and models its behavior on his teachings. In this process, we hope to ignite a revival of love that encourages all Americans to do a better job of loving their neighbors.

So how do we respond to this? First, we remember how Jesus defines "neighbor," like he did for the young lawyer in Luke's gospel. Neighbors are not defined by geography, familiarity, or friendliness, but by God's bestowing belovedness on all people. Neighbors = EVERYONE, especially enemies and those who are different from ourselves.

Secondly, we define "loving" as a gift that God gives us to pass on to others. Love is a decision, a choice, and is often sacrificial in nature. It does not require us to be a doormat but it does require disciplining our own desires and preferences. St. Paul tells us love is kind, patient, persevering, and humble. Dr. Cornell West says, "Justice is what love looks like in public, just like tenderness is what love feels like in private."

The most important thing is that we pray, both individually and as a congregation, that we always strive to represent the love of Jesus in the world through our words and actions. I hope you will attend the Annual Meeting on January 29th to discern, as a congregation, where God is calling us into this work!

God's richest blessings for 2023 to you and all those you love!

Mother Bonnie

"Building relationships with God, community and one another through faith and fellowship."

Want one more chance to sing Christmas carols?

***Would you love to see the gaslights at St. Tim's
again before next Christmas?***

Come to Lessons and Carols for Epiphany!

Friday, January 6, 2023

Music begins at 6:00 p.m.

Service starts at 6:30 p.m.



2022 GIVING

The last day of Giving for 2022 is 1/8/2023. Checks must be dated by 12/31/2022.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual reports for Ministries and Activities are to be turned in to the Parish Office no later than Monday, January 16th. These reports will be included in the Parish Report presented at the Annual meeting on Sunday, January 29th.

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

On Sunday, January 29th we will celebrate the Feast of our Patron, St. Timothy. Our combined worship service will be a Eucharist beginning at 9:30 a.m., followed by the Annual Parish Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING AND VESTRY ELECTION

Immediately following the worship service on January 29th we will meet for our Annual Parish Meeting. At that time, we will review our accomplishments for 2022 and look ahead at what is planned for 2023. Everyone, regardless of how long you have been involved or attending is encouraged to attend the meeting, which takes about 90 minutes.

As part of the meeting we will elect new members to the Vestry. There are 3 vacancies. If you are interested in joining the vestry in their ministry of leadership, please contact Mother Bonnie ASAP.

All parishioners are encouraged to attend. A list of voting members will be posted at least one week prior to the meeting for your review. If you have any questions about the list, or if you are not sure of your eligibility to vote, please contact Mother Bonnie directly.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Because we value our traditions as well as our shared life together in this parish, it is important that we honor the many different ways that people can be involved at St. Tim's. As we approach our Annual Parish Meeting, I want to clarify a few important points about our life together specific to voting eligibility:

1. Everyone is welcome to attend the Annual Meeting, so that all can hear the blessings of 2022 and the hopes for the ministry of the coming year.
2. The Canons of The Episcopal Church (church laws) specify, and our parish bylaws support the following criteria for voting. All 5 items below are requirements to vote in this year's Annual Meeting, however, all in attendance may have a voice at this meeting:
 - A) People who have had their confirmation through St. Tim's, or who have transferred their confirmation to St. Tim's via reception,
 - B) are regularly receiving communion at St. Tim's (at least 3 times/year)
 - C) are regularly giving to the parish in some fashion (at least \$5.00/year in 2021 and 2022)
 - D) are active participants in other facets of the life and ministry of St. Tim's
 - E) are at least 17 years old

Here is the citation from the St. Timothy's Parish ByLaws: "... shall be persons of the age of seventeen years or upwards who shall have been worshipers in this Church as their usual place of public worship for at least one year, and who shall appear by the books of the Corporation to have contributed to the support of the General Treasury in the amount of no less than five dollars (\$5.00) during each of the two years prior according to the system of donation established by the Finance Committee of the Parish."

Still have questions or concerns? Please contact Mother Bonnie directly and she will walk you through it!

FYI - voicemail at the church is not currently working. If you have a concern or question outside normal office hours, please call 215-530-9878. We will respond as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience.

2023: Celebrating the Life and Ministry of Blessed Absalom Jones



**Saturday, February 11th, 2023
9:00 am – 11:30 am
Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, 23 S 38th St, Philadelphia, PA 19104**

"Remember, celebrate, act." On 2/11/23 we will honor the life and ministry of the Blessed Absalom Jones, the first African American priest in The Episcopal Church, with a service at The Philadelphia Cathedral that includes music from across the diocese and beyond.

Acolytes from every church in the diocese are invited to process with their banners at this special diocesan-wide service.

Absalom Jones was born enslaved to Abraham Wynkoop a wealthy Anglican planter in 1746 in Delaware. He was working in the fields when Abraham recognized that he was an intelligent child and ordered that he be trained to work in the house. Absalom eagerly accepted instruction in reading. He also saved money he was given and bought books (among them a primer, a spelling book, and a bible). Abraham Wynkoop died in 1753 and by 1755 his younger son Benjamin had inherited the plantation. When Absalom was sixteen Benjamin Wynkoop sold the plantation and Absalom's mother, sister, and five brothers. Wynkoop brought Absalom to Philadelphia where he opened a store and joined St. Peter's Church. In Philadelphia Benjamin Wynkoop permitted Absalom to attend a night school for black people that was operated by Quakers following the tradition established by abolitionist teacher Anthony Benezet.

At twenty, with the permission of their masters, Absalom married Mary Thomas who was enslaved to Sarah King who also worshipped at St. Peter's. The Rev. Jacob Duche performed the wedding at Christ Church. Absalom and his father-in-law, John Thomas, used their savings, and sought donations and loans primarily from prominent Quakers, in order to purchase Mary's freedom. Absalom and Mary worked very hard to repay the money borrowed to buy her freedom. They saved enough money to buy property and to buy Absalom's freedom. Although he repeatedly asked Benjamin Wynkoop to allow him to buy his freedom Wynkoop refused. Absalom persisted because as long as he was enslaved Wynkoop could take his property and his money. Finally, in 1784 Benjamin Wynkoop freed Absalom by granting him a manumission. Absalom continued to work in Wynkoop's store as a paid employee.

Absalom left St. Peter's Church and began worshipping at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church. He met Richard Allen who had been engaged to preach at St. George's and the two became lifelong friends. Together, in 1787, they founded the Free African Society a mutual

aid benevolent organization that was the first of its kind organized by and for black people. Members of the Society paid monthly dues for the benefit of those in need. At St George's, Absalom and Richard served as lay ministers for the black membership. The active evangelism of Jones and Allen, greatly increased black membership at St George's. The black members worked hard to help raise money to build an upstairs gallery intended to enlarge the church. The church leadership decided to segregate the black worshippers in the gallery, without notifying them. During a Sunday morning service a dispute arose over the seats black members had been instructed to take in the gallery and ushers attempted to physically remove them by first accosting Absalom Jones. Most of the black members present indignantly walked out of St. George's in a body.

Prior to the incident at St. George's the Free African Society had initiated religious services. Some of these services were presided over by The Rev. Joseph Pilmore an assistant St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The Society established communication with similar black groups in other cities. In 1792 the Society began to build the African Church of Philadelphia. The church membership took a denominational vote and decided to affiliate with the Episcopal Church. Richard Allen withdrew from the effort as he favored affiliation with the Methodist Church. Absalom Jones was asked to provide pastoral leadership and after prayer and reflection he accepted the call.

The African Church was dedicated on July 17, 1794. The Rev. Dr. Samuel Magaw, rector St. Paul's Church, preached the dedicatory address. Dr. Magaw was assisted at the service by The Rev. James Abercrombie, assistant minister at Christ Church. Soon thereafter the congregation applied for membership in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania on the following conditions: 1) that they be received as an organized body; 2) that they have control over their own local affairs; 3) that Absalom Jones be licensed as layreader, and, if qualified, be ordained as minister. In October 1794 it was admitted as the African Episcopal Church of St Thomas. The church was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1796. Bishop William White ordained Jones as deacon in 1795 and as priest on September 21, 1802.

Jones was an earnest preacher. He denounced slavery, and warned the oppressors to "clean their hands of slaves." To him, God was the Father, who always acted on "behalf of the oppressed and distressed." But it was his constant visiting and mild manner that made him beloved by his congregation and by the community. St Thomas Church grew to over 500 members during its first year. The congregants formed a day school and were active in moral uplift, self-empowerment, and anti-slavery activities. Known as "the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church," Jones was an example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God's instrument. Jones died on this day in 1818.

St. Timothy's will celebrate the life of Absalem Jones on Sunday, February 12 at both services. Please join us.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
March 12th
Remember to turn your clocks ahead 1 hour.

Why not, if it is for Christ?

- Denis C. Brunelle

Allow me to tell you about a member of a parish where I was rector. He was a man who possessed incredible faith. “Roy” would sit at vestry meetings and listen to all the plans and dreams and proposals presented. Then he would ask searching questions. After he was satisfied, he would always say the same thing, **“Why not, if it is for Christ and his kingdom?”**

His words were so predictable that some of the vestry decided to see how far they could go and still get the same response. They came up with a lavish proposal, an idea that seemed totally ridiculous. No way could the parish ever work hard enough to see the proposal accomplished. But they presented it and this man listened. He asked his searching questions, and when they were through, he said, **“Why not, if it is for Christ and his kingdom? If we are doing this for Christ, and God is a part of it, why not?”**

Roy shared with us all the longing to invest in things that matter, and to have the parish in which we serve be successful. Our hope is to insure that when we step aside, our congregations exist stronger and more faithful for the next generation. No easy task in today’s environment.

In essence Roy had a discerning heart — if the parish is doing this for Christ, why not! Discernment is the spiritual discipline of seeking clarity in identifying the mission of the parish and how the parish (vestry) will respond to God’s call. **Discernment means that every member of the vestry comes together not for his/her own purpose, but for the well-being of the larger community, putting it first in both vision and decision making.** Discernment means making a habit of noticing and reflecting on what each member hears God calling the parish to be and to do.

Discernment does mean prayer. Not just a hurried prayer “lifted up” just prior to making a decision, but an established life of prayer.

Discernment involves a commitment to keep going so that the good of all people is represented by the decision — where little or no self-centered motivation is observed in the decision making process. Discernment brings about a sense of peace and “rightness” for the whole vestry and parish once the decision is made.

So how does this apply to such mundane things as spending money, repairing buildings, mutual ministry reviews? The spiritual discipline of discernment impels vestries to first look at its ministry/mission and then evaluate all aspects of stewardship in light of that mission.

Discernment values the gifts of time, talent and treasure are valued more from the dynamic process of “can do” than one of limitations. Discernment leads vestries and congregations into the process of valuing people more than buildings and programs.

Discernment leads vestries into being mutual ministers of the spiritual life of the parish with their priest. Discernment does not allow for sacred cows/bulls (buildings, groups, programs). Rather, the faithful are led in their call to be disciples of the Savior. Vestries actively involved in the discernment process of decision making are more willing to try the new and are more willing to step out in faith and take the risks that God will guide them in that boldness of faith.

Ultimately that is the bottom line of discernment — not the bottom line as pertains to finances or even numerical bodies of people sitting in pews — but the bottom line of discernment as the call to faithfulness in discipleship and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Practical? Not to the world and the way it

accounts for things! Fiscally responsible? Absolutely — in that we show the ultimate stewardship for the whole life of a parish! *After all, it is for Christ and his kingdom. Why not?*

The Rev. Canon Dr. Denis C. Brunelle is the Director of the George Mercer, Jr. Memorial School of Theology in the Diocese of Long Island. Denis began his ministry as a retreat director in the Cleveland, Ohio area. Ordained in 1978, Canon Brunelle worked for four years out of the MSC Center in Shelby, Ohio and the Jesuit Retreat House in Parma, Ohio and is a certified spiritual director. He has served parishes in Ohio, Illinois, California, West Virginia and Long Island.

This article is part of the January 2008 Vestry Papers issue on [Vestry Meetings](https://www.ecfvp.org/vestry-papers/article/124/why-not-if-it-is-for-christ)
[HTTPS://WWW.ECFVP.ORG/VESTRY-PAPERS/ARTICLE/124/WHY-NOT-IF-IT-IS-FOR-CHRIST](https://www.ecfvp.org/vestry-papers/article/124/why-not-if-it-is-for-christ)

Masks are optional inside St. Timothy’s parish buildings.



2023 Lenten Schedule

Date	Gathering	Time
Every Wednesday	Morning Prayer Service Rite II	8:30 am
Wednesday, February 22	Ash Wednesday Observance	7am / Noon / 7pm
Every Weds. During Lent	Church open for Prayer Wed. Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Apr. 5	9am – 3pm
Weds. Evenings During Lent	Lenten Program (TBA)	
Sundays During Lent	*Regular Worship Services	8am / 10:30am
Sunday, April 2	*Palm Sunday Services	8am / 10:30am
Holy Week (Mon-Fri)	Church open for Prayer	9am – 3pm
Thursday, April 6	Maundy Thursday - Stripping of the Altar Vigil at the Altar of Repose	7pm
Friday, April 7	Good Friday Liturgy Stations of the Cross	12:00 noon
Saturday, April 8	The Great Vigil of Easter	7pm
Sunday, April 9	*Easter Sunday	8am / 10:30am

 Sundays:
 * Rite I Eucharist Service @ 8am
 * Rite II Eucharist Service @ 10:30am

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Lenten Devotional materials will be available for pickup from church office.

ST. TIMOTHY'S BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Birthdays

January

01/15 Janice Fetscher
01/18 Michael Shockey
01/23 Heather Sheridan
01/25 Kim Eberle-Wang

February

02/10 Emilie Nicols
02/10 John Doherty
02/13 Chris Gill
02/15 Erin Frantz
02/16 Ethan Wang
02/20 Pat Fitzsimmons
02/20 Barbara Watson
02/23 Angel Bevenour



Anniversaries

January

01/06 Bob & Bernadette Campbell

February

02/26 Matthew & Bonnie McCrickard

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT ST. TIMOTHY'S

SUNDAY SCHOOL/BIBLE STUDY FOR ADULTS - hybrid in person & zoom - in the library at 9:15am before the service. All are welcome, no preparation required.

OUR ONLINE WORSHIP is available each Sunday morning after 7:00 am Eastern on our St. Tim's Facebook Page (no sign in required!) The full worship recording and text worship leaflet are available at sttimsrox.com/worship .

MID-WEEK MORNING PRAYER - Morning Prayer is held every Wednesdays @ 8:30am

ST. TIMOTHY'S STAFF & VESTRY MEMBERS

Parish Staff

The Very Rev. Dr. Bonnie McCrickard, Rector; Emily Given, Seminarian,
Luke Stasiunas, Organist & Choir Director; Janice Fetscher, Parish Administrator;
Mark Sullivan, Sexton

2022 Vestry:

Ken Burgess; Bob Campbell - Property Chair; Kim Eberle-Wang; Ann Greene;
John Kracker; Paul LaFollette - Treasurer; Michael Shockey - Secretary;
Lynn Tomko - Accounting Warden; Ethel Wesley - Rector's Warden

Contact us at:

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sttimothyrox@gmail.com
[facebook.com/sttimsrox](https://www.facebook.com/sttimsrox)

Rev. McCrickard is off on Fridays. If you have a pastoral emergency, first contact the church office 215-483-1529. If it is a weekend or after the office is closed at 3:00pm on weekdays, please call 215-530-9878.



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The Very Rev. Dr. Bonnie M. McCrickard, Rector