



## **Rector's Report August 2024**

As is often the case, summer has been a blur at the church with people coming and going. I was able to enjoy three weeks of vacation; one with the Porter family, one with the Acee family and the third celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Porter-Acee family. Though I am back in the office my hours will not be entirely predictable until the end of August. Whitney had surgery to repair an injured knee and will not be able to drive for a while. I will need to pick up some carpool duties until she is back in action. If you need to see me, make an appointment through the church office as usual and we will have much better luck connecting.

I hope everyone has had an opportunity to welcome to St. Timothy's our Interim Director of Music, Tyler Schodt. He has been a joy to work with and I have heard several people speak positively about our music. A continued thanks is also to Connie Widney who readily jumps in to take control of moments that are out of control in our music ministry. As students return to our ECU master's programs, we will be interviewing additional candidates for a permanent position. I have also had initial conversations with two church musicians in our area who would be interested in a position here. As stated before, it is truly amazing how St. Timothy's reputation in the music community grew in the past three years and how many more people are interested in becoming a part of our music family.

I look forward to the opportunities, events and challenges of this fall. Much will be done in the coming weeks and months to kick off a third worship service at 4pm every Sunday. Lobster Fair plans are well underway and the time is now to get to work with sales. Our St. Timothy's Preschool will be back in action with an extended day for about half of our students. The new schedule is both an effort to more closely meet the demand that is in our community as well as trying to find a more financially sustainable way to continue to offer this important ministry to young families. We believe that plans to widen Fire Tower Rd will be finalized in the coming months and the land condemnation process (purchase of our property) will begin. To be better prepared to effectively manage coming changes to our property, work has been done to better understand current maintenance and repair needs with our buildings. The result of some of this work is seen in the current project to improve the drainage in low lying areas. The summer and fall are also times when churches traditionally have more visitors. I remain overwhelmingly grateful for the work that is done by our staff and volunteers to keep our atmosphere welcoming and to connect with new comers in meaningful ways that allow them to begin to grow roots in our community if they choose to do so.

We have been blessed in so many ways and we are doing the work required to turn those blessings into opportunities to serve and bless others. If you are not aware of something you can celebrate about this community right now, keep your eyes and ears open because celebration should be the focus of our communication on a weekly basis.

## Senior Warden's Report August 2024

Summertime is coming to an end and it has definitely been a busy one for many of us. Over the past 6 weeks we have had lots going on to include planning for the Lobster Fair, drainage work in the Memorial Garden, becoming aware of moisture issues in the Ed Building and drainage issues needing to be addressed around the building, as well as new mulch being spread on the playground, and plans made for our stewardship campaign. A letter was sent to the parish with updates about the Firetower Road expansion following discussions with our attorney at Henson-Fuerst. All of this has been done with the help and leadership of many, and that's what and how we do things at St. Tim's. We are blessed and have much to celebrate!

Many thanks to Chip and Barbara Williams for their willingness to be the Stewardship Campaign chairs again this year. Thanks, too, to Tom Payne for his input and willingness to meet with the Williams and John P-A as a part of the "team" during the planning process.

\*Have you checked out logging into your account in Realm?

\*Have you signed up to participate in the Lobster Fair?

\*More than likely we will all be asked to participate in the Stewardship Campaign in one way or another this fall. Will you say yes?

\*Locking/unlocking the buildings....can we not unlock the latch locked doors to the Parish Hall? Only unlock the sides that are opened with a key? Issues with side door in Ed Building not closing completely.

\*Changes to the Counting Procedures Document and envelopes will be available soon. Please note the changes on the "new" envelopes once they are printed. See summary from Admin Committee meeting on August 14.

I look forward to the next months as we work together to serve others, manage our property, count and celebrate our blessings, and be there for everyone in our parish.

Faithfully submitted,

Debbie Strickland

## **Junior Warden Report**

Many of the activities pursued in the past two months were completed with much cooperation and documented in other reports

One particular item which merits extra attention is the moisture issue with the Education building. Barbour and Debbie Strickland did a fantastic job measuring and marking problem areas in the walls of the building following recent rains, clearly verifying the moisture issue. The next step of bringing in professional advice will be critical in identifying the root cause(s) of the problem and solution(s.) Once solutions are identified, we will be able to plan the implementation in line with stewardship of our property. Another item of importance is the Highway project. We expect to see some activity in the next month or so in the marking and appraisal process. Our responsibility is to stay out of the way; do not talk to the surveyor or appraiser, leave all stakes in place!

We have had a contractor on campus on August 12 to evaluate the condition of our double doors, a report is pending.

A fall Campus cleanup day is scheduled for September 21.

## **Stewardship Ministry Reports for July and August 2024**

### **PLANNED GIVING**

The General Endowment Fund's value is \$10,595.85 as of June 30, 2024.

The Permanent Endowment Fund's value is \$10,032.79 as of June 30, 2024. An account has been opened for the Permanent Endowment Fund now that it has reached the \$10,000 account minimum. The account is with State Street Global Advisors through the Episcopal Church Foundation, as is the General Endowment Fund.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for August 28.

Submitted by Barbour Strickland, chair of the Endowment Committee

### **LONG RANGE PLANNING**

No report

### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

No report

### **ANNUAL GIVING**

Chip and Barbara Williams, along with Tom Payne, have graciously agreed to be the chairs for our upcoming Stewardship Campaign. More information will be shared soon and we are so appreciative of their willingness to lead us this year.

Submitted by Debbie Strickland

## GRANTS COMMITTEE

No report

### Formation

It's been a great summer! Several families participated in the parish-wide fellowship events. Collaborative VBS at St. Paul's was a great success from my viewpoint:

- We had a total of 35 VBS participants, 6 with a connection to St Tim's.
- We had 12 youth volunteers, 6 from St Tim's.
- We had 24 adult volunteers, 6 from St. Tim's.
- We had 15 volunteers (9 adult-4 St Tim's and 6 youth-5 St Tim's) who were there every day.
- Separate from those adult volunteers, we had ~27 dinner volunteers, 6 leading the charge for the St Tim's night, plus around 11 of our folks who donated items for the taco bar. This team fed nearly 85 people, as families of the participants were invited on the final evening to join us for dinner and to see the song of the week.

In addition to VBS, 22 letters were mailed to 18 individual St Tim's children and youth at their summer camps. Some kids go more than once, so they may have received a letter from John in addition to Martha. This number is up greatly from 10 letters to 10 individuals in 2023.

Spark'Dwell was another success this summer with 5 students and 2 adult volunteers. Big shout out to John P-A and Leigh Bell for joining their children at their invitation to lead this experience. As we enter August and the season of kick-offs and back to school, we look forward to events this month and the return of regular program rhythms in September.

### Parish Life Ministry – Jun/July Report for August Meeting

Areas/committees included and person leading:

- Fellowship/Dinner Groups – temporarily parish life ministry vestry liaisons.
- Hospitality/ECW – Valerie Foster
- Newcomers – Leigh Bell
- Brotherhood – Scott Crippen
- Daughters of the King – Connie Widney
- Cursillo – Diane Hatfield
- Cards/Games – Norma Henderson
- Knitting – Bitsie Harwell
- Yoga – Alyssa Sugar

### Parish Life

#### Fellowship:

- Old business:
  - Approximately 10 St. Tim's parishioners enjoyed Greenville United FC soccer game on June 26. There were food trucks and the stands were situated so we were in the shade. Some exciting soccer was played.
  - Again about 10 St. Tim's parishioners (not the same ones as above) enjoyed the Greenville Yard Gnomes baseball game on July 17. We enjoyed the game, and they won! There were food trucks for meal and snacks. (The food trucks were kind of expensive.) Only credit/debit cards for tickets or food.
- New Business:
  - Postponed scheduling of possible kayaking event.
- Action Items: None

**Hospitality/ECW:**

- Old/New business:
  - Will have game night Tuesday August 13.
  - Hospitality will assist with the potluck in September.
- Action Items:
  - None

**Newcomers:**

- Old/New business:
  - Nothing new to report
- Action Items: None

**Brotherhood:**

- Old business:
  - Brotherhood had our weekly breakfast meetings.
  - Brotherhood retreat was held Friday and Saturday (June 21-22) at Scott and Julie's river place.
  - Our July social was a CPR refresher lead by Diane Hatfield and Kristine Kelley-Salamon was an informative event.
- New business:
  - Our address sign fundraiser was approved. We are kicking off this 911 address sign fund raiser, which is the sale and or the installation of green reflective address signs for your home mailbox. More details coming in about 6 weeks.
  - Brotherhood has ordered and is paying for three Bunn coffee pots for regular coffee for the parish hall.
- Action Items: None

**Daughters of the King (Magdalene Chapter):**

- Old business:
  - Connie traveled to Louisville for the Triennial meeting of the Order. She represented the Assembly of the Diocese of East Carolina. There was a very large attendance.
  - Daughters of the King met for lunch in July. President Connie Widney shared information from the Triennial meeting of the International Order of the Daughters of the King. Over 400 junior and senior Daughters gathered for prayer, worship, teaching and fellowship.
  - The chapter encourages St Timothy's members to submit prayer requests either through the office or in their request box in the narthex.
  - Daughters provided coffee hour delicacies for Father's Day.
- New business: None
- Action Items: None

**Cursillo:**

- Old/New Business:
  - EC 104 Weekend is November 7-10, 2024
  - Our very own Sarah Swindell will be the weekend Rector!!
  - St Timothy's has 12 Team members and 1 Pilgrim Dennie Walker.
  - We are looking for more Pilgrims from St Timothy's. This would be the weekend to go since so many of us will be on team from our church!!! Want to know more or

apply, talk with Marty Michaels, Diane Hatfield, Sharyn Lennox and many others.  
DeColores!

- Action Items: None

#### **Cards/Games:**

- Old/New Business:
  - Church games were held the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month. Everyone is welcome to join us & bring a friend!
- Action Items: None

#### **Knitting (and talking):**

- Old/New Business:
  - Knitters have continued to meet throughout the summer. We “knit and talk” from 10:30 - 12:00 on Wednesdays. All are welcome. Please join us.
- Action Items: None

#### **Yoga:**

- Old/ New business:
  - In June and July regular classes continued.
  - Yoga will be changing to Wednesday evenings beginning August 14th at the usual time 5:30. Wednesday the August 20th there will be no class.
- Action Items: None

#### **Servant Ministries Report for June/July 2024**

##### **Birthday Cards-Suzie Shelton**

- No report

##### **Community Crossroads Center-Phyllis Dombos**

- No report

##### **JOY Soup Kitchen-Nancy Williams**

- 583 lunches served in June
- 511 lunches served in July
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##### **Inreach-Bitsie Harwell**

- Mary Vincent inaugurated this vital ministry years ago and has led it ever since. At her request we are letting her “retire” from her lead roll to being one of the members. It takes two of us to take her place. Linda Lane and Bitsie Harwell are serving as chairs from this July until January 2025 when two others will rotate in.
- Through the summer we have continued to reach out to members of the congregation and others through calls, emails and cards offering support and help as needed.
- Vestry and general membership support is crucial in letting those on the Inreach Committee know when someone could benefit from a message of support or help.

##### **Unseen Guest-Ashton Johnson**

- No report

## **Outreach Committee-Sharyn Lennox and Nancy Leamy**

The Outreach Committee met in June when the chair position was shifted from Sharyn to Nancy Leamy.

### **Operation Sunshine**

- During the first two weeks of July Tommy Tucker, Scott Crippen and Sharyn Lennox primed and painted an office and long hallway at Operation Sunshine which improved the look of the space a lot. Orlando Cruz repaired a light fixture in the hallway so it's now a much more inviting space.
- Mary Ava Johnson, Dennie Walker, Debbie Strickland and Sharyn Lennox took on a book sorting project and straightened, sorted and recycled lots of books. Shelves were moved to another space to allow for more room in the main space for the youngest girls.
- The Outreach Committee had allotted \$500.00 to cover costs associated with the projects but only \$320.00 was spent.
- Veronica Stokes, Executive Director asked for some additional assistance on Tuesdays, our regular tutoring day from 2:00-4:00 to wait for two buses and set up snacks while the OS vans pick up the other girls. Eight of the tutors have agreed to share in this additional commitment on a rotating basis which would be 4 or 5 times during the school year.
- St. Timothy's PreSchool has asked for \$750.00 to help replace the mulch on the playground and the request was approved.

### **St. Timothy's Community Garden August report**

The effects of the "flash" drought in May and June, and excessive rain in July into August has greatly impacted the ability to provide fresh produce to local pantries and the soup kitchen. The reduction was especially noticeable in the volume of potatoes and sweet corn. Despite the conditions, members dedicated time and work to maintain the garden. Efforts provided vegetables to share and provide approximately 135 pounds of onions, cabbage, potatoes, squash and cucumbers to JOY and to St. Paul's pantry.

The kitchen group was also able to utilize peaches and figs to make jam as well as pickle cucumbers, and most recently okra for sale.

Our group does celebrate our blessings, the annual corn/potato/shrimp boil was very successful with over thirty people in attendance. High temperatures pushed us indoors while maintaining the cooking in the shade of oak trees outside.

### **Memorial Garden**

No Report

### **Lobster Fair**

Great progress has been made toward the Fair and have gone live with our ordering process. We have posters made and cards ready for use. Arrangements for a refrigerated truck, a tent, tables, chairs and a bounce house are made. We have shrimp beheaded and in a freezer. Diane Hatfield donated some large cook pots to replace damaged ones. The subcommittees are active and making preparations.



Local advertising is being pursued to provide timely, free promotions as the event nears.

The Church of the Servant in Wilmington offered various items they had previously used for a lobster event. They are no longer doing an event and have provided these items: decor items (fishing nets with lobster buoys and approximately 60 nearly life size plastic lobsters) and food service items (hundreds of brown napkins like those in fast food restaurant dispensers, about 400 white plastic bibs with lobsters on them, and hundreds of 2 oz plastic cups with lids used for melted butter) The plastic lobsters have been put to use as part of the kickoff, featured in the 10:15 sermon August 4. The other materials will help reduce costs for meal supplies.

### **Worship Reports for August 2024**

#### **Music**

No report

#### **A/V Program**

The summer of 2024 has brought several changes and challenges to St. Timothy's A/V ministry. First and foremost, Peter Woodruff moved to a new position and location in Ohio. Peter was the Director of the A/V ministry from the beginning and was relied on for keeping it operational as well as teaching others how to operate it. Under Peter's direction, we created a 'how to' manual, which will never be finished because it is a "dynamic" manual, meaning it will constantly change with new updates and new or different program requirements.

As stated previously, electronic systems are subject to disruptions and problems due to the fact that they are at risk to outside and inside influences, i.e. temperatures, voltage, an accidental bump to the equipment which could change a setting, even a magnet close to the equipment can play havoc with the system. We experienced some of these interferences during July which prevented live-streaming and recording for a couple of weeks but these issues have now been resolved. We continue to address issues such as vibration to the cameras and adjustments in lighting to accommodate needs that have become apparent in the videos.

Submitted by Marie Cooper

#### **Ask Me/Greeters**

No report this month

#### **Acolytes**

An acolyte training session for new and seasoned acolytes will be scheduled this Fall and coordinated by John Porter Acee and Susan Holmes.

Submitted by Susan Holmes

**Readers & Altar Guild**

A meeting has been scheduled to discuss how to support the new service at 4pm on Sundays as well as any start up meetings/trainings we may need to have for worship volunteers as the fall program begins.

Submitted by John Porter-Acee

**Ushers**

The Ushers will meet in early September for training. Meeting date and time tbd.

Submitted by Malcolm Williams