

October 6, 2026



Dear St. Tim's,

The absolute joy, delight, and commitment of this congregation continue to astound me. On a recent Sunday morning, as I bowed my head during the Sanctus ("Holy, holy, holy"), I was overcome with awe and gratitude at all your voices singing around me – very young ones, a few moments behind as they tried to imitate adults' voices; elders leading with well-practiced clarity; some strong or wavering in between. Everyone joining together, praising God who had gathered us at the table, who continues to feed us, nourishing our bodies and souls, transforming us and sending us out to become people who bring this goodness to others.

That moment was emblematic of what this community does week in and week out, and it is a living reminder of the care of the Good Shepherd in Psalm 23: "You spread a table before me... and my cup is running over." I have been reflecting on this image as the Vestry continues to unpack and think about the ongoing implications of the CAT survey we completed last year. One piece that still stands out to me is the recognition that what we have here at St. Tim's is something the wider world so desperately needs. People are longing for community, connection, and belonging, while members of this parish say they find deep meaning and joy in participating in ministry here. We are full to the brim, and need only to let the goodness we have encountered flow through us to sustain the work.

This year, we have added a Part Time Children and Youth Formation Minister to St. Tim's staff, and Holly is doing incredible ministry in offering opportunities to our young people to grow in their faith and to connect to one another and to caring adults. We've added Preschool staff, and are reevaluating their compensation to ensure it is fair and competitive, to aid with recruiting and retention. We continue to focus on growing deeper relationships, both within our parish and beyond it; and on welcoming and incorporating newcomers in our midst.

Good things are growing here. And they all require your ongoing, faithful support. Included in this packet are some guiding questions and information to help you reflect, pray, and consider how God is calling you to participate in the life of this community. What financial practices will help you to trust the Holy Spirit, to lean into the knowledge of the nourishing love that holds you all the days of your life? How will you respond, with your resources and your time, for the flourishing of this parish?

I invite you to reflect on your own moments of goodness, experienced among the community of St. Tim's, and then to prayerfully ask how you will let that goodness overflow to nourish others. **Come on Sunday, November 1 to our Single Service at 10am, where we will fill out and bless pledge cards.** Then plan to stay for our soup and salad luncheon! Thank you for the many ways your presence and support make this community possible. I'm grateful to serve among you all.

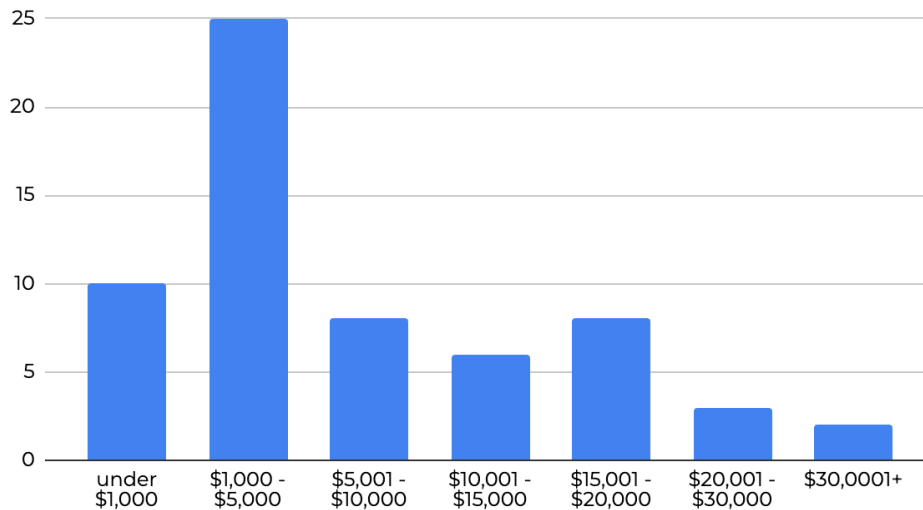


Blessings,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Nikky" with a small cross-like mark at the end.

The Rev. Nikky Wood, Rector

Pledging Units (Households) by Annual Giving Range



Coffee abounding; uncountable number of bagels consumed

Cost of bagels and coffee: \$2,679.75*

Lights, heating, cooling, and the general wonders of electricity

Paid to PG&E: \$14,395.91*

Access to doctors and medical care

Healthcare premium budget for Preschool & Church staff: \$96,598

expected increase for 2027: 12.5%

Autonomy, exploration, and empathy offered to preschoolers

Scholarship funding dispersed: \$13,090*

Food, clothing, and financial support shared with our neighbors

Money given through Compassion Week,

Lots of Love, the Good Friday Middle East collection,

Safeway gift cards, and rental assistance: \$7,966*

Includes budgeted funds, special donations, and the Rector's Discretionary Fund;

does not include in-kind donations to Santa Maria Urban Ministry or Little Free Pantry