

Timothy Topics

April 2023 newsletter

St Timothy's Presbyterian Church

2400 Alta Vista Drive,

Ottawa, ON, K1H 7N1

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am

Do you want to meet the minister?

Rev. Reine loves to meet with you online or in-person, by appointment.

Do you want a link to participate online? Please contact the office.

(613) 733-0131

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www.sttimsottawa.com

-Bible Trivia-

I was with Paul when there was a great earthquake.

Who am I?

Find the answer on your own or wait for the next *Timothy Topics*.

Last issue's answer: Luke

Minister's Corner: Distance is something we need. Life can be busy & demanding family, work, social & financial demands... can make us feel surrounded & leave us a very small space to move & breathe. Distance in this sense can mean the possibility of being away from everything & everyone burdening us & doing what we like to do for some time even if that means not doing anything at all. Having enough distance in this sense on regular basis is very healthy for us & for the people around us. But on the other side, distance is a cold word; it can mean the barriers or the unwillingness of people to interact with each other on a deep & real level. The more this meaning makes its way into our close & nurturing social circles (family, friends & colleagues) the more lonely, dry, & even miserable we will be. Some people believe this meaning to be the milestone of the time & age we live in. I think of the word "distance" & its meanings every time I read Isaiah (55: 8-9). It says: **"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."** Heaven-earth distance is too much for anybody to accommodate! The distance between us & God (creation & creator) must fall under the darker shade of what "distance" means. We shouldn't then be surprised to see many people avoiding faith or religion. In the course of our life, we are introduced to two kinds of "distance". The first can be called a "conflict distance": it's when two parties are too far from each other to join hands or the barricades between them are too high. This kind of distance closes the doors between the two sides of the story & everyone would turn & walk away. The second is "discovery distance": it's when we realize that two parties are so different from each other, but still the space between them is a welcoming & inviting one. When a climber looks at the snow-covered mountain from a distance he/she realizes how far & different the two masses are (climber & mountain). But that distance is something to discover & explore. Every step toward the mountain & its top is a learning & changing experience. From the very beginning, creation revolted against the distance between us & God. God does not enjoy us staying on the foot of his mountain but surely wants us to climb. Trying, failing, exploring, learning, crying, wanting to give up & finally laughing & enjoying the view from the top is always part of the journey. It's the journey of building an authentic relationship. Only those who work up a sweat to climb know the songs of the journey. **"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways"** is to be seen as an invitation to climb & struggle with God to reach all the way up to the top & enjoy the company, and not to give ourselves an excuse to stay far and indifferent from or creator. Rev. Reine.

In the rearview mirror: - During March, every Sunday, a family led the Lenten call to worship & the prayer afterward. Our gifted people performed wonderful Lenten music.

- March 19 was a fun Sunday for our youth group at St. Timothy's. They met for the first time, and everyone was excited to take part in the "Uno" card game. Lots of laughs & joy filled the room.

-The Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) was held on Sunday, March 26, after the Worship Service. The business meeting of the congregation was also an opportunity to thank God for His blessings on our church and ask His Holy Spirit to guide our vision for the next year.

- Our first Agape gathering was held on March 28. All had a great time and enjoyed hymn singing and socializing over light refreshments. Communion was served.

Looking forward: - Save the date! On Sunday, April 30th St. Timothy's will be celebrating its 66th Anniversary. How exciting! Don't miss this important occasion in the life of our church. Our guest speaker is Mr. Ian Shugart, special music will be presented by our talented members & children. Interesting stories of recent members who joined St. Timothy's & acknowledging our long-committed member Mrs. Ruth Toller will be a remarkable time during our service. A potluck lunch will follow the service. Invite your friends and join us.

Sunday Worship Services @10 am

April 2,9,16,23,30

In-person & Online

Sunday school during the service

Coming Events

In-person Bible Study Wednesdays @ 10 am

Palm Sunday, April 2 @ 10 am

Good Friday, April 7 @ 10 am

Easter & communion, April 9 @ 10 am

In Person Café Connections, April 14 @ 10 am

Youth group meeting, April 16 @ 11:45 am

AGAPE Gathering April 25, @ 10:30 am

Anniversary Service April 30 @ 10 am

Virtual Church Groups

'Bedtime with Jesus' every Sat @ 7:00 pm

'Café Connections' every Fri @ 10:00 am

Prayer Time: Do you have a prayer request or a prayer of thanksgiving?

Please contact Rev. Reine or a member of the Pastoral Care Team.

ST. TIM'S PICTORIAL

Good things are happening



PIC•COLLAGE



PIC•COLLAGE

Do you know this valued member of our team?



ALVARO DIAZ LANDINEZ

Some of you in the congregation have met Alvaro and know who he is ... we cannot do without him! Adjusting his routine according to the use being made of the building, he remains ever cheerful and works diligently cleaning the church facilities and dealing with garbage, etc. Alvaro hails from Columbia where he trained as an accountant. Alvaro and his family moved to Canada in 2008 and has been a member of the church staff for almost 10 years.

When the COVID pandemic caused the closure of St. Timothy's to all in-person activities, it was decided to continue his employment but shift the emphasis from cleaning to painting. You may have noticed that Alvaro painted the front entrance to the church, all hallways, and the rear stairwell during this period. As well, all the church windows were washed. This temporary arrangement worked so well that the Board this spring expanded the scope of his work to include, besides the cleaning responsibilities, minor repairs, painting, and maintenance. This new arrangement, too, has worked out extremely well to the benefit of St. Timothy's. We are most fortunate to have Alvaro on staff and thank him for his much-valued service to St. Timothy's.