

JULY 2010

Missio Dei: from *The Cosmos to our Neighborhood*

Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'" (*Matthew 28: 18-20*)

Part 1: Whose Mission Is It, Anyway?

As Christianity enters its Third Millennium, it appears to be undergoing another great season of change. Of course, one can say that change is the constant in life, but there are eras when that change seems much more pronounced, foundational. Such is our day.

As many have prophesied for decades, the Church as *institution* is declining. Those who have lived a long time will recognize the myriad ways "Church" has ceased to be at the center of things. Increasingly, it is either marginalized by a secularizing culture, or has marginalized itself through scandal, malfeasance, distortion of the Gospel, or outright betrayal of its Lord. Our society no longer sees the Church as necessary; rather, it tends to see it as either an archaic holdover or a pathological block to human self-realization.



The Third Millennium of the Gospel is hardly all about decline. Indeed, this is perhaps *the most explosive era of growth Christianity has ever known*. Between events in Africa and Asia, we are witnessing an extraordinary time of evangelism. The Good News of Christ is reaching places and peoples not previously reached. To a great degree, "where the action" in the Christian world has shifted – a new

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and difficult place for us in North America! What was once the “New World” is becoming old, and now needs refreshment from those it once evangelized.

What Christians in these newly-evangelized cultures are telling us is that our mistake was not in sharing the Gospel with them. Rather, it has been to equate the Church (and along with it our cultural assumptions, biases, preferences, &c.) with God’s Mission in Christ. The result of this equation has been that we unintentionally “take over” the mission that rightfully belongs to God alone. When we do this, terrible things happen – the dark side of “missionary” activities. Setting this right and re-ordering our life as Church in North America may end up being the major task ahead for years to come.

Christ’s “Great Commission,” as recorded in Matthew 28, gives us very clear insight into whose mission this is: *it is God’s*. Jesus Christ is the “Mission of God” (*Missio Dei*, in Latin). It is His unique work of Incarnation, Atonement, Resurrection, Ascension to the Father, and through the gift of the Holy Spirit that the Church carries out His Mission. That mission is, in short, to glorify God the Holy Trinity by “restoring all people to unity with God and each other in Christ,” as the Prayer Book Catechism puts it so simply.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.
Matthew 28:18-20

Understanding the Mission of God in this way moves us from human *doings* to human *beings*. We are called to be “in Christ,” (Col. 3:3), not to do Christ’s work for him. We *respond* to Christ’s call; we do not *initiate* it. Being in Christ allows us great freedom: the freedom to listen, the freedom to follow, the freedom to learn. It saves us from the perils of jumping into the driver’s seat of a vehicle we cannot possibly pilot safely. The secular world is focused only on what we do; God, who is pure Being, seeks to share that being in love with us. That is His Mission in Christ, and God’s mission must be ours, as well.

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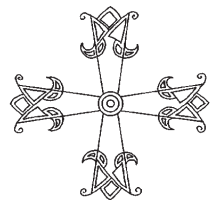
Understanding the *Missio Dei* this way helps us get our priorities clear. The Church is not an “institution” set up to do its own (or its culture’s) mission; it is much more like a mid-wife, helping to bring forth the mission of its Lord. When we listen to God in humility this way, we come to see Christ as the *sacrament of God*, the One who saves. This, in turn, frees the Church to become what it is: the *sacrament of Christ*, serving humbly and responsively by the promptings of the Spirit as the Mission of God is revealed and moves towards the consummation of all things in Christ.

When we learn to live the *Missio Dei*, the Eucharist’s meaning is likewise deepened and enriched. No more do we look at the liturgy through the lens of consumerism (“what is there in this for me?” or “how can I fit this in to my busy day?”); now we see it as the *sacrament of the Church*, wherein the Church is “actualized,” made present in its fullness of purpose and meaning – the foretaste of that Kingdom of God where all people live in harmony with God and each other in Christ. The Eucharist is the supreme realization of the Church’s worship life; in it the Holy Trinity is glorified by diverse people, united by the Love of God in Christ.



Nourished in our true *being*, we are then sent out to *live that being* in our families, communities, work, and ministries. But that leads us to next month’s topic: How to live the *Missio Dei* through the local church.

Brandon Lee Filbert



Parish Mission Statement

We gather to experience the Holy Trinity through Scripture, worship, study, and fellowship. Receiving and reflecting God’s love and grace, we are sent out to love and serve our neighbor, see the Christ in others, and share the Gospel by the example of our everyday lives.

New Parish Hall Furniture

Last month the vestry voted to buy tables and chairs for the parish hall. The new tables and chairs will be strong plastic and light. (We will try and sell the heavy tables.) At this time we have received the tables.



We are looking for sponsors for the tables and chairs. Each table costs \$99.00, a chair is \$25.00. If you would like to sponsor a table or chair, please make a check out to St. Timothy's, and put "Table" or "Chair" on the note line.

Blessings and thanks,
Ruth Speaker

Thanks

We have received a "Thank You" from Church World Service for the 44 Hygiene Kits we sent them after Easter. This photo shows CWS relief supplies being unloaded in Haiti.



St. Mary's Day

Fr. Brandon has received permission from Bishop Michael to depart from the Sunday lectionary and use the propers for St. Mary on August 15. That means that we can have our service and Fiesta that morning at the 10:00 time. Watch for details in the August *Tidings*!



Bishop's Visit

Bishop Michael is spending his first 100 days as Bishop visiting and getting familiar with the Diocese of Oregon. Our turn comes on **Wednesday, Sept. 8**, at the season-ending Wednesday Potluck. Mark this date on your calendar!





OLD FASHIONED FOURTH of JULY PICNIC



after the 10:00 AM service

Each family/person brings:

- **Main dish for themselves (meat to grill, KFC bucket, sandwiches, etc.)**
- **Generous picnic side dish to share**
- **Beverages**

St Timothy's will provide:


- **Grill (gas), watermelon, ice cream, paper goods, utensils**
- **GAMES!!!**
- **Main dish for any guests at church on the 4th**

Attire for the day is RED, WHITE, & BLUE CASUAL...



Please sign up in the Narthex (not required) to help us better plan!



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|  | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| | | S. I. H. N. | | | | |
| <i>Pent. VI</i> 4 8 am HE 10 am HE Potluck Picnic | <i>Indepen- 5</i> <i>dependence Day</i> <i>(Tsf)</i> Office Closed | 6 10 am HE | 7 Crafts 10 | 8 | 9 | 10 Diocesan Meeting 10 |
| <i>Pent. VII</i> 11 8 am HE 10 am HE | 12 | 13 10 am HE | 14 Court Child Care 9:30 Crafts 10 Potluck & Games 5:30 | 15 | 16 | 17 <i>William</i> <i>White</i> |
| <i>Pent VIII</i> 18 8 am HE 10 am HE | 19 | 20 10 am HE | 21 Court Child Care 9:30 Crafts 10 | <i>St. Mary</i> 22 <i>Magdalene</i> Sts Anna & Simeon 4:30 | 23 | 24 <i>Thomas</i> <i>à Kempis</i> |
| <i>Pent IX</i> 25 8 am HE 10 am HE | <i>Saint</i> 26 <i>James (tsf.)</i> | <i>William</i> 27 <i>Reed Hun-</i> <i>tington</i> 10 am HE | 28 Court Child Care 9:30 Crafts 10 Potluck & Games 5:30 | <i>Mary</i> 29 <i>and Martha</i> <i>of Bethany</i> | <i>William</i> 30 <i>Wilberforce</i> | <i>Joseph</i> 31 <i>of Arama-</i> <i>thea</i> |

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 3 Penny DeWilde | | 23 Barbara Knighton |
| 4 Melinda Filbert | | 24 Pamela Filbert Stacey Cowgill |
| 6 Gail Coulson | 15 Fr. Don Wilson Fr. Tom Cartwright | 25 Matt Markee |
| 12 Sue Bergquist Mike Mills | 21 Kim Heggen | 26 Jana McFerron |
| 13 Logan Divelbiss | 24 Stacey Cowgill | 29 René Thornton |

CALENDAR NOTES FOR JULY

June 28 - July 4: Salem Interfaith Hospitality
Network Host Week

Sunday, July 4: Old Fashioned Fourth of July Picnic,
after the 10:00 Liturgy
Bring your own main dish and
beverage, and a potluck dish
to share.



Wednesday, July 14: Court Child Care, 9:30 AM
Potluck & Games, 5:30 PM

Sunday, July 18 - Saturday, July 24: Mission Trip to Ensenada



Wednesday, July 21: Court Child Care, 9:30 AM

Thursday, July 22: Guild of Sts. Anna and Simeon, 4:30 PM

Saturday, July 23: Distribution of Food and Clothing to the Hoover Community,
in the parish hall

Wednesday, July 28: Court Child Care, 9:30 AM
Potluck & Games, 5:30 PM



Coming Up in August: St. Mary's Day, Sunday, Aug. 15;
Fiesta following 10:00 Liturgy

Coming Up in September: Wednesday Evening Potluck with
Bishop Michael, Sept. 8



Fr. Brandon and family will be on vacation July 5 - August 4. If you have an emergency or need a priest, please contact Senior Warden Ruth Speaker (503-371-2393) or the parish office (503-363-0601).

Ensenada Mission Trip

St. Timothy's team leaves July 18 to travel to Ensenada to complete one house for a needy family in partnership with YUGO Ministries in Ensenada. The Parish, through the Mission Commission, has provided the initial funding to cover start-up costs and deposits. There have been several generous donations from outside the parish to help fund the house.



The construction of the basic frame of the house was done at Whiteaker Middle School in conjunction with the Whiteaker after-school program. About 20 middle school students met twice a week constructing a model of the house and then the full size frame itself at the school. The Whiteaker ACE program itself has generously donated the framing lumber, and Salem Habitat has loaned safety equipment for the build. We sectioned apart the house in mid-June and will railer it down to Mexico in July with part of the team driving.

Several Whiteaker staff will be joining the team this year, including the principal!

We are still seeking donations toward our travel and materials. Checks may be made out to St. Timothy's, "for Mission Trip."

God bless,

Shep Earl
Ensenada Team Coordinator



Wednesday Potluck & Games: 5:30pm

July 14

July 28

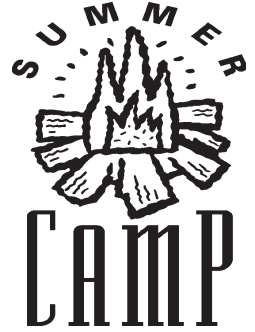
August 11

August 25

Sept. 8 (with the Bishop!)

**Bring your meat to grill and
a potluck dish!**

Parish Campout August 27-29



Q. What's new this year?

A. The Venue: Christian Renewal Center by Silver Creek Falls
The Meal Plan: All meals supplied by the camp.

Q. How do I sign up?

A. Fill out a registration form in the church narthex, and pay the reservation deposit of \$25 per person to St. Timothy's. The remainder is due Aug. 20th. Last day for reservations is Aug. 20th.

Q. What activities are available at the Campout?

A. We will be hiking, swimming, eating, and playing on the playground equipment and sports fields.

Steward of the Month

Our Steward of the Month is Mike Graeper. He joined us at St. Timothy's when he married a church member.



STEWARD OF THE MONTH

He has become increasingly involved with Parish Life activities. Mike has helped put on a brunch and demonstrates confidence and skill at the barbecue grill as well as a willingness to do what needs to be done to make an event successful. To help prepare for the Agape feast he set up tables and chairs.

In a different area he has shared his professional expertise in consulting with the commission that set up our endowment program. Our thanks to Mike for his contributions of time and talent.

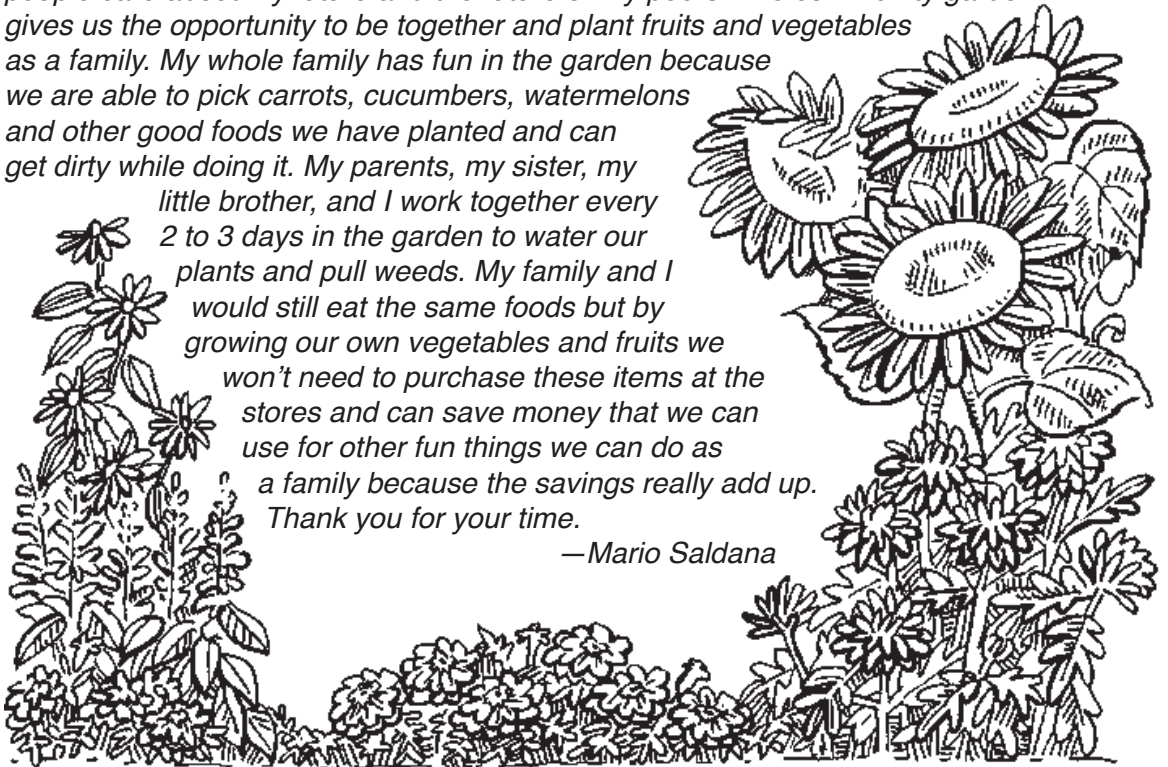
—The Stewardship Commission

Community Garden

Despite the cool weather this spring, the garden continues to prosper and grow. Many thanks to Chuck Kuhlman for making and installing all the number plates, making the gate, and all the errands he runs for the garden. Last month seven parishioners from St. Timothy's attended the Hoover School fundraiser dinner. We were all impressed by the heart and soul of this school and faculty. Aztec dancers who were parents of the school greeted us and their dances were quite amazing. Items for auction included many works of art by the children from Hoover. During dinner many speeches were given that told stories of how important field trips were to this school, how the community garden helped the families, and how much effort goes into making positive experiences for the students. Pamela Lyons-Nelson spoke about the long relationship between St. Timothy's and Hoover School and the newest venture, the community garden. It was a very memorable event. We are including a speech about the garden given by a student who was all dressed up for this event. We were very impressed:

Hello my name is Mario Saldana. I am a 5th grader at the best school ever. I would like to thank you for supporting Hoover Elementary. It is wonderful to see how many people care about my future and the future of my peers. The community garden gives us the opportunity to be together and plant fruits and vegetables as a family. My whole family has fun in the garden because we are able to pick carrots, cucumbers, watermelons and other good foods we have planted and can get dirty while doing it. My parents, my sister, my little brother, and I work together every 2 to 3 days in the garden to water our plants and pull weeds. My family and I would still eat the same foods but by growing our own vegetables and fruits we won't need to purchase these items at the stores and can save money that we can use for other fun things we can do as a family because the savings really add up. Thank you for your time.

—Mario Saldana



Looking Ahead to August:



St. Mary's Day

Sunday, August 15

Fiesta

following the 10:00 Liturgy

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

PO Box 7416
Salem, OR 97303

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www.sainttimothys.org

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Intercessory Prayer Ministry

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6

While we all know we can take our requests to God, sometimes it's a comfort to hear that someone else is praying for us, too. If you're facing health issues, financial difficulties, or any other trouble (or someone you care about is), there is a small group at St. Timothy's that will lift up those concerns in prayer. Names and a brief description of the problem can be given to Barbara Watson, Fr. Brandon, or Mary McFetridge. All issues brought to the group are kept confidential.

— The Prayer Chain