

# St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Parish Profile – Summer 2011



# Parish Profile For St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

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Indianapolis, IN 46227  
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*[www.sttimothy.indydio.org](http://www.sttimothy.indydio.org)*

## Statement of Purpose of St. Timothy's Congregation

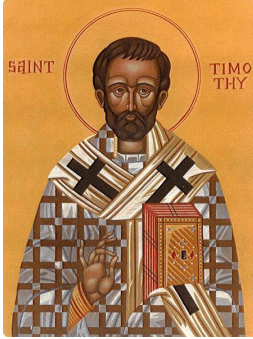
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church celebrates God's love in a caring community of faith, ministry, and work. God is calling us to warmly welcome and serve all people.

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church is one of the 46 congregations which are part of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis, Indiana. Presently, our membership totals approximately 65 households. There are 80 communicants in good standing. Our operating budget is \$102,004 and we are currently an aided parish. Our pledge base makes up 75 % of our current budget. In the summer of 2011, we are about to start a new journey with our new Priest-in-Charge, the Rev Rebecca Nickel. As we searched for a new priest, the Diocese was very helpful in providing supply priests. In addition to our new Priest-in-Charge, we have an energetic paid staff that includes a part-time office manager, a part-time sexton, and a part-time organist/choirmaster. We also have a Deacon, Donna Olsen.

The vestry is comprised of 9 individuals elected by the parish. The vestry appoints the treasurer and clerk. Current leadership is as follows:

Ed Champa, Senior Warden	<u>Vestry members</u>	Elaine Braverman
Tom Ware, Junior Warden	Ed Champa	Aimee Formo
Chuck Nemeth, Treasurer	Tom Ware	Sheryl Otter
Aimee Forno, Clerk	Michelle Carter	John Prey
	Linda Priest	Sarah Herndon

## Who was St. Timothy?



Timothy was a close companion and messenger of Paul the Apostle. Paul called him his "dear and faithful child in the Lord". Timothy appears to have been entirely at Paul's disposal from Paul's visit to Lystra on the Second Journey until the time of Paul's death in Rome, a period of perhaps 17 years. Timothy was by nature reserved and timid. Paul nevertheless commissioned Timothy to strengthen the recalcitrant Corinthians in their faith and in their loyalty to Paul.

For all his shyness, Timothy could be trusted above many others for his pastoral concern and his gentle tact in dealing with awkward situations. When in prison, Paul wrote to the Christian community at Philippi, 'I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be cheered by news of you. I have no one like him, who will be genuinely anxious for your welfare. They all look after their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But Timothy's worth you know, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.' (Phil. 2:19-22) Although Timothy may have been subject to 'frequent ailments' (I Tim. 5:23), he seems to have been constantly ready to undertake dangerous journeys on difficult errands for Paul. His deliberate action leading to his martyrdom (some thirty years after Paul's) shows a similar courage, if not quite the same aggressive initiative as that of the apostle.

Eusebius, the 4<sup>th</sup>-century historian and bishop of Caesarea, records that Timothy became the first bishop of Ephesus. The apocryphal Acts of Timothy, dating from the same period, describes his martyrdom on 22 January in the year 97, when protesting at the licentious festivities in honor of Diana of the Ephesians. His relics are believed to have been transferred to Constantinople in the year 356.

## Parish Overview



Indianapolis is the 13<sup>th</sup> largest city in the United States and the third largest in the Midwest behind Chicago and Detroit. Indianapolis has gone through a dramatic revitalization and a stunning renaissance that makes it a different place than it was just a decade ago. Indy is the perfect balance of cosmopolitan style and small-town charm. Currently the majority of members of St. Timothy's come from south suburban Indianapolis and northern Johnson County. We represent a cross-section of these areas both in age and in socioeconomic circumstances.

## *Our Priority Ministry Goals*

### *Pastoral Care*

The congregation of St. Timothy's strongly believes that the church should be ready to respond to those who seek help in handling stresses of everyday life and crisis situation. This includes being prepared to provide help to those who are members of our congregation as well as being capable of aiding the community in which we live. All of us at St. Timothy's see the church's response as being shared by both priest and laity. In the day-to-day life of the parish, it is important that the clergy be listeners. Being alert to human needs, we would hope the clergy could identify concerns before they become problems. We also think the clergy should have the ability to decide if the problem can be solved "in-house" or be referred to other professionals. In the past, and presently, St. Timothy's has addressed this in several ways:

- *Diocesan Trained Lay Eucharistic Ministers*

St. Timothy's has five diocesan trained Lay Eucharistic Ministers who deliver the Eucharist, under the guidance of the Priest-in-Charge, to those who request this ministry and are unable to attend service. We realize one person cannot handle all the pastoral needs. We expect the Priest-in-Charge to provide the primary ministerial support during times of crisis. The Priest-in-Charge is expected to be the primary provider, but also train and support parishioners to assist in these efforts.



- *Pastoral Care to Our Community*

St. Timothy's has had various outreach efforts to our community from time to time. These have included running a secondhand store to benefit the needy, participating with the local homeless shelters in serving food, etc. In the past, we have been involved with food ministries at Conner House. Presently, St. Timothy's is actively sustaining two outreach activities, running a Gleaner's Food Pantry Satellite, and a Prison Ministry. We open our building to the community with weekly AA and Al-Anon meetings, as an election polling place, also, a local sheltered workshop uses the building for their yearly fund-raising events and Rosemaling (Norwegian decorative painting) classes are taught monthly.

- *Food Ministry*

St. Timothy's congregation has consistently supported food ministries. The outreach feeding programs that the members of St. Timothy's support are limited due to the size of our congregation. However, with the help of \$10,000.00 United Thank Offering grant, we built a food pantry under the guidance of Gleaner's Food Bank. The food pantry, named Loaves and Fishes, is open one day a month and provides





food to all who show up. St. Timothy's steady support of this ministry is remarkable because when it opened, the parish had experienced a serious reduction in the size of its congregation. This parish supports the Loaves and Fishes ministry by donating food and household items; contributing loose change for its "Change Your Coins into Cans" monthly collection and including the Food Pantry in their yearly tithe.

- *Prison Ministry Program*



We have a deacon who is dedicated to breathing new life into those who need our help. The Reverend Donna Olsen ministers outside the Church and is involved in bringing the unchurched to Christ. The primary focus of her ministry is providing spiritual direction and educational programs at a nearby men's correctional facility. This ministry program has reached many different men and has seen positive effects from Rev. Olsen's amazing dedication to this project. She has also encouraged members of our parish to participate in this ministry as well.

- *Alms Box*

In 2008, the Vestry voted to include funds in our yearly budget to support The Reverend Donna Olsen's ministry. In addition, the Alms Box was created in which we hope to also finance Rev. Olsen's plan to send the released men off with a little money in their pockets. Mounted just inside the sanctuary door, this box is a weekly reminder of Rev. Olsen's ministry and allows members to contribute funds on a regular basis. On St. Stephen's Day, December 26<sup>th</sup>, the box is opened and the funds are passed on to Donna. Donna continues to use the "Liturgy of Leaving" to celebrate when an inmate is ending his sentence and returning to the outside world. Parishioner Steve Polston, who visits the prison sometimes, wrote this beautiful and highly cherished liturgy.

- *Good Samaritan Fund*

The "Good Sam Fund" was established at St. Timothy's many years ago to provide financial help for members of our own parish. Either the Priest-in-Charge or the senior warden are able to distribute the funds at their discretion to those parishioners who may need a little help. Members are encouraged to include the Good Samaritan Fund as part of their yearly tithe.

- *Blessing of the Animals*

The traditional blessing of the animals is held in the church parking lot every October. Every kind from dogs and cats to hamsters and snakes are blessed with a sprinkle of Holy Water and a special prayer. This custom is conducted in remembrance of St Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures.



## *A Sunday in the Life of St. Timothy's*



- ***Our Sunday Worship Schedule***

The 9:00 AM Sunday service is primarily Rite II Holy Eucharist with organ music, hymns, and a choir anthem. The service includes people of all ages. This service is followed by a coffee/fellowship time.

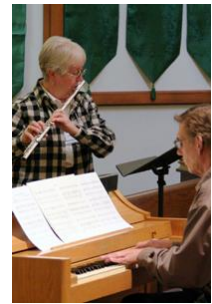
Besides the celebration of the Eucharist, the sermon is an important part of our worship. We are responsive to preaching that relates scripture reading to daily life.

We maintain a high level of tradition and respect for

the liturgy of the church. We wish to continue to grow in our understanding of the Episcopal Church and have our services speak to the needs of all age groups in the parish.

- ***Music***

Music is important at the 9:00 AM Sunday service. The choir averages 8 to 10 members who enjoy fellowship as well as singing. The music program involves congregational participation. Some years ago, a congregational committee and the Choir Master compiled our Songbook. It was published thru the contributions of members of the congregation. It has been a source of discussion for several years. We also are willing to use music out of others Episcopal Hymnals such as Wonder, Love and Praise and Lift Every Voice. We do understand that the choice of music for our services will rest in the hands of the appointed Priest-in-Charge. However, we would like our new Priest-in-Charge to share our appreciation of varied music styles. Several members of our congregation play musical instruments and are invited to play. For special festivals, we sometimes hire instrumentalists. Music is a vibrant part of our worship life.



- ***Christian Education***

We believe our Priest-in-Charge is the chief teacher of the Faith. We also recognize it is unreasonable to expect the Priest-in-Charge to do all the work; thus, it is essential that



our volunteers receive training and leadership. Over the last 20 years, we have had limited Christian Education for adults. With the arrival of Rev. Wilkinson in 2008, new opportunities were offered; the Lenten Series and bi-monthly Bible Study have proved very popular. Preschoolers participate in lay-lead Bible learning

activities during the first part of the Sunday Service while their parents attend worship. Then the children join their parents at the Peace to participate in Holy Eucharist with their families. Christian Education has occurred throughout the year on theme based projects such as the preparation and planning of an inter-generational session of the making of a Jesse tree. Members were interviewed and a time line of the parish's

history was created.

We do have a lively and growing toddler group that is a new hope for life at St. Timothy. We have put a lot of effort into creating a program and space that works with our families and will encourage spiritual growth and continue attracting new families to our congregation. Many of our parish family volunteer to help with this class on Sundays. Sheryl Otter, formerly a Senior and a Junior Warden, is an experienced teacher who helps us with the educational part of the program. We feel that we need to also address the children's needs who are now present. The Priest-in-Charge is responsible for annual Confirmation classes. Parishioners help with the responsibility for this task but believe the priest's involvement is especially important in this area.

- *Liturgical Leader/Preaching*

The Priest-in-Charge, working with the advice and recommendations of our Liturgical Commission makes liturgical decisions. Our liturgical decisions are well thought out. We lean toward the traditional service; but are flexible enough to try variations as long as reverence is maintained. Sunday Eucharistic worship is the core of our parish worship life. We wish to continue our current broad spectrum of involvement of parishioners in the services. We try to accommodate the interests and activities that our congregation enjoys. We like to keep them active and involved in our church and community.



- *Membership and Growth*

As with many other parishes, we had become a smaller congregation during the past 20 years, a trend that we are seeing reverse itself during the last 60 months. Most parishioners agree that membership growth needs to be an important focus for St. Timothy's. We are looking for consistent leadership from our new Priest-in-Charge that will help us renew member growth. During these past few years, we have seen revitalization and renewal among our members, as we have seen attendance at Sunday services rise.

- *Annual Events*
- 

St. Timothy's members remain active and involved in the life of the congregation. We have a strong Women's Guild. The Women's Guild is a very dominant and consistent contributor to the Parish. They meet at the church every Monday evening throughout the year. The Women's Guild hold a variety of events, primary of which is the Annual Holiday Bazaar in the late fall. They help to fund a variety of needed improvements in our facility and support for our services.

## *Fall Jamboree & Health Fair*



The second Saturday of each September, the parish opens its property for a community-wide garage sale & health fair.

Tables are offered to individuals and businesses who would like to sell their items to the public. The parish sponsors a raffle of



donated items which often include a flat screen TV and restaurant packages. Clarian Health Partners offer blood sugar and cholesterol screenings and specialists check blood pressure and lung function all which is offered at no charge to those in attendance. HealthNet, Inc., which is a coalition of volunteer Clarian employees, provides information on essential health care for those who are uninsured or under insured, particularly pregnant and young mothers. We have a fun Kid's Corner where everyone is a winner & there is, as always, great food and drink.

- ## *Altar of Roses*



Every year the women's guild puts together this beautiful display of roses on the altar for Mother's Day. This is such a wonderful turnout that the roses are spilling out everywhere. We contributed a portion of the donations collected to the Millennium Development Goals this year.



## *Millennium Development Goals*

Background: The United Nations Millennium Development Goals essentially pledge national, institutional and individual resources to rid the world of hunger and poverty, by dedicating .7 percent of budgets and income. St. Timothy's has dedicated itself to contributing to this effort.

## *History*

### *Introduction*

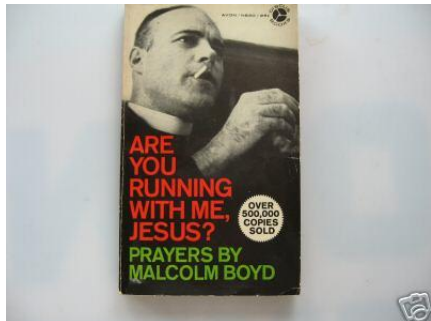
This brief history of St. Timothy's is meant to provide the reader with a summary of the church's journey over the last 50 years. As with any institution, part of what St. Timothy's is today can be understood by visiting its past. Like all journeys, St. Timothy's has deepened its relationship with God from successes as well as adversities. However, as we visit the past, we are keenly aware that St. Timothy's, as with any group of people under God, is far more than the sum of its past years. Today St. Timothy's is an eclectic mixture of families and individuals. Some of St. Timothy's members



remember vividly the past and helped write this summary. These members provide a source of continuity, knowledge and wisdom. Other members have become devoted to this congregation within the last ten years or less. These members provide a source of new ideas and unencumbered expectations. It is with this reverence for the past and its lessons and with the freedom to see the future differently that we offer this history to you.

### **Past to Present**

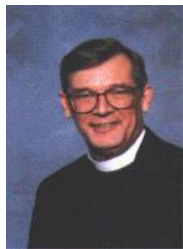
In 1958, St. Timothy's held its first worship service in a barn on the property of the YMCA on Hanna Street, when devoted members of St. George's parish (no longer in existence) and Christ Church Cathedral began a mission for the south suburban area of Indianapolis. The **Reverend Malcolm Boyd**, priest of St. George's, was



instrumental in acquiring the land on Thompson Road and helping the parishioners live out their vision. Sixty-one persons attended this first service, which was carefully scheduled to allow children to attend both Eucharist and Sunday school. These twin emphases—Eucharistic worship and children's education—have characterized St. Timothy's throughout its 50 years. A third emphasis—the quality of our music program—quickly became equally

important. The present education building was finished in November of 1959. It housed a worship area in what is now the parish hall, a few classrooms and offices. This was a history making year in many ways. With gifts and loans totaling \$661, a building was rented and the Next-to-Nu clothing shop began. This shop offered second-hand, refurbished clothing and other items to the financially needy on the south side of Indianapolis. In 1959, this was a one-of-a-kind outreach that addressed an important community need.

Communicant membership reached 168, and 81 students were enrolled in Sunday school. Pledges grew and parishioners celebrated the morning and evening Daily Offices. Things continued to go well. Communicant membership rose to 273. The first of many Strawberry Festivals was held by the Women's Guild to raise money for a typewriter. The sanctuary was completed in 1969. St. Timothy's continued to grow and the three-year process of financial independence leading to parish status was begun. The first part-time organist/choir director was hired. In 1972, St. Timothy's finally achieved its independent parish status after much effort by all. Shortly thereafter we instituted a commission system to enable parishioners to participate more



in leadership. St. Timothy's continued to experience growth through the 70's. We acquired a new reputation as a church for families with young and school-aged children. A part-time director of religious education was hired. A number of new programs were instituted and the budget reached six figures.



Attendance peaked. In 1981, our priest, The **Reverend Ed Leidel**, participated in an exchange program with The **Reverend Clyde Wood**, now a bishop in Australia. Three years after Fr. Leidel returned from Australia, he moved to Michigan to lead a new

congregation. This leaving seemed to lessen the growth momentum. Since 1985, St. Timothy's has only had short periods of time with consistent clergy leadership—the longest being with The **Reverend Douglas Johnson** who left in 1998 after six years. For three years we were blessed with The **Reverend Norm Morford**. He retired in June of 2004, and remains an active member of the Diocese. He brought us together and led us thru a difficult period.

In January 2007, The **Reverend Robert Myers** agreed to become our "Sacramentalist" in a part-time role. He had recently retired from St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, where he was the Senior Associate for Pastoral Care and Ministry to 55+, after serving as the Associate for Youth and Pastoral Care. This arrangement worked well for both him and our parish. **The Reverend Kirsteen Wilkinson** came to us in May of 2008 after serving a year as Curate at St. Alban's



Episcopal Church, Indianapolis. Rev. Wilkinson's mission at St. Timothy's was to be our administrator and to revitalize our education program. St. Timothy's has remained an involved parish. The congregation has maintained several vital outreach programs, and has focused heavily on stewardship. We are a small congregation that is a strong congregation. We have made major improvements to our facility without indebtedness of any kind. The building has been paid for several years. However, we believe that we can achieve much more than we have to date as part of our mission as a community of faith. It is our belief that under the leadership of a Priest-in-Charge we can extend our faith in God and Christ to the community of which we are a part. By January 2011, Fr. Myers had returned to St. Paul's to assist them during a difficult time and Rev Wilkinson had accepted a call from St. Mark's in Plainfield.

## **A Look to the Future – Starting June 1, 2011**

We believe that St. Timothy's has arrived at a point of opportunity. We are blessed with a spacious and architecturally contemporary facility, with ample parking. Our new Priest-in-Charge will find this congregation ready to be called into ministry. St. Timothy's serves a large area that is experiencing growth and is expected to continue growing. The fastest growing groups are families and empty nesters (ages 35 to 54) and retirees (65+) though there has been a recent influx of college age students from the University of Indianapolis which is only a few miles from the parish. This growth provides us with the opportunity to bring God's word to our community that meets the needs of individuals and families. St. Timothy's can further the community's journey with Christ by providing support in areas such as parenting, life changes, marriage, stress and career. We need a Priest-in-Charge who shares this strong vision of God's purposes for us, and most importantly, is willing and able to shepherd us to the accomplishment of these goals. St. Timothy's has been through a lot from the leadership changes that we have experienced, but every experience has added to the wondrous congregation that we have now. We are ready to embrace the future with excitement and use these opportunities to have a lot more fun spreading God's Word in our congregation and community!

With the gracious and generous assistance of the Diocese of Indianapolis and the intervention of Canon Debra Kissinger, St. Timothy's was able to procure the services of the Rev. Rebecca Nickel as our new Priest-in-Charge starting on June 1, 2011. She will remain with us for the next three years. She is an excellent match for our parish and we look forward to a long, prosperous and holy relationship.



### **Website References**

**Visit St. Timothy online:**  
[www.sttimothy.indydio.org](http://www.sttimothy.indydio.org)

**Diocese of Indianapolis**  
<http://www.indydio.org>

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