



Good News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | ST. TIMOTHY'S

JUNE 2020

Pastor's Pen

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2 – 4)

Dear St. Timothy's Family,

When we are growing up, we often think that at a certain point in our lives, we will have it all figured out. We will have steady jobs, security, a family, and sail off into the sunset in our retirement. As we age, we realize that some of these dreams are just that – dreams. Life most often isn't so easy, and it doesn't turn out how we expect. There are many unexpected twists and turns, and there is a lot that is out of our control.

During this season, we have been more aware of this than ever. And it has tested us. It has tested our faith, our relationships, and our sanity. But, as James encourages us, we can count it all joy, because this testing produces steadfastness, and steadfastness makes us like Jesus.

What an encouragement! These current trials are not meaningless, but are being used to develop our character. In not a few conversations, I have heard you describe a deepening of your faith in Jesus, a deepening of your relationships with your family, and a deepening of your understanding of the necessity of the church, the body of Christ. You are being formed and shaped by the work of the Holy Spirit in you, matured into the likeness of Jesus. And you are not stagnant – you are going with the Spirit.

Together, we are going with the Spirit. Because of God's providence and your faithful giving, we are in a healthy

place financially. We did not need to pursue a PPP Loan, and could avail that to other businesses and congregations in need. We will be able to bring on new staff for this new season. In July, we will welcome a new Director of Children and Family Ministry. Emily Hindenes will bring great creative energy and will be a terrific addition to our staff! We have hiring teams who are faithfully seeking a Director of Music Ministry and a Director of Discipleship and Connections. Our Call Team is continuing their search for the pastor that God has for us in this new season. Our FISH Food Pantry is continuing to grow. Just this past Thursday, FISH had nearly 70 clients – a new record for a regular distribution! Many of our Grow Groups have continued virtually during this season, and many will continue to meet over the summer. If you have not yet gotten plugged into a Grow Group, I would like to encourage you to consider joining one this summer. If you are interested, send us an email or give us a call, and we will get you connected. Joining a Grow Group will be a great encouragement to you, as you grow as disciples of Jesus in community and go with the Spirit!

The Spirit is at work! May we be faithful to our calling, and go with the Spirit!

Going with you,
Pastor Jonna



*For up-to-date prayer requests,
join the Prayer Group on St. Tim's
Connect. To add or renew a prayer
request, call 408-264-3858 or
email info@stlcsj.org.*

Rick Mark
Geoff Schuller
Joey, friend of DJ Gabel
Jansse, friend of Joan Pariani
Marjorie, friend of Bill Mowson
Peter, uncle of Bill Mowson
Susan Bethke, sister of Roxann Gallagher
Donna Landis, neighbor of the Stamos family
Charlotte Shaffer, college friend of Jan Newcomb
Joey Sorrenti, nephew of Karla Peterson

BUDGET REPORT



	General	Building
OFFERINGS to date	\$402,827	\$50,492
SPENDING to date	\$407,131	\$37,881
Excess/(Shortfall)	\$(4,304)	\$12,611

	Capital Campaign
OFFERINGS to date	\$75,135

2 WAYS TO CONTINUE TO GIVE

1. Mail your offering to church. If no offering envelope, be sure to indicate in the memo line which fund(s).
2. Give online on our safe and secure website
<https://www.stlcsj.org/giving/>

Call Team Update

The Holy Spirit is working us hard!

To date, we have assessed some 35 candidates. At the moment, 4 candidates are on the "active" list. Two of these have participated in a second interview.

We are following this process:

An initial letter of introduction is sent or received.

One team member is assigned to that candidate and conducts a 1-1 conversation. If this goes well, the candidate is invited to send a profile.

The profile is read and discussed by the entire team, with a decision taken to either continue or not to pursue (and the appropriate letter is sent).

If continued, we begin the interview process with the entire team. This can include 1 or more interviews. References are checked.

When we are able to meet in person, we will invite that candidate to visit St. Timothy's for a personal interview and to meet with relevant staff.

Finally, the candidate will be presented to the congregation for a vote.

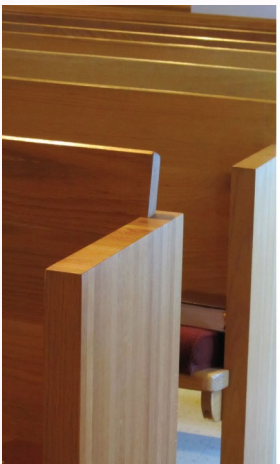
We are still receiving new candidates, but will soon wind up that segment of the process. In the meantime, we have met some sterling members of the clergy and are encouraged by the work that is being done in many of our churches.

Please continue to uphold your Call Team in your prayers. It means a lot to know that you are doing so.

Tony Mazzucco, Chair
Tammie Mark
Aaron Gable
Wayne Peterson
Michelle Donaldson
Larry Austin
Judy Bangsund

View from the Pew: Solitude and Spiritual Reflection

by Bob Mitri



VIEW from the PEW

As we enter the fourth month of shelter in place, I am reminded of Mark 6:31 – 32....
"Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.' So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place."

Jesus values solitude, including solitude among believers.

Over the past three months I've had a chance to reflect upon our family's faith journey and give thanks to God. We were, at one time, caught up in the distractions like so many others. Traffic, meetings, deadlines, stress, no time to think. Church attendance was far from regular. Growth was stagnant. I don't think we even realized it.

But God had a plan. Events and opportunities that might otherwise have seemed ordinary had extraordinary purpose.

Enrolling our boys at St. Timothy's Elementary School was one pivotal event in our faith walk. Our time at the school (about 12 years) turned out to be far more than an academic experience for the boys. It was the launching pad into a faith community, a family of believers who encouraged each other, challenged each other, supported each other. School board, Walk for Water, food drives, Mexico Mission. School became church. Church became life. God had a plan.

Today, we're a part of a Family Grow Group comprised of, not surprisingly, families we met years ago through the school. Right now, meetings are conducted via Zoom. We're leveraging technology to grow in the Word and fellowship with believers. Whether face-to-face (which we long to go back to) or on the family iPad, Grow Group has become an indispensable part of our walk with Jesus and with our brothers and sisters. If you're not a part of a Grow Group, prayerfully consider joining one.

These months of solitude have enabled all of us to reflect and perhaps recalibrate priorities. My prayer for everyone is that this time of Shelter in Place, as inconvenient as it may seem, has not only protected you physically, but given you the opportunity to grow closer to the Lord – with minimal distractions.

Blessed to be a Blessing:

What God has Made Possible through You

By Pastor Jim

We have certainly been greatly blessed as a congregation during this most challenging time of Shelter in Place. I think first and foremost of people: Pastor Jonna, our Staff and Leadership, plus Russ Dietz and others who are making our Sunday morning worship services not merely possible but uplifting and inspiring.

If you were "in worship" on May 17, you will also have heard from our Leadership Council President, Ken Duvall, of another great blessing we have experienced as a congregation -- one which we have been able to "pass forward." At the end of last year, we discovered that we had a fairly large chunk of benevolence money still unspent from previous Capital Campaigns. Thus, in January and February our Leadership Council explored how we -- who have been blessed to be a blessing -- might best use the money.

We contacted two groups with which we have had a long and good relationship and track record: CityTeam, a local ministry to folks often coming off the streets, and World Mission Prayer League (WMPL), a Lutheran global missionary society. In each case, we found projects in need of funding.

With CityTeam, we were already going to fund part of their new computer Learning Center with our Capital Campaign funds. With these additional benevolence funds, we were able to fund the whole thing plus pay for construction of a room to house clothing for job interviews for CityTeam men and women -- all with our gift of \$27,000.

In the case of WMPL, we were able to provide \$50,000 of startup funds for the launching of a new much-needed Director of Global Operations position. David Grosz is now beginning his work in that position in the midst of some most challenging times. He writes, "We've been having on-line seminars to help our overseas staff be good stewards of this time. We are also receiving funding requests from our international partners for financial assistance in meeting the severe needs of the people they serve."

Again, we have, as a congregation, been greatly blessed by God during this time; and we recognize that there is a reason for this: we have been blessed in order to be a blessing. We thus want to share the joy of that with you.



**CORNERSTONE
HIGH SCHOOL**



social

fridays @ 11 am

**CORNER
STONE**

HIGH SCHOOL

TUESDAYS

7:30-8:30

**ON
ZOOM**

**CORNER
STONE**

JUNIOR HIGH

WEDNESDAYS

6-7

**ON
ZOOM**

Even in the midst of SIP, **St. Tim's Youth** still has tons going on! We are continuing to meet for **CORNERSTONE** over Zoom for both junior high and high school, are working through daily devotional plans (contact Joe or Anna-Marie if you would like to receive these and don't already), and have all sorts of other ways that we live out the truth that the church is about *the people*, not *the building*! We may not be meeting together in person, but the Holy Spirit is still present and at work in and through our faith family to do great things for Jesus! We continue to pray for you and can't wait for the time when we are able to meet again in person. Until then, see you on Zoom!

In Christ,

Joe Hill & Anna-Marie Valles