

Dear St. Timothy Folks,

October is beginning to look like a busy month. On Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, we will have our Blessing of the Animals at 12 noon at the City Park. This is close to the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4<sup>th</sup>. He believed that nature itself was the mirror of God. He called all creatures his "brothers" and "sisters", and even preached to the birds.[Wikipedia] Pets need to be leashed, crated, or appropriately contained. If your pets aren't comfortable or well-behaved in crowds, you can bring a picture of them to be blessed. The liturgy takes about 15 minutes depending on the number of critters. Snacks and treats will be handed out. Please invite friends and neighbors, also!

On Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> our usual First Sunday Brunch will be replaced by our Parish Picnic at the Ratner Pavilion (601 River St., Calhoun) from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Please sign up downstairs for attendance and food donation, or email the office. It will also be Blue Jean Sunday, an opportunity to wear casual clothes to church. Wear your St. Timothy's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary t-shirt if you have one.

October is the beginning of Stewardship season. We exercise Stewardship in many ways throughout the year, but this is the time of year when we prayerfully consider our pledges of time, talent, and treasure for the coming year. Expect a letter from me with a pledge card enclosed later this month. The ingathering and blessing of pledges will take place in November. In this time, please also consider how you might offer your time and talent to one of the committees or ministries at St. Timothy's, or in the wider community of Calhoun and Gordon County.

A new edition of our Directory is in the works. If you have changed your address, phone number, or email, please let us know with an email to the office. Updated photos are welcome.

We are looking for two volunteers to be our delegates to the Diocese of Atlanta Annual Council. This year it will take place at Holy Innocents School in Atlanta on Friday, Nov.8 (all day) and Saturday morning, Nov. 9. Registration (which includes lunch), dinner, and one night in a nearby hotel will be covered by St. Timothy's. Please speak to me or to Susan Skaggs if you are interested.

I am also training new Acolytes, Lectors, and LEM's (Lay Eucharistic Minister) on an individual basis. I am looking for volunteers!

Wonderful things are happening at St. Timothy's – join in!

Blessings, Rev. Linda