

ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH OF GULL LAKE
Richland, Michigan

50th ANNIVERSARY



1961



2011

GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST
THE FAITH JOURNEY CONTINUES

50th Anniversary:
A Celebration Focused on Education and Action:
Mission/Environment/Endowment

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES, 2011

- June 5 **Poverty Reduction Initiative** adult education class, Jeff Brown: Discussion of poverty in Kalamazoo.
- July 10 **Clean Water for the World** adult education class, Paul Flickinger: Description of locally-developed, efficient and affordable water purification system to provide clean water to villages in developing areas.
- July-September **International Mission Project:** Collecting money to donate a water purification system to a village in Haiti.
- July 17 **Clean Water in our Community** adult education class, Chris Tracy and Trey Eldridge: Highlighting local volunteer efforts to protect the Gull Lake watershed area.
- August 6 **Restoration of Campfire Area on Church Grounds:** A parish work day to rehab the firepit area for parish and youth gatherings and to provide stewardship for St. Timothy's natural environment.
- September-October **Adopt an Apartment:** Local mission project to clean, paint, and repair an apartment for low-wage working people, with Open Doors Residence Community in Kalamazoo.
- September 18 **Ensuring the Next 50 Years** adult education class, Linda Enzinger and Trey Eldridge: Discussion of how St. Timothy's Endowment Fund can help the parish meet unexpected financial challenges in the future and remain a healthy faith community for another 50 years.
- September 18, 25 **Children's activities** to commemorate our 50th Anniversary.
- September 24 **Re-dedication Service and Luncheon:** Bishop Robert Gepert will lead us in a celebration Eucharist as we re-dedicate our physical structure and parish heart to our faith journey. A luncheon for all friends of St. Timothy's will follow.

RECTORS

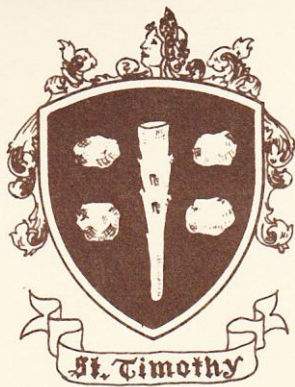
1961-1964	The Rev. David C. Patton
1965-1974	The Rev. G. William Brumbaugh
1974-1986	The Rev. Richard S. Bradford
1986-1988	The Rev. Richard G. Baker, Interim
1988-1999	The Rev. Richard L. Stravers
1994-1997	The Rev. Kathleen Kingslight, Associate
1999-2000	The Rev. Valerie Ambrose, Interim
2000-2010	The Rev. H. Knute Jacobson
2011-Present	The Rev. William Whiting, Interim

ST. TIMOTHY... WHO WAS HE?

St. Timothy was a first century bishop and martyr.

A companion of St. Paul on his missionary journeys, Timothy was referred to by Paul as “the beloved son of the faith”. It was to Timothy that Paul wrote the two epistles which are part of the New Testament.

St. Timothy is believed to have been beaten and stoned to death for his Christian witness and the instruments of his martyrdom, stones and a club form his shield.



COLLECT FOR ST. TIMOTHY

Almighty and merciful God, who called St. Timothy to endure hardship for the sake of thy dear Son: Strengthen us in like manner to stand firm in adversity, through the grace of Christ Jesus, that we may obtain salvation with eternal glory, who lives and reigns with your Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

Amen

HISTORY OF ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH, GULL LAKE

In the latter part of 1957 and early part of 1958, several families who had been attending St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo began to explore the possibility of establishing an Episcopal Church in the Gull Lake area. Seven couples (Dr. and Mrs. Philip Barry, David and Eleanor Bailey, Fred and Jane Bowers, Suzanne and Preston Parish, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pender, Franklin and Virginia Shire, and John and Pom Sides) met with the Rev. Charles E. Bennison, then rector of St. Luke's, to discuss the available options. Upon learning that the first step was to establish a mission, action was taken to initiate the process. The first place of worship was at a farmhouse owned by the Parish family at 6533 Williams Road, Hickory Corners.

The first worship service was celebrated by Father Bennison on January 19, 1958. Eighty-nine adults and children attended. Considerable effort was made to provide a church atmosphere, with an improvised altar and an imitation stained glass window. The Bowers family gave a brass cross for the altar. St. Luke's provided used hymnals and Books of Common Prayer. Boat cushions were used for kneelers.

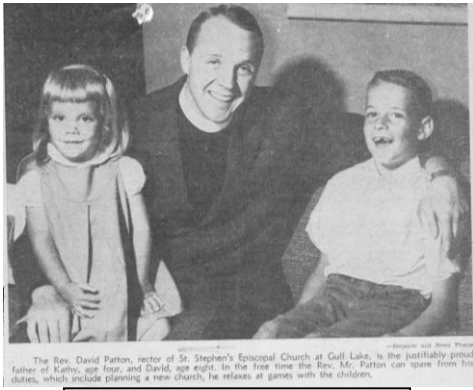
Dr. Lavere Davison, deacon, and George Post, layreader, from St. Luke's served as officiants until the end of summer, 1958, when the Rev. Alan King, an assistant to Father Bennison at St. Luke's, was made vicar of the Mission of St. Timothy's. Father King served in the capacity of pastor until May, 1960. In the interim, Charles Bennison had become Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan and assisted St. Timothy's in the selection of a new vicar, the Rev. David C. Patton, then rector of Church of the Good Shepherd in Allegan.

The congregation gained parish status in 1961, and Father Patton was installed as the rector. During the period that Father Patton served as rector, the congregation moved from the farmhouse to the Richland Community Hall for two years, and subsequently to its present location.

At Father Patton's urging, the Vestry and congregation agreed that it was time to provide a church building. Thanks to the foresight of Fred Bowers, the Vestry decided to purchase the 44 acres of land on which the church now sits. Bill Stone, a local architect, was asked to undertake the design and building project. Since the structure was somewhat non-traditional, there was a fair amount of controversy, but the members finally united and agreed to go ahead with the building. Bishop Bennison was instrumental in establishing the size of the building. He felt space to accommodate a congregation of at least 200 needed to be provided.

A fundraising campaign was launched which resulted in pledges that approached the total cost of the building. On the basis of these pledges, a loan was arranged. Unfortunately, a disastrous drop in the stock market forced the sale of some securities at a depressed price, leaving the congregation with a substantial mortgage.

-continued on page 9



The Rev. David Patton



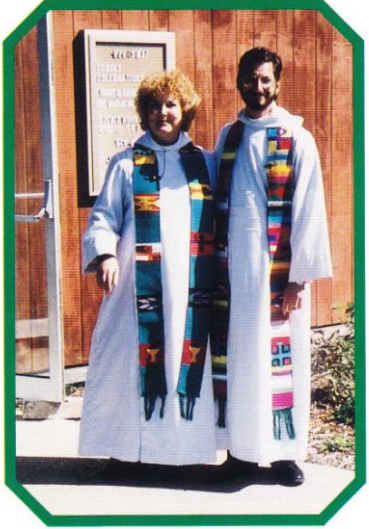
The Rev. G. William Brumbaugh



The Rev. Richard S. Bradford



The Rev. Richard G. Baker, Interim



The Rev. Richard L. Stravers
The Rev. Kathleen Kingslight, Associate



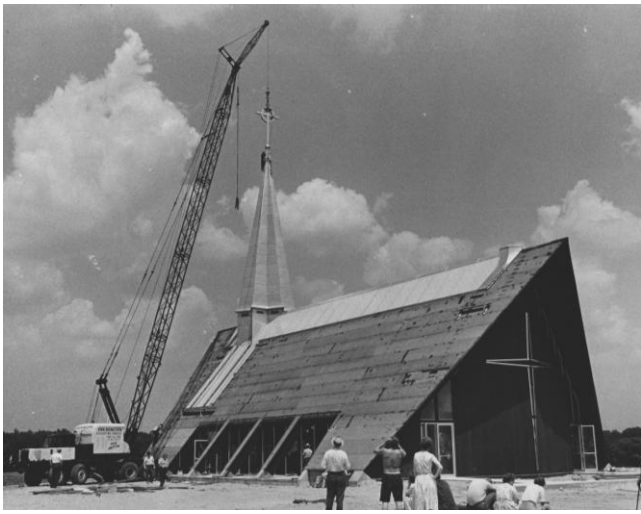
The Rev. Valerie Ambrose, Interim



The Rev. H. Knute Jacobson



The Rev. William R. Whiting, Interim







HISTORY, continued

The groundbreaking ceremony was held on September 14, 1961. The first service in the new building was held on September 9, 1962.

Father Patton continued as the rector of St. Timothy's until August, 1964. St. Timothy's stumbled along with help from St. Luke's and the efforts of lay readers in the congregation until January, 1965, when the Rev. G. William Brumbaugh from Bemidji, Minnesota became the new rector. Father Brumbaugh remained as rector until July, 1974.

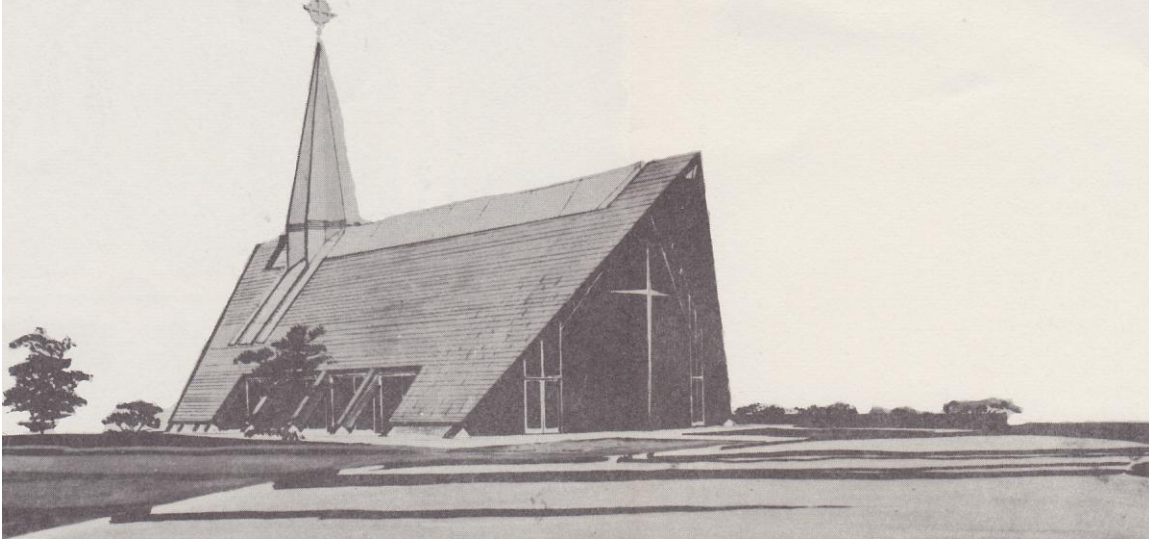
In December, 1974, the Rev. Richard S. Bradford became rector and remained with the parish until November, 1986. The Rev. Richard G. Baker, retired priest, acted as interim rector until the search committee could complete its task.

In August, 1988, the Rev. Richard Stravers became rector. In 1989, the congregation completed building a rectory on the grounds. The Stravers family, including three daughters, was the first to live in the rectory. During Father Rick's tenure, two services were held on Sundays for some time. The Social Ministry Committee was also formed during this time. Its first activity was the Alternative Christmas Market, which continued annually for 12 years. This group continues to facilitate projects to help the needy in our community as well as nationally and internationally. For the 30th anniversary celebration in 1991, the entire church building was refurbished and rededicated. The Rev. Kathleen Kingslight joined the staff as associate rector from 1994 to 1997, when she went to St. Barnabas in Portage as rector. In 1999, Father Stravers resigned to become Executive Director of Open Door and Next Door Shelters in Kalamazoo. The Rev. Val Ambrose then served as interim rector.

In 2000, the search committee called the Rev. Knute Jacobson as rector, who arrived from West Virginia with his family of 4 boys. His wife, Rosemary, later became the Music Director and initiated a children's bell choir. During this time, Father Knute and a committee led by Scott Russell conducted a capital campaign and completed a major addition to the building which included an elevator, meeting room, rector's office, youth room, spacious Narthex, and additional restrooms. A smaller and more recent capital campaign added a wheelchair ramp to the altar, new carpeting in the sanctuary, and removed the large "battleship" lecterns in the front of the church.

The Jacobsons left in 2010 for a church in Missouri. St. Timothy's is currently being led very capably by the Rev. William Whiting, Interim Rector. A search committee is working on the task of calling a permanent full-time rector.

After 50 years, St. Timothy's Church, Gull Lake remains a healthy and growing congregation. The faith journey continues!



ARCHITECTURE AND SYMBOLISM OF ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH BUILDING

“The building seems to rise from the very earth itself and reach upward to the sky. The church will be built on a hillside slope, with the lower level opening upon the ground level, affording the same magnificent view as the terrace above.

The skylight is formed in the shape of the cross, and a large anodized metal cross adorns the front façade of the building.

The outstanding and dramatic feature of this plan is the symbolism so effectively incorporated by the architects. The beams above the altar are arranged in the form of the Star of David. This form is projected upward and forms the twelve-sided steeple. The star symbolizes the birth of our Saviour, and the suspended cross his death, while the altar represents his resurrection. The oval communion rail symbolizes the church as the family of God gathered about the holy table.

Those who worship here will be reminded also of the relationship of the church and its ministry to the world by the wide, unbroken view through the spacious glass doors and windows along either side of the church. Glass doors open directly upon the terrace, which will be floodlighted at night, providing a beautiful effect. The choir loft and organ will be located behind the congregation, a traditional arrangement which encourages full participation of the worshippers in the service”.

From the original Building Program brochure, 1961.

RE-DEDICATION PRAYER

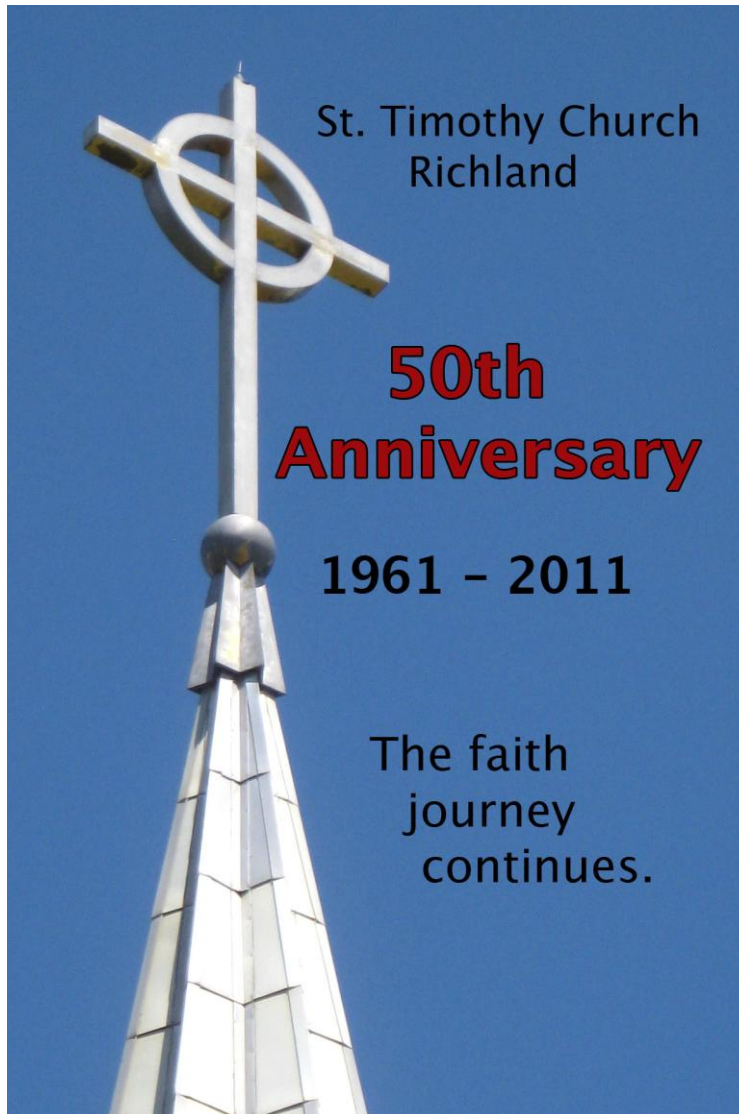
Lord Jesus Christ, make this a temple of your presence and a house of prayer. Be always near us when we seek you in this place. Draw us to you, when we come alone and when we come with others, to find comfort and wisdom, to be supported and strengthened, to rejoice and give thanks. May it be here, Lord Christ, that we are made one with you and with one another, so that our lives are sustained and sanctified for your service.

Amen



CURRENT VESTRY

**Linda Enzinger, Senior Warden
Jari Foster Pulford, Junior Warden
Betsy Barlow
Marc Bouchie
Susan Buckham
Steven Frank
Pete Hawk
Tom Howard
Tom Monroe
Val Ozolins
Mac Waldorf
John Wood**



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church of Gull Lake
9800 E. BC Avenue
Richland, MI 49083
269-629-9436
E-mail: sttimothyrichland@yahoo.com
Website: <http://sttimothychurch.tripod.com>