

ST. TIMOTHY'S UPCOMING EVENTS

February

8th - Vestry Meeting
14th - Sweeney's Leave for Holy Land
20th - February Angel Food Deadline
21st - President's Day - Church Office Closed
26th - February Angel Food Distribution
26th - Sweeney's return from Holy Land
27th - Annual Report Distributed

March

8th - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
9th - Ash Wednesday
13th - Daylight Savings Begins
13th - Annual Meeting & Pot Luck
16th - Lenten Community Meal Begins
17th - Chris Tomlin Concert
21st - I-9 Baseball Tournament Begins



St. Timothy's Church of Baltimore County

"You have made known to me the path of life;
You fill me with joy in your presence,
With eternal pleasures at your right hand."
-Psalm 16:11

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February 2011

Chimes

Faith — Wholeness — Joy
St. Timothy's Church

For once I'm going to say what I really think about Valentine's Day. Here goes. I can't say that I am a fan of Valentine's Day. I know that places me in the same category as the Grinch but I have a perfectly good reason: I think it's all marketing and consumption driven. A ploy to make us (guys) feel guilty if we don't cough-up a Hallmark card, flowers, candy or a diner out somewhere that uses cloth napkins. To me it's another secular day (religious by a stretch) hyped up and painted with hearts and candy and Hallmark gift cards that says mushy stuff that makes us feel good when our beloved spouses give us a hug and say's "Thank you, honey!" We should treat our wives like this every day. Not just one day a year — every day as you-know-who-says is Valentine's Day!

So in an effort to enlighten us all I've gathered some facts and legends about this day in which so many of us will spend a last minute small fortune in order to keep some man made marketing observance.

Valentine's Day Legends

Historians trace the origin of Valentine's Day to ancient Roman Empire. It is said that in the Rome of ancient times people observed a holiday on February 14th to honor **Juno** - the Queen of Roman Gods and Goddesses. The Romans also regarded Juno as the Goddess of Women and Marriage. On the following day, February 15th began the fertility festival called '**Feast of Lupercalia**'. The festival of Lupercalia was celebrated to honor the Gods **Lupercus and Faunus** - the Roman God of Agriculture besides the legendary founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus.

An interesting custom was followed in the Feast of Lupercalia to bring together young boys and girls who otherwise were strictly separated. On the eve of the festival names of young Roman girls were written on a slip of paper and placed into jars. Each young man drew out a girl's name from the jar and was paired with the girl for the duration of Lupercalia. Sometime pairing lasted for a year until next year's celebration. Quite often, the couple would fall in love with each other and later marry. The custom lasted for a long time until people felt that the custom was un-Christian and that mates should be chosen by sight, not luck.

The pairing of young boys and girls did set the mood of the Valentine's Day Festival as we know today. But it was actually due to the efforts and daring of a priest, St Valentine, that the festival got its name and clearer meaning. The story goes that during the reign of **Emperor Claudius II** Rome was involved in several bloody and unpopular campaigns. Claudius found it tough to get soldiers, and felt the reason was men did not join the army because they did not wish to leave their wives and families.

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Focus on Our Family: Justin James Cody

- Q. Where were you born and raised?
A. Sauk City, Wisconsin.
- Q. Do you come from a large family?
A. I'm the youngest of 9. 1 brother, 3 step-brothers, 4 step-sisters. My mother was my father's high school teacher. They went their separate ways, got married & had kids. Both of their first spouses past away around the same time, leaving them each alone with little kids. They had kept in touch through the years, got together to help with their children, & ended up having my brother Jon and me.
- Q. How long have you lived in Catonsville?
A. I've lived in Catonsville since April, 2008. I'm married to Shannon, & have two children. Bailey 13, and Magnolia, age 1.
- Q. What is your occupation?
A. I currently serve in the U.S. Navy's premier contemporary entertainment ensemble, the Cruisers, in Washington, D.C. I also teach piano lessons locally.
- Q. Have you served in the military?
A. I've been in the military for 7 years. I'm a Petty Officer 1st Class. I was stationed in Norfolk, VA., prior to my assignment in Washington. While there, I was deployed with the USNS Mercy Hospital ship to the Philippines, and Indonesia. It was during this trip that I qualified as an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS).
- Q. When did you become interested in music?
A. I began playing piano at age 7. Everyone in my family had to take lessons for at least a year. I stuck with it.
- Q. What instruments do you play?
A. Piano, accordion, saxophone, bassoon, & guitar.
- Q. Did you take lessons? How long?
A. I took piano lessons for 15 years. This includes a bachelors in piano performance

- with a jazz emphasis, and a composition from West Virginia University.
- Q. Where you raised in a faith background?
A. I was raised Roman Catholic at St. Aloysius Parish in Sauk City, Wisconsin.
- Q. What brought you to St. Timothy's Church?
A. While at St. Tim's for an Inglewood Community Meeting, I started talking to Fr. Terry. He expressed a desire to enhance the worship at St. Tim's and I expressed a desire to help him with that.
- Q. Other than music, do you have any hobbies or special interests?
A. I am an active tri-athlete competing in events such as the Sea Colony Triathlon & the Columbia Triathlon to raise money for charity.
- Q. Who in your life has had the most profound affect on you?
A. My father. As a hard working farmer his whole life, he has instilled in me the determination to succeed at anything that I put my mind to. It took hard work on the farm growing up to put what is really a tough life in perspective. He taught me that if you work hard enough at something, eventually, you will get good at it.
- I think everyone at the church would agree, Justin has worked hard with his music career, and has gotten "good at it".

Becky Caulk



Justin and Shannon Cody with their children, Bailey and Magnolia.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2-01 Barbara Prochazka | 2-21 Emory Stagmer |
| 2-01 Jackie Rhoads | 2-22 Roberta Sprague |
| 2-03 Bob Landauer | 2-24 Jessica Marceau |
| 2-04 Carol Rausenberger | 2-24 Dona Peters |
| 2-12 Frances Tyrell | 2-28 Larry King |
| 2-14 Shirley Rogers | 2-19 Allen & Becky Caulk |
| | 2-20 Emory & Gwen Stagmer |



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, March 8th

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Adults \$5.00

Children \$2.00

Family Maximum \$12.00

Lenten Community Meals

Wednesdays during Lent
beginning March 16th

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

No Cost - Offerings Accepted
Invite family, friends, neighbors.



Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Dinner

Sunday, March 13th after the 10AM Service



MY VALENTINE

My Valentine is strong and true,
He never lets me down,
And always in my heart He wears
A matchless, kingly crown.

His love for me is beyond compare,
And therein is my treasure;
No silver, gold or precious gems
Their worth, to me, can measure.

T'was in that love, He gave His life,
To cleanse me from my sin,
And opened heaven's portals wide
And bid me enter in.

And now He clears the path I walk,
And brightens up the way
For me to follow where He leads
At the break of each, new day.
And in the long night watches,
I feel His presence near,
His wondrous grace and mercy
Drives away my fear.

My Valentine supplies my needs,
Whatever they may be,
And by my over-flowing cup,
His out-stretched hands I see.

What can I give Him in return
For all He does for me
That He may know I love Him?
I know! I'll give Him me!

For that is what He really wants,
And that just suits me fine.
I'll give Him all I have and am,
And be His valentine.

Catherine M. Bellis, via the Holy Spirit



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As a result Claudius cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome. A romantic at heart priest of Rome, Saint Valentine, defied Claudius's unjustified order. Along with Saint Marius, St Valentine secretly married couples. When his defiance was discovered, Valentine was brutally beaten and put to death on February 14, about 270 AD. After his death Valentine was named a Saint.

Valentine's Day Numbers

Did you know that nearly 150 million cards are exchanged each Valentine's Day? **Over 50 percent** of all Valentine's Day cards are purchased in the six days prior to the observance, making Valentine's Day a procrastinator's delight. Research reveals that more than half of the U.S. population celebrates Valentine's Day by purchasing a greeting card. Or that more than **40,000** American are employed at chocolate companies?

POSTSCRIPT: Yes, of course I'm going to buy candy and take Olivia out. I'm not completely crazy!

Fr. Terry+



St. Timothy's Food Pantry

On a Friday afternoon, in January, I received a phone call from the receptionist at Johnson Chiropractic located at 1126 North Rolling Rd. They had collected food for the needy, and had called several places to donate it, but couldn't get anyone to pick it up.

A few people said, "Call St. Timothy's" and so she did. I told her that we would love to have the food, and arrangements would be made to pick it up. Within the hour, Andrew, Luke, and Olivia Sweeney drove up to the office, and loaded boxes of food into their vehicle. It was brought back to the church food pantry. Needless to say, it was a very special blessing.

Almost everyday, someone comes to the church asking for assistance. We are able to give them a little help, and receive a lot of gratitude.

In the months of December & January, 27 families, totaling 62 people, were given food from our small metal cabinet.

Please remember to buy a few extra items when you are at the market to help keep our cupboard, and their hearts full.

Becky Caulk





Children's Worship Center

A Closer Look

by Becky Valentine



Early last year, I was asked to take on the responsibility for Christian Education for our young, elementary age, children. In July, our Rector, several Vestry members, parents and lay members, as well as myself, participated in a seminar “Young Children and Worship.” As a result of that hands-on experience, it has been our intent and purpose to establish a Children’s Worship Center (CWC) here at St. Tim’s.

The Children’s Worship Center, which formally began in September, is located in a large classroom on the lower level of the school portion of the building. It is a “special place” for young children 4 years of age up through 5th grade. CWC is all about helping our young children experience God: to grow in knowledge and love of God, and to love one another. It is a “special place”, set apart from the adult congregation (no adults allowed except by invitation) where young children can experience and worship God in a ‘worship context’. What do we mean by worship context? As our adult community gathers for corporate worship in a ‘structured, liturgical environment’ (their special place), the children also gather in their “special place, where we walk a little slower and talk a little softer”. The flow of activities in the CWC corresponds to the four basic elements of worship taking place simultaneously in the sanctuary: gathering in God’s name, proclaiming His word, giving thanks, going forth.

In preparation for worship the children, with the help of a ‘greeter’, move from the hustle and bustle of a busy morning to focusing and listening to God. They are given the opportunity before entering their “special place” to shake off any worries and, if need be, to shake out any extra energy or silliness. They are encouraged to take a deep breath and let the quietness come from within as they enter their own “special place”. A concerted effort has been made to shift from the usage of “everyday language” and employ repetition to help familiarize the children with “religious or biblical language, images, symbols and signs of God.” When all the children are gathered and ready, a formal liturgical greeting, both spoken and signed, is exchanged. Several praise songs are sung, many which incorporate movement and/or sign language. The song “Be Still and Know” lets the children know that we are ready to move on to the next order of worship, proclaiming the word of God.

A sensor motor approach of storytelling is the primary means used in CWC for encountering God, so that God is experienced, not just learned about. A “desert box”, (made and graciously donated by a friend of one of our parishioners) gold parable boxes containing 2 dimensional figures and trays with baskets containing 3 dimensional figures and other related items, are placed around the room in a specific and orderly fashion. Several stories used in this first year of a three-year cycle, were “adopted” by various members of our congregation. We are most grateful for your generosity that allowed us to purchase many of the accompanying manipulatives.

After the story of God is presented by the leader, the children are given time to respond. They can ‘work’, on an individual or small group basis, with the story figures and/or through art materials, allowing the Holy Spirit to work the truth of God’s word into his/her heart, mind and spirit. If a child would like to share their ‘work’ with others they may but they are not required to do so. Materials are then put away in their proper place and the children’s ‘work’ tucked in their special folder. The Christ candle, a reminder that God is with us as we read His word, is placed on a colored cloth in keeping with the Church’s liturgical season, and lit by the leader. The leader or an older child reads the story for that day from the Bible. The Christ candle is then extinguished and preparation is made for the “feast”.

Although the Eucharist is not celebrated in the same manner as in the adult worship, it is celebrated in an indirect way. The leader says, “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God” and the children reply, “It is right to give thanks and praise.” Everyone is then given the opportunity to pray either in the silence of their own heart or verbally. We close our prayer time by saying the Lord’s Prayer together. The children prepare “tables” with their napkins and then the “feast” is served and enjoyed along with shared conversations.



Let the little children
come to me....

LUKE 18:16

As our morning together in CWC draws to a close, we again sing a song or two (or three) of praise and prepare to go forth in God’s name. The leader prays a blessing over each child as he/she leaves.

The CWC involves helping children worship in a special place *apart* from the worshiping congregation so they become able to worship meaningfully, having already connected some spiritual dots, *with* the congregation. Much has been said in describing the CWC experience from the Christian education perspective. But I would be remiss if I failed to mention the fact that I have experienced my own spiritual growth. Many of the stories from the Old Testament (beginning with Creation and ending with the Exile and Return) and the stories for the Church Year taken from the New Testament have given me a greater understanding of the immeasurable love of God and His desire to be in relationship with us...with *me!* With God’s eyes, I have come to see each child as unique and precious. Yes, there have been a few challenges but in the long run it has been a joy to see their individual personality and giftedness being played out even at this young age. And as they leave, it is a privilege to wrap my arms around each one and tell them that God loves them, has a plan for their life, and that “Miss Becky loves you very much.”

At the time of this writing, Olivia Sweeney and I alternate the leader’s position for the Children’s’ Worship Center. Nancy Bellis and Dorothy Griggs alternate the greeter’s position. Consider the possibility that God may be prompting *you* to be involved in the Children’s Worship Center. Know for a fact that should you respond to that prompting, you would be blessed.