

# Ministries Guide

*Helping connect members to ministry*



**Fall 2016**



Ministries Guide



## Introduction

This booklet is for all members of St. Timothy's — those who have been here awhile and those who are new — to read about our ministries and use as a tool to help discern how they can connect with a ministry.

If you are interested in finding out more information or participating in a group or ministry, please contact the Ministry Team leader you'll find listed for each of our ten ministry teams on page 23 of this guide

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# Welcome to Ministries at St. Timothy's

## How we are organized

Our ministries at St. Timothy's are organized and coordinated through our Parish Council, which is constituted to implement the parish mission and core values in cooperation with the Vestry and the Rector. Council is a means for the organization and functioning of our common life, representing the whole body of Christ

## Parish Council

Parish Council meets every other month to plan, coordinate and evaluate parish events, programs and activities in light of our parish mission and core values. Parish Council is composed of the Rector, Vestry Liaison, and the chairs and representatives of our nine ministry teams: Christian Formation, Evangelism, Fellowship, Members and Ministry, Outreach, Pastoral Care, Stewardship, Worship Planning and Youth.



## **Our Mission Statement**

As a family of God, we are called to invite and welcome all people to connect and grow in Christ's love while serving and sharing with our community.

## **Our Core Values**

At St. Timothy's, we affirm the following Core Values:

### **Christian Community**

We value coming together as a diverse community spanning all ages and backgrounds.

### **Love**

We strive to love and accept all unconditionally.

### **Spiritual Growth**

We are committed to spiritual growth for all ages, using a variety of forms and venues, to help us heal and grow closer to God.

### **The Arts**

We embrace the arts as a gift from and a pathway to God.

### **Worship**

We value the Holy Scriptures, open communion, the liturgy and traditions of the Episcopal Church.

# Christian Formation

## Why do we call it Christian Formation instead of Christian Education?

The word education is closely associated with a classroom full of desks, a teacher dispensing information, papers and pencils, tests and evaluations. Formation, on the other hand, brings to mind the whole person - mind, but also body, will and spirit, being formed by relationship, reflection, worship and prayer, not just information.

The role of our teachers and catechists is to provide what the children/youth/adults need in order to draw closer to God by themselves. We provide the materials, tools, environment, questions and most of all the proclamation of God's word, and trust the Holy Spirit to be the true teacher who reveals and applies the balm of God's truth to all hearts.



## Purpose of Christian Formation

To offer opportunities for people of all ages to be transformed by the Living Word of God through study reflection and spiritual practice.

## Could Christian Formation be for me?

Do you like...

- working with children?
- working with teenagers?
- leading or participating in Bible Studies?
- explaining God to others?
- learning more about God?
- helping to heal past wounds?
- finding God in unexpected places?

Then Christian Formation ministry may be for you!

# Christian Formation for Adults

## A Variety of Opportunities

St. Timothy's offers a variety of formation opportunities for adults:

- Small group book and Bible studies. For the past three years, we have also conducted a Bible study in a local pub!
- Sunday morning sessions on a variety of topics ranging from Genesis and Creation, the All-Encompassing Aspects of Stewardship, a study of the epistles of John, and the collects of Advent.
- Our outdoor Labyrinth provides a natural setting for embodied prayer and reflection.
- We incorporate the arts through our Lunch and a Movie series and the annual Poetry as Prayer Retreat at the beach.
- Inquiry sessions are offered several times each year for newcomers. Individuals desiring deeper incorporation move forward into the Soundings class, our adult catechumenate program, which can culminate in baptism, confirmation and/or reception.
- We provide formation resources for all ages through our libraries for children and adults.

We also offer opportunities to explore healing and wholeness, contemplative prayer, and wellness of mind, body and spirit through these unique programs:

## Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is a receptive method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. (From Contemplative Out-



## Christian Formation for Adults (cont'd)

reach).

Centering Prayer meets on Wednesday evenings at 5:15 in the Guild Room. After a short opening and sharing time, we "sit" for 20 minutes in quiet and stillness. You are welcome to join us for this short and simple practice.

### Journey Group

Journey Group is a nine session, small group ministry for men and women that offers a safe place to talk about our story in a supportive community that encourages healing and life-giving change. Together Journey groups seek to unravel false beliefs formed in our past, then lived out in the present.

Participants follow a curriculum led by trained facilitators, who have experienced their own personal pain and found recovery in relationship with God and others.

### Yoga

Yoga is a holistic practice that benefits the whole person: body, mind, soul and spirit. On a physical level, yoga helps improve flexibility, strength, balance, and endurance. On an energetic level, yoga teaches you how to cope better with stress by cultivating a sense of ease in both active or passive poses. On a psychological level, yoga helps to cultivate mindfulness by shifting your awareness to the sensations, thoughts, and emotions that accompany a given pose or exercise.

We practice for one hour and the use of modification and props makes this practice accessible to most everyone. Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 in the Blue Room for a Gentle Yoga practice.



# Christian Formation for Children

## Nursery

At St. Timothy's, we maintain a safe and welcoming Nursery for infants and toddlers. The nursery is open from 9 am until noon on Sundays and other times with advance arrangement. We are committed to ensuring a safe environment for all children and youth by requiring Safeguarding God's Children training for all volunteers and staff.

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a global, Montessori-based curriculum for ages 3 to grade 6. The children learn in specially prepared rooms called an "atrium," which is more like a retreat house or worship space than a classroom.

The teachers or catechists serve as "matchmakers between the children and God" by helping the child learn independently and providing an environment that promotes this independent learning.

**In the Level 1 Atrium (ages 3-6/kindergarten)**, the focus is on allowing the child to fall in love with Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Parables and materials are offered to children as a way to contemplate the mysteries of the identity of Jesus and the Kingdom of Heaven. Level 1 children are also introduced to the items and gestures used in the Eucharist as a way to help encourage their participation in the liturgy and prepare them for further work surrounding the Eucharist. Children in Level 1 are also given Practical Life works, which help them develop their fine motor skills.



## Christian Formation for Children (cont'd)

**In the Level 2 Atrium (1st-3rd grade)**, the children are encouraged to continue falling in love with God while also being aware of the moral implications of this love, both individually and while living in Christian community. The History of the Kingdom of God (including Creation, Redemption and Parousia, or heaven) is presented to children along the idea that each of us has a “blank page” on which we get to write/live every day with God’s help in order to hasten Parousia, when God will be all in all and God’s kingdom will have no end. Children continue to work with and wonder about the items and gestures of the Eucharist.

### Living the Good News (5th and 6th grades)

We’re excited to offer this lectionary-based curriculum, which incorporates scriptures and stories. The class also uses a variety of media such as music and art.



“At Home with the Good News,” a take-away supplement to each week’s lesson, promises to provide a means for vital connection between the Sunday morning formation program at church with faith formation at home.

# Evangelism

## Purpose of Evangelism

To embody the motto “The congregation is the Evangelism Team” by empowering the congregation in the shared responsibility to invite and welcome people to become a part of the community of God here at St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church



*Invite • Welcome • Connect*

## Could Evangelism be for me?

Do you like...

- welcoming new people / visitors?
- helping people feel at home in our church?
- talking with others about God?
- telling others about church?

Then Evangelism ministry may be for you!

## Ministries inside Evangelism

Ministries under the Evangelism umbrella include Greeters, the name-tag program, the Invite Welcome Connect committee, and the Welcome Center.

## Fellowship

### Purpose of Fellowship

To plan, coordinate and oversee activities and special events that promote and encourage the nourishment of parish community in Christian fellowship

### Could Fellowship be for me?

Do you like...

- planning and hosting events?
- feeding people?
- socializing with others over food?
- to show your love through food?

Then Fellowship ministry may be for you!



### Ministries inside Fellowship

Ministries under the Fellowship umbrella include the Brown Bag Bunch, Kitchen Angels, Coffee Hosts and reception planning.



# Ministries Coordination

## Purpose of Ministries Coordination

to coordinate St. Timothy's efforts to enable members to get connected, stay connected and do ministry

## Could Ministries Coordination be for me?

Do you like...

helping people find their calling?

helping ministries find the right volunteers?

Then Ministries Coordination may be for you!

## What does Ministries Coordination do?

Ministries Coordination efforts at St. Timothy's focus on assisting parishioners to identify their gifts for ministry and to help them get involved in ministries that fit their gifts, talents and interests.

Coordinating communication within the parish through our monthly

newsletter *Sticks and Stones*, the email blast *This Week at St. Timothy's* and our parish directory is another vitally important task currently within the Ministries Coordination purview.



# Outreach

## Purpose of Outreach

to respond to the Christian imperative that the hungry be fed, the naked clothed, the homeless housed and that others who are less fortunate share in the Good News of the Gospel

## Could Outreach be for me?

Do you like...

- working on service projects?
- organizing service projects?
- volunteering?
- working with people in need?
- doing manual labor for others?
- giving to those in need?

Then Outreach ministry may be for you!

## Outreach Ministries

St. Timothy's approach to Outreach is to engage our local community and listen to their needs in order to provide the appropriate relief, while connecting members to those opportunities to serve and share in the Good News of the Gospel. We strive to improve connectivity with our community to help others help themselves.

The Hall, a free daily afterschool ministry for intermediate-aged students, has been offered in St. Timothy's Youth Hall for over 20 years.

Our Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) participates



## Outreach (cont'd)

in local and regional mission work through Faith in Action and mission events. We participate in a variety of seasonal efforts such as The Dream Center's Back-to-School collections, Angel Tree and Salvation Army Bell Ringing and Thanksgiving collections.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew carries the Gospel into the Wayne Scott Prison Unit through their weekly Bible studies and annual weekend retreat. We collect and help distribute food items for The Food Basket. St. Timothy's partners with the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center to conduct blood drives.



## Pastoral Care

### Purpose of Pastoral Care

to seek, through prayer and service, to bring comfort, healing and support to fellow parishioners

### Could Pastoral Care be for me?

Do you like...

praying for others?

showing others you care?

visiting the sick or those in assisted living?

offering meals or notes to members of the church?

Then Pastoral Care ministry may be for you!

### Pastoral Care Ministries

Ministries under the Pastoral Care umbrella include the Daughters of the King, flower delivery, healing prayer group, prayer circle and The Friendship Guild



# Stewardship

## Purpose of Stewardship

to help St. Timothy's faith community recognize the bountiful gifts given to us by God, and to encourage generosity in sharing the time, talents and finances God has entrusted to them.

## Could Stewardship be for me?

Do you like...

giving time, talent and finances to the church?

telling others about the power of giving time, talent and finances?

sharing stewardship stories?

Then Stewardship ministry may be for you!



## Youth

### Purpose of Youth Ministry

To mentor youth to enable them to live into the Baptismal Covenant, to develop Christian community that is a sanctuary for youth, to integrate all youth into the full life of the parish, and to support our families as the center.



*"We honor our youth by creating relationships that will educate, transform, and sustain Christ's presence in them through formation, worship, missional outreach, and stewardship"*

### Could Youth Ministry be for me?

Do you like...

working with youth (5th-12th grade)?

working with young families?

mentoring youth?

Then Youth Ministry may be for you!

### EYC (Episcopal Youth Community)

St. Timothy's Episcopal Youth Community is a gathering of youth aged grades 5th-15th who gather with the purpose to continue to learn and worship in Christ's teachings and show God's love with each other, with the parish, and with the community. The EYC gathers for formation, fellowship and food and for missional events designed to go into the community to help those in need and show God's love.

St. Timothy's EYC needs certified Safe-Guarded adults to be members of the EYC Adult Ministry Team that helps mentor and shape the future of our Episcopal youth. EYC Adult Ministry Team members are asked to attend EYC on a rotating basis, usually once every 5-6 weeks for 2-3 hours, to assist in lesson presentation and worship as well as supervise the youth. There will also be special events that may require additional attendance and supervision.

## Youth (cont'd)

### Youth Bible Study

St. Timothy's Youth Ministry strives to provide a dedicated Bible study session for youth aged 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Each age group will meet on a regular basis to engage and learn more about the Bible.

Each age group will require a family or adult to host each study on a consistent basis in a home or designated location.

Parish members who have a passion for Bible study and for mentoring and teaching are welcome to be a part of Youth Bible Study.

### EYC Mission Trips

Each year St. Timothy's EYC partakes in mission opportunities within our community, region, diocese, or country. We strive to follow the teachings of Jesus' commands to go into the world to proclaim the gospel and to use our gifts to serve one another.

St. Timothy's EYC requires Safe-Guarded adults that can supervise, teach, and mentor youth while in the midst of God's community outside our parish walls. Any adult with a call for community mission work and supervising/mentoring youth in locations outside of our church are welcome. Possible functions needed might be the ability to drive to various locations, performing various levels of manual labor, supervising youth, and general help to make each missional effort a success.



### EYC Fundraisers

St. Timothy's EYC will conduct fundraising events to help raise monies for various youth activities including mission trips, camp fees, diocesan events, and other special events.

# Worship

## Purpose of Worship Ministry

To assist the rector in shaping transformative worship services which contribute to restoring our unity with God and one another in Christ. Through our worship together, we not only receive joyfully the Word of God and the bread of life, but are also inspired to share these gifts with our neighbors.

## Could Worship Ministry be for me?

Do you like...

- singing or playing an instrument?
- cleaning or preparing the articles of the Eucharist?
- participating in the Liturgy?
- helping others participate in Liturgy?
- speaking in front of others?
- bringing the Eucharist to those who can't attend church?

Then Worship Ministry may be for you!



## Altar Guild

This is a corps of people who prepare the altar for Sunday and special services. They make sure all of the appointments are clean and set out for each service. They also remove and prepare the elements for the next service.

Under the Director they also make sure all supplies such as bread and wine, oil for the candles are ordered and available. Members of the Altar Guild prepare the church for funerals and weddings.

## Worship (cont'd)

### Lay Ministers

Numerous people are trained and licensed to serve as readers (lectors) of the lessons, prayers and assist the priest in worship. Lay Eucharistic Ministers assist the priest in administering the chalice in corporate worship.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors take communion to the home bound and those who are unable to attend Sunday services.

Members of the Daughters of the King serve as intercessors for healing prayers during the communion at the 10:30 service.

### Choir

Under the direction of the Organist/Choirmaster, various choirs lead music during our worship services. These include the Adult Choir for traditional music and Joiful Noyse for contemporary music. Children participate in the Children's Choir for special events as well as members of the Handchime Choir.



### Ushers

The ushers distribute bulletins, assist people to their seats, collect the offering and guide people to communion.

## **Other/Administrative**

### **Could Other/Administrative Ministry be for me?**

Do you like...

working with your hands?

repairing or maintaining items around the church?

doing office or administrative work?

gardening?

offering leadership and discernment to the church?

Then Other / Administrative Ministry may be for you!

### **Other / Administrative Ministries**

Ministries under the Other / Administrative umbrella include the ARM (Army of Retired Men & Women), Garden Guild, Office Volunteers and Vestry.



## **Ministry Team Leaders**

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