

Timothy Topics

Newsletter

January 2021

St Timothy's Presbyterian Church

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Rev. Reine's Virtual Office Hours: Tuesdays, by appointment

Sunday Worship Service 10am

Fun Fact!

First biblical mention of the word "church". "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it." (Mat 16:18)

Devotional of the Month (Rev. Reine is on vacation)

We start the year with new things: new calendar, new toys received at Christmas as well as new pounds on our bodies, new bills to pay, and new resolutions. Everybody likes new things, including God; He says, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isa 43:18-19). God begins His book with the story of His creating a new world; He ends it with His plans to make a new heaven and new earth.

Our heavenly Father wants to do new things in our lives. He desires to teach us new truths about Himself, provide new opportunities for ministering to others, take us to higher levels of worship and deeper levels of trust. But often we're like the Israelites when they were travelling in the wilderness. God promised to provide for them by raining down bread from heaven six days a week. He instructed them to gather only enough manna for each day, except for the day before the Sabbath when they were allowed to store up two days' worth. When some of the people disobeyed and tried to hoard extra manna, it became rotten and full of worms by the next morning. I'm like that sometimes; I try to hold on to yesterday's stale manna. I don't want to let go of my old way of thinking, a certain way of doing things, my usual area of service to Him. I may miss new and exciting things God has planned for me if I don't fully trust His guidance.

One way to keep our faith fresh and new is to develop a habit of daily Bible study. God's Word is timeless: old and new at the same time. Just as God's "compassions are new every morning" (Lam 3:22-23), a daily dose of His Word can give us new understanding, fresh insights, and renewed strength. We can drink in the Psalms to help us "sing to the Lord a new song" (33:3); we read about God's promise to give us "a new heart and a new spirit" (Eze 11, 18, 36); we rejoice with Paul as he declares, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Cor 5:17). Studying the letters of Colossians and Ephesians reminds us that we have taken off our "old self with its practices" (Col 3:9) and are to "put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph 4:24). We can meditate on Hebrews and thank God that the sacrifice of Jesus made "a new and living way" for us to enter His presence (10:19-22). We can look forward to our future by reading Revelation: a time when God will right all wrongs, heal all hurts, and give us a new name and a new home.

A good way to celebrate the New Year is to let go of anything that has gone stale or rotten. Then we'll be free to live each day expecting new things from the One Who promises, "I am making everything new!" (Rev 21:5).

Adapted from *Drawing Closer to God: 365 Daily Meditations on Questions from Scripture*. (Baker Books) © 2010 Dianne Neal Matthews

The Church Is Not A Building

Yes, the Church is not a building; the Church is a People. However, we do have a building and a pandemic does not diminish the need to maintain and repair it. In the past year, the Board of Managers has overseen some improvements and repairs. The biggest project was the downstairs heating system after the in-floor radiant heating failed. After many assessments and consultations, it was decided to install electric baseboard heating in the Main Hall and the Youth and Toddler Rooms. This was made possible by your generous donations to the fundraiser organised by the Stewardship Committee. Other repairs included replacing windows, two of which were the cracked windows on the south side of the Sanctuary. A fresh coat of paint always freshens things up. Newly painted are the wooden slats at the front of the church, the Main Hall including the stage, the kitchen, the Library (elevator room) and the Sunday school classroom off the Library. Currently, the main floor hallways at the side entrance and leading to the Goforth Room and the stairwell are being painted. The Church is not a building, but our building in Alta Vista is a beautiful place to gather in worship, praise and prayer, and in Christian fellowship. Thank you to all who contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of God's House of Prayer.

Closures

In accordance with the lock-down imposed by the Government of Ontario, all in-person meetings at the church have been suspended until Jan 23. Though the church office is closed, you can still leave a message via mail, email or voice mail and Rev. Reine can still be reached by phone and email. In the meantime, virtual worship services will continue via zoom until Jan 31 at which time the situation related to the pandemic will be re-assessed. **Due to Rev. Reine's vacation on Jan 3, you can access the online worship service with Rev. Daniel Cho from St Mark's Presbyterian Church in Toronto at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeAok8zqJQqv-FnoHpE1kOA>.**

Virtual Worship Services

Sunday Worship at St Mark's.....Jan 3, 10am
Sunday Worship Service.....Jan 10, 10am
Sunday Worship Service.....Jan 17, 10am
Sunday Worship Service.....Jan 24, 10am
Family ServiceJan 31, 10am

Upcoming Events

Family ServiceSun, Jan 31, 10am

Church Groups

Virtual Café ConnectionsFridays 10am

ST TIM'S PICTORIAL

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Welcoming a new member



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

