



# SAINT TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

8101 Beechmont Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45255-3196  
513-474-4445

## THE CROSSBEAM FEBRUARY 2010

### *The Other Way. . .*

The church's 40-day Lenten observance begins Ash Wednesday, February 17. Although some dread the beginning of Lent, I find that many look forward to these forty days as a time of renewed connection to God. A week or two before Lent begins Nancy and I usually ask each other "So what are you going to do for Lent this year?" As I began to think about the answer to this question, I found that the Ash Wednesday reading from Isaiah 58 provided some answers.

As is true for many, I find that Lent is a time to renew my commitment to various religious disciplines: My daily practice of prayer has usually fallen prey to "busyness" by this time of year and therefore needs renewed commitment. Even though I lead worship, I have also become "negligent" in worship. That is, I am involved in worship services all the time, but how often am I just going through the motions? I hate to fast, but Jesus doesn't say "if" you fast, he says "when" you fast. So I fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, trusting it will feed me. I also find it helpful to give up sweets and alcohol as a reminder that what feeds my hunger the most is every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

Now there is nothing wrong with any of the above disciplines, but Isaiah 58 reminds us that rigorous religious observance has its own dangers. In the words of Old Testament scholar Paul Hanson, the hyper religious folk to whom Isaiah 58 is addressed often "missed the essential point, God's order of compassionate justice." Therefore, the prophet says that God doesn't notice their fasting. No "the fast that I choose," says the Lord, is this: "to loose the bond of injustice/to undo the thongs of the yoke/to let the oppressed go free/and to break every yoke (58:6)." He goes on to say that the Lord's fast is about feeding the hungry, taking in the homeless and clothing the naked. Pious practices without acts of kindness for the most vulnerable may impress other religious folk, but it won't impress God.

Let me be clear: Isaiah 58 isn't suggesting that religious disciplines are unhelpful. In fact, the passage ends by focusing on the importance of Sabbath observance and taking delight in our worship of God. But what becomes clear is that a Lenten observance that is acceptable to the Lord is one that connects our piety and compassion. Love of God and neighbor are inextricably linked.

Therefore, as you think about what to do for Lent, keep religious practice and compassion together. For example, if you commit to a daily practice of prayer, how about signing up to spend one evening providing hospitality for the homeless families who will spend a week with us as part of the Interfaith Hospitality Network (February 28—March 7)? If you decide to fast for a day or give up something, how about considering participating in the Appalachia Service Project mission trip (June 13-19)? If you decide to come to the Wednesday morning 7:00 a.m. service, consider volunteering in the Inter Parish Ministry choice food pantry.

According to Isaiah, such a Lenten observance will not only satisfy our thirst, but will renew the brokenness of our community: "you shall be like a watered garden/like a spring of water/whose waters never fail/Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations (58:11b-12a).

May our Lenten observance renew us and also help us renew our world.

In Christ, 

### **Our Mission**

*The mission of St. Timothy's is to restore and deepen every human being's relationship with God and each other in Christ.*

# Why is El Hogar Special?

by Paul Rank

From my very first encounter with El Hogar, I have always felt that this ministry is something beyond anything that I have ever experienced. This feeling has just become stronger and stronger as I have interacted with the staff and children of El Hogar and the dedicated people on the El Hogar Ministries board of directors. At our most recent board meeting, the Rt. Rev. Hugo Pina Lopez, retired Bishop of Honduras, who was one of the three men who went out on the streets to bring in the first five boys, stated that he is 100% sure that El Hogar, the home of love and hope, is the greatest ministry of the Episcopal Church overseas. Also, when our parishioners return from visiting El Hogar, both young and old, they all express a deep sense of joy.

Why do so many have this feeling? Well it is not the surroundings. Honduras is a very poor country. By all our standards, I don't think anyone would choose to go to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. It is located in the mountains about 3000 feet above sea level with no Caribbean Sea in sight. It is over populated and has many slums.

So, why is El Hogar special to so many people? Why is it such a special place to me?

## **El Hogar is in the business of breaking the cycle of poverty**

From the humble beginnings of five street boys, El Hogar provides education and a home for 250 boys and girls at three centers: the elementary school, the technical school and the agricultural school.

The founders of El Hogar realized that it was not enough to just feed the street kids without providing them an education so that they could break out of the cycle of poverty. Over 500 boys have graduated from El Hogar and are now productive members of society. Some have started their own businesses, some have become priests, some work for large corporations, some have gone on to higher education, and some have become professional soccer players. The purpose of El Hogar has never been to provide an orphanage so that those outside of Honduras could adopt cute kids, but it has always been the goal to build a better Honduras. If Honduras is ever to rise above its current economic conditions, it is the graduates of El Hogar and those like them who will lead the way.

El Hogar students excel on their tests and Honduran officials recognize their educational programs as the best in Honduras.

Three years ago, the first girls began attending El Hogar. Thirty years ago the immediate need was to minister to the boys of the street who represented the vast majority of abandoned children. As time has gone on it has become clear that not only boys needed a place such as El Hogar.

With El Hogar's increased capacity, a high level plan was developed to provide the educational opportunities so that the girls graduating from El Hogar will have the same positive impact on the Honduran society as the boys are having. As the first group of girls enters the fourth grade, detailed plans are being developed for their next level of education. The girls have their own wing in the new dormitory and are fully integrated into all activities.

## **El Hogar is part of the community**

There are many stories where the children of El Hogar have responded to the needs around them. After hurricane Mitch in 1998, students decided on their own to donate half their clothing to those in need. This is even more striking when you consider that they only had two sets of clothes. More recently, Claudia, the director of the elementary program, took some of the boys out shopping and she let them go off and play with the kids in the neighborhood. When it was time to go, a number of them came back with no shoes and socks. Claudia was quite upset until she found out that they gave them away because the children they were playing with didn't have any.

The senior level boys of the agricultural school go out into the community and work with local farmers to share the training that they have received. With their guidance the local farms are not only providing for their own needs, but also growing crops that are bringing them an income for the first time.

Besides her many El Hogar duties, Claudia offers parenting classes for many of the mothers of the El Hogar children. Through her efforts, these mothers have a new sense of pride and dignity.

## **The Holy Spirit is present**

I have never been at a place where the presence of the Holy Spirit permeates all that is. The love shown to the children by the staff is reflected back in the love shown by the children to all who visit. Everyone is treated as a child of God. The staff is the most dedicated group of people that I have ever seen. They not only teach academics, they model the love and hope that will allow the light of the Holy Spirit to shine in these children as they go out in the world.

I don't know the words to define a spiritual experience; I only know that going to El Hogar is one.

## ***Come Celebrate over Thirty Years of Love and Hope at Fiesta El Hogar***

**Sunday, March 7, 6:00-9:00 p.m.**

*Great American Ballpark Champions Club*

Live entertainment, dinner, "one-of-a-kind"  
silent auction, celebrity tables, and more!

Reservations: \$85; \$680/table of 8, Cash bar.

Make reservations in the Gathering Space Sunday  
morning or at the El Hogar website [www.elhogar.org](http://www.elhogar.org).

# Sunday, 5:00 p.m. Eucharist

on a monthly rotating schedule

## 1st Sunday: U2charist

The U2charist is an Episcopal Eucharist service that features the music of the rock band U2 and a message about God's call to rally around the Millennium Development Goals. The liturgy itself is pretty traditional — has all the usual required elements: a Gospel reading, prayers, communion from an authorized prayer book. The music is really what is different. And yet not so different. It is rock. But it is deeply and overtly spiritual.

## 2nd Sunday: Taizé Eucharist

The Taizé service involves taking time for some longer periods of silence, time for us to quiet ourselves, our souls and bodies. As we become accustomed to these silent times, we create openings into which we invite God to enter our thoughts and hearts.

## 3rd Sunday: Celtic Eucharist

Celtic worship is a way for us to get in touch with how worship might have been done before The Roman Church influenced worship in Great Britain. This form of worship was taught by the monasteries and thus emphasizes the unity of living and praying. It is praise filled and highlights the sacredness of place and a oneness with creation. Celtic worship speaks simultaneously to the heart and the mind rather than only the mind. Celtic music is hauntingly beautiful and often contemplative in style. Piano and flute accompany the music.

## 4th Sunday: Gospel Music and Contemporary Eucharist

Every other month, this service has Gospel music provided by the Good News Boys. On the alternate Sunday, this service includes a sermon, holy communion and a variety of different traditional and contemporary prayers.



## The Locker Room

by The Rev. Dcn. Christopher Richardson

No, this is not an article combining sports and religion. This is the beginning of a monthly look at what is going on with the youth at St. Timothy's.

Why is the article called *The Locker Room*? For those of you unaware, our youth (all students in grades 7-12) have decided to name themselves "Team Jesus." One of the main focuses of Team Jesus is to come together as the Body of Christ and mature in the faith. Each meeting is like our main event. Consider this the after game interview in the locker room.



Hope for Haiti Bake Sale. This actually started with the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders. When they heard and prayed about the devastation in Haiti, they decided to put faith in action. They challenged Team Jesus to see who could raise

more money in a bake sale. The younger kids were able to raise \$869.32. Team Jesus stepped up to answer the challenge and raised \$1178.58. That's a combined total of \$2047.90 raised, all going to Episcopal Relief and Development for relief in Haiti. Many thanks go out to the younger kids for their inspiration.

Team Jesus hasn't spent the past few months raising money for Haiti, though. We have also gone to the Drop Inn Center (Cincinnati's largest homeless shelter) to serve lunch to approximately 200 people every month. We have helped with evening entertainment at the Interfaith Hospitality Network the times St. Timothy's has hosted it. Team Jesus is not, however, all work and no play. There has been a Christmas party and a lock-in, in addition to regular Sunday meetings, with fun and games for all.

Coming up, Team Jesus will be going to Perfect North Slopes to go snow tubing on February 21. We will be leaving the church at 11:00 and getting back by 5:00. On March 5, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be going to Scallywag Tag. The 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders will be doing the same on April 16. The last major social gathering for Team Jesus will be a Scavenger Hunt and Cookout on May 8. If you have any further questions about the youth program, please feel free to send me an email at [youth@sainttimothys.com](mailto:youth@sainttimothys.com).

**Wednesday Evening Lent Programs for *Adults***  
**February 24—March 24**

*6:00 p.m. Supper; 7:00 p.m. Program; 8:15 p.m. Closing Prayers.*

**Sign up on the bulletin board!**

*Children's program (see opposite page) and childcare available*

**Knowing Me – Knowing God**

***Looking at type, spirituality and prayer***

Using the Myers-Briggs Type Inventory participants will discover their unique spiritual expression. Participants will learn how to understand their type and the way it shapes their spiritual life. We will look specifically at how type affects our spiritual journey, prayer life and the gifts we bring to the community.

Cost \$8.00 for Workbook: Looking at Type and Spirituality

**Wrestling with Angels**

This series tackles head-on the kind of tough, real-life questions that can lead a person into a deeper understanding of God. Each episode features ordinary people sharing their experiences of struggling with these questions. Their stories are interwoven with reflection and commentary by some of the most sought-after, bestselling Christian authors and speakers of our time. (Video series and discussion)

Topics include:

Guidance, with Tony Campolo: *How Do I Know What To Do?*

Why me? With Philip Yancey: *If You're So Good, Why are Things So Awful?*

Prayer, with Richard Foster: *Why Don't My Prayers Get Answered?*

Forgiving, with Lewis Smedes: *How Do I Forgive And Get On With My Life?*

Doubt, with Madeleine L'Engle: *How Can I Question And Still Believe?*

Love, with Keith Miller: *Why Is Loving So Hard?*

**Inquirers' Class**

This video series (*via media*) with discussion is for those preparing to be **confirmed** and **received** into the Episcopal Church May 9, 2010. It is also appropriate for anyone who wants to explore what it means to be an Episcopalian in the 21st century.

Topics include:

God and Creation: The Abundance of God's Goodness

God in Jesus: An Incarnational Faith

God the Holy Spirit: Breath of New Life

Sin: The Roadblocks to Abundant Life

The Kingdom Come: the Promise of Christian Hope

What Does it Mean to Participate in the Eucharist?

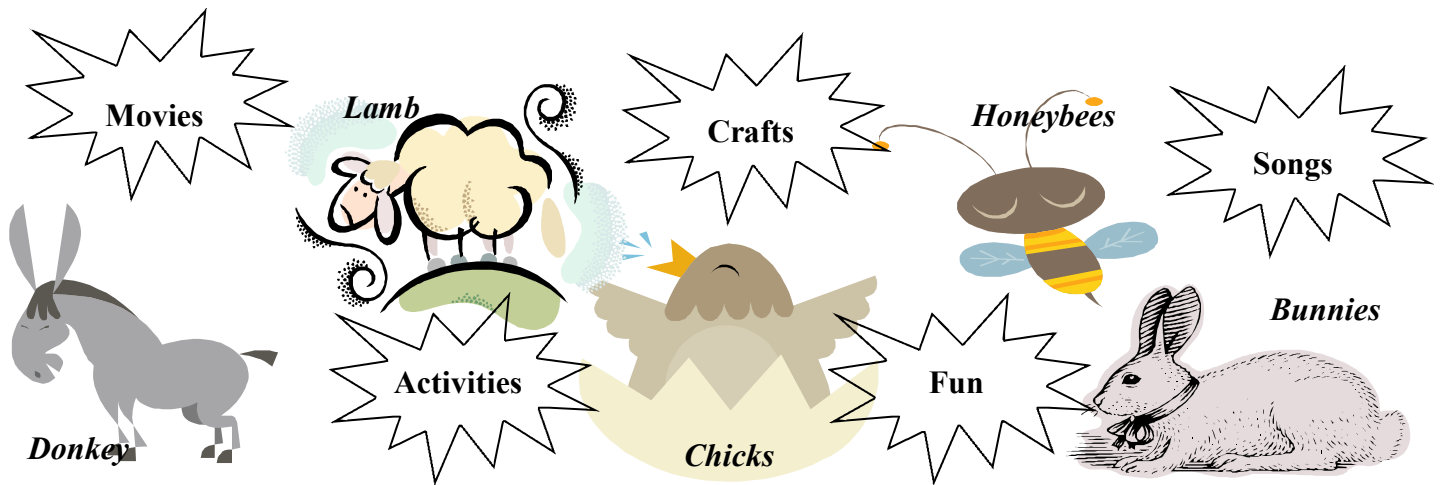
*days in Lent ~ Wednesdays in Lent ~ Wednesdays in Lent ~ Wednesdays in*

## Wednesday Evening Lent Program for *Children*

**February 24—March 17**

7:00-8:30 p.m. For ages 5-12 **Sign up on the bulletin board!**

**Let All Creation Sing!** *What do the animals have to tell us about God?*



## Prayer Walk Wednesday

**March 24**

5:30-8:00 p.m. For ages 3-10 **Sign up on the bulletin board!**

*An evening of activities for children featuring a participatory re-enactment of the events of the Passion and Resurrection.*

## Wednesday Morning Breakfasts

Join us for breakfast after the 7:00 a.m. Wednesday morning Eucharist during Lent. If you would like to volunteer to provide one of these breakfasts, please contact the Rector at 474-4445.

*days in Lent ~ Wednesdays in Lent ~ Wednesdays in Lent ~ Wednesdays in*

# An Invitation to Stay-at-Home Mothers

from Brandi Nierling

I am a stay-at-home mother to my 23-month-old son, Sam and I am expecting another baby in May. As a stay-at-home mom, I know how rewarding the experience is but I also understand how difficult it can be. For this reason, Roger asked me to put together a group for mothers who don't work outside the home or work part-time. This group will give us the opportunity to meet twice a month and to share our experiences with raising young children. The group will meet at St. Timothy's every other Thursday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Christopher Richardson's office across from the Parish Hall. The Nursery is open at this time so we can take the opportunity to relax as well as reflect on our hectic lives. The first meeting will take place on February 18 and every other week after that.

I hope that you can join us and look forward to connecting with other mothers from St. Timothy's. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.



## Communion Course

A Holy Eucharist Preparation Course was offered for 2nd & 3rd Graders in January.

## Parish News & Announcements

### *In Memorium*

On January 22, parishioner **Margaret Versoza** died. A celebration of her life and witness was held at St. Timothy's on February 2. Please keep her son, Charles Versoza, and family in your prayers. ♦

### *Wedding*

Congratulations to **Charlie Light** and **Rachel Skolnik** who were married on January 8. Charlie, the son of parishioners **Andy and Linda Light**, is a Major in the USAF currently stationed in the Washington, DC area. ♦

### *Congratulations!*

Congratulations to St. Timothy's new Junior Warden **David Dreisbach** (**John Rudolph** moved into the Senior Warden position) and to new Vestry members **Tracy Hickenlooper, Donna Passick, Andy Ruttle, and Bob Willoughby**. ♦

Congratulations to parishioner **Erick Harback**, who is the new Board President for Inter Parish Ministry. ♦

### *Thank You*

I would like to thank my St. Timothy's family for the prayers, caring thoughts and best wishes for my speedy recovery from my recent hospital stay. *Jean Eichert* ♦

### *IPM Soup Bowl Celebration*

Mark your calendar for Inter Parish Ministry's (IPM) 7th Annual Soup Bowl Celebration, Saturday, April 24, at 12 noon at Lunken Airport Executive Hangar 10. Call Gail at IPM (561-3932) for information or to schedule bowl painting. More details coming soon! ♦

### *Women's Retreat*

*Caring for Body and Soul*. Held at the Convent of the Transfiguration April 9-11. Cost: \$100 (\$25 deposit required to hold space). Leaders: Heather Wiseman and Dori Dreisbach. Sign up on the bulletin board. ♦

### *Vacation Bible School*

**Baobab Blast God's Great Get Together!**  
*June 14-18, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*  
Mark your calendars and plan to join us this summer for another week of fun at Vacation Bible School! We need **Volunteer Leaders** for Preschool Classes (3- and 4-year-olds), Opening Skit (includes animal puppets), Story Time (includes a DVD), Decorating (all work done before VBS), Crafts & Science. The theme is African Serengeti. Judy can give you all of the materials for you to plan now! Contact Judy at [children@sainttimothys.com](mailto:children@sainttimothys.com). ♦

### *2010 IHN Hosting Dates*

St. Timothy's will be hosting families from the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) **February 28-March 7** at the Comboni Mission Center. Volunteers are needed every night of the week to cook meals and provide all kinds of hospitality for our guests. The sign up sheet is in the Gathering Space. Please contact Richie Heimbrock for more information. We are looking for some fun entertainment/activities for our IHN guests to help make their stay even better. Do you have a talent/idea to share? (some ideas . . . manicures for moms, puppet show for kids, special art activity). Please contact Carrie Brown. Our other upcoming hosting dates are: **May 16-23; September 5-12; October 31-November 7**. ♦

### *ASP Deposits Due*

If you are interested in going on this year's June 13-19 Appalachia Service Project (ASP) trip, your deposit of \$180 is due. Questions? Contact John Eisenlohr. ♦



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### **Parish Staff**

The Rev. Roger S. Greene *Rector*  
The Rev. Heather B. Wiseman *Associate*  
The Rev. Dcn. Ellen P. Cook *Deacon*  
The Rev. Dcn. Mooydeen Frees  
*Pastoral Care Coordinator*  
The Rev. Dcn. Christopher Richardson  
*Associate for Youth Spiritual Formation*  
Philip D. Clary *Organist/Choir Director*  
Paul Rank *Outreach Facilitator*  
Judy Gardner *Director of*  
*Children's Spiritual Formation*  
Ruth Franke *Parish Administrator*  
Theresa Kimball *Parish Secretary*

### **St. Timothy's Vestry and Wardens**

John Rudolph, Senior Warden  
David Dreisbach, Junior Warden

### **Vestry Members**

Don Buckley                      Donna Passick  
Patty Carr                         Debbie Rathsack  
Tracy Hickenlooper             Andy Ruttle  
Joe Jeffcott                        Barbara Ryan  
Alicia Kimball                     Bob Willoughby  
Brandi Nierling

### **St. Timothy's Schedule of Services**

#### **Sunday**

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I (no music)  
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
10:00 a.m. Church School for all ages  
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

#### **Wednesday**

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

#### **Office Information**

Phone number: 513-474-4445  
Fax number: 513-388-4161  
Email: church@sainttimothys.com

## **Parish Support Services**

**Remember, your parish family is here for you in emergencies or just when you want to "touch base."**

- Prayer Chain:** MOOYDEEN FREES (513-474-4445, ext. 20; prayerchain@sainttimothys.com) who sees that requests are circulated throughout the Prayer Chain, a network of 23 parishioners who, on a confidential basis, offer daily intercessory prayer for you and your loved ones with special needs;
- Emergency Home-Cooked Meals:** JERRI SPURLOCK is the coordinator of a group of dedicated parishioners who provide a couple of short-term, home-cooked meals for parishioners, individuals or families in immediate need of such support. Referrals to her come only through the clergy. If you are in need of a couple of home-cooked meals or know of another parishioner who might use some, please contact a member of clergy.
- Friendly Visitors:** KAKI MCCLANAHAN who arranges for a Friendly Visitor to make visits and/or phone calls to parishioners. A range of ministries, from assistance with paperwork and other tasks, to listening, games, and conversation, may be provided;
- Health and Wellness Coordinator:** SUE RANK who oversees health ministries, including Parish Nurse, and the Health and Wellness Cmt.;
- Transportation to 11:15 Service:** DEBBI KERN who arranges for volunteers to furnish transportation to the 11:15 service for non-driving parishioners who live within a reasonable distance.
- Stephen Ministry:** DONNA PASSICK who, as Stephen Ministry coordinator, arranges for trained Stephen Ministers to provide listening and care for the sick, shut-ins and those in crisis.