



The Story of
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

43 W Pacific Ave, Henderson, Nevada

2023

Lovingly researched and compiled by
Mary Sowder

Forward

How did we come to be in this place? The history of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church is entwined with the story of the rise of the city of Henderson. How was a sun-soaked stretch of desert transformed to become the industrial center of Nevada and its second largest city, and how did this transformation affect the lives of the community that grew around it? How did the construction of an industrial complex built to serve the wartime needs of the armed forces during World War II contribute to the development of our particular community of faith? Although St. Timothy's has developed more recently than other Episcopal congregations in Nevada, it was challenging to assemble a reasonably complete history of its growth. There are almost no records in the diocesan archives in Reno, and the clergy concerned with St. Timothy's during some periods of time have been transitory.

The story of St. Timothy's is a tale of a faithful parish battling successes and setbacks to establish a thriving community of worship and service.

Henderson, City of Destiny

President John F. Kennedy, in a speech made over half a century ago, predicted that the young city of Henderson



The site of the Basic Magnesium Inc. plant before construction.

was a "city of destiny" (City of Henderson, nd). This is the story of how a patch of dry desert land was transformed into the industrial center of Nevada and the eventual home of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church.

Since at least 1100 A.D., the Southern Paiute lived in 15 bands across southeastern Nevada and neighboring states. Two Southern Paiute bands lived near what is now the Henderson area: The Moapa Band and The Las Vegas Paiute Band. Also known as Nuwuvi, Numa, or Nuwo (the people) were adapted to the high desert environment.

They hunted and gathered resources such as pine nuts, roots, seeds, birds, and fish. They drank from springs and harvested plants. After planting their fields in the spring, the Paiute often journeyed to higher and cooler elevations. There they gathered berries and plants, hunted mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, antelope, woodchucks, and rabbits. They also collected agate; a type of rock used for making stone tools, and they traded arrowheads, spear points and more with surrounding tribes. They were also skilled basket weavers, using their handwoven baskets to carry seeds, roots, tubers, berries, and nuts. When sealed with pine pitch, baskets could be used to carry water (Clark County Museum, nd).

But by late in the 19th century the influx of white settlers and the development of the railroad brought an end to the Paiutes' free movement and traditional way of life. The Southern Paiute territories in what is now Southern Nevada were eventually claimed by Spain, then Mexico, and finally, the United States. As a result of the Mexican American War and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico permanently lost areas which are now part of Nevada to the United States. In 1849, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints proposed a state of Deseret of the United States that included areas of what is now Nevada, Arizona, Utah, and California. The provisional state existed for slightly over two years but was never recognized by the United States government. On March 2, 1861, the Nevada Territory separated from the Utah Territory, and eight days before the presidential election of 1864, Nevada became the 36th state in the Union. After achieving statehood, the area included as part of Nevada was extended, and on January 18, 1867, it absorbed the portion of Pah-Ute County in the Arizona Territory west of the Colorado River, including most of what is now Clark County. Small farming and mining communities continued to develop in the area, and construction on the Boulder Dam in 1931, brought thousands to the area for work. The scale of the dam and duration of the project required the Bureau of Reclamation to allow the construction of a semi-permanent town for 5,000 workers (National Archives, nd).



Hoover Dam, built from 1930 to 1936, to control flooding and divert the flow of the Colorado River.

Henderson's Early Years

Five months before the United States entered World War II, a small group of industrialists, politicians, and military leaders developed a plan to transform a few thousand acres of desert to an area devoted to increasing the US capacity for production of magnesium, a light metal that Germany was using in the fabrication of airplane parts, incendiary bombs, tracer bullets (essential for accurate machine gun fire), and flares used to light battlefields or signal rescue craft. Yet the United States had been producing little magnesium in this country.

With the help of Charles P. Henderson, a former U.S. senator from Nevada, who was serving as chairman of a federal agency that financed defense plants, a factory was proposed to produce magnesium near the magnesite deposits at Gabbs (in Nye County), but the site lacked adequate access to both water and electrical power. The group eventually settled on a site about halfway between the generating facilities of Hoover Dam (with access to water from Lake Mead) and the railroads at Las Vegas. The construction of a large industrial plant in the desert did create logistical problems –



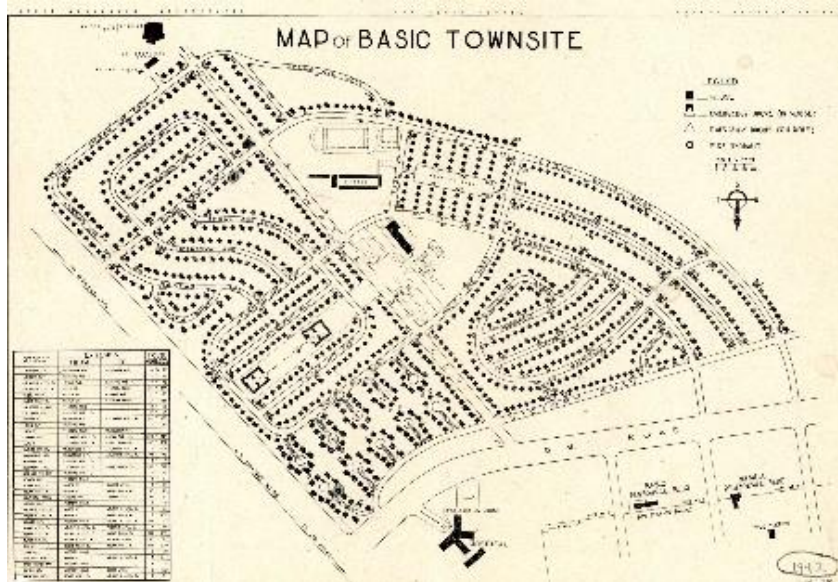
Workers at BMI construction

shortages of material, human capital, and difficult living and working conditions. None the less, Congress appropriated money to carry out the project.

Two plants were constructed, one close to the mills near Gabbs, and another close to the power at Hoover Dam. The first unit of the Basic Processing Plant was put in operation less than a year after its groundbreaking ceremonies (*The Big Job*, 1942-43). Production continued without interruption for over the next two years, during which time BMI produced 166 million pounds of refined magnesium, roughly one-fourth of the national output. Construction and operation of the Henderson plant contributed about \$100 million to the economy of southern Nevada (*Basic Bombardier*, 1944)



Unfortunately, no plans had been made to assure adequate housing for the thousands of people arriving to work at the new facility. During the early phases of construction many workers and their families lived in tents or other shelters improvised in the bare desert, without power, or running water, or proper sanitation. Federal



1942 map of Basic Townsite.

housing authorities who visited the site found that living conditions were deplorable. Additional federal money was made available to construct higher-quality houses for workers. Construction of the Basic Magnesium plant initiated a new phase in southern Nevada history, building on the potential for industrial development began with the completion of Hoover Dam and the establishment of Boulder City by the Works Project Administration

during the Great Depression. It was also one of the earliest examples of the role that military spending would play in Nevada's future.

Created for the large force of workers and their families imported to work in the BMI facility, the new townsite plan included a layout of hard-surfaced streets, graded service alleys, complete utilities such as sewer, water, and electrical services, 703 two-bedroom houses, 297 three-bedroom houses, all constructed on a standard plan of shiplap on wood frame, composition roof, tongue and groove wood flooring, electric heating, evaporative cooling, full sanitary plumbing, hot and cold water, open garage and driveway. Also included were school buildings, two "bachelor type" apartment buildings of 29 apartments each; theater building; a recreation building that housed a drug store, cafe, barber shop, and bowling alley; general store and market building; nursery-school building ; post-office building; maintenance shop; paint shop; fire station; small shops building; Red Cross building; Boy Scout building; library building; athletic field and field house; asphalt-surfaced tennis court; baseball diamond; and complete hospital serving the area. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt felt workers in new defense era sites would gain a boost in morale if they could attend religious services in a church or chapel. In response to her efforts, standardized architectural drawings for army chapels were developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



BASIC TOWNSITE HOME

Designed to suit the desert landscape, the flat roof had overhangs to shade the house. Inexpensive electricity provided by Hoover Dam made the operation of swamp coolers affordable for these homes. Windows and doors were aligned to provide cross ventilation.

CARVER PARK

African American people in small towns in the south started immigrating to Nevada from small towns in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas to work at BMI. Anti-discrimination policies for employment of workers in defense industries mandated by President Roosevelt did not extend to housing, which was fully segregated for workers of Basic Magnesium, Inc. An isolated 324-unit housing area, including a school, for Black employees of Basic Magnesium and Black airmen from Nellis Air Force Base, Carver Park, was built between 1941 - 1943.



Aerial View of Carver Park in 1943 at about the time of its completion. Note Boulder Hwy at the top and Lake Mead Drive on the left, running diagonally south to north.

In 1943, the government moved in 1000 trailers to form a trailer park below the "tent city". Two housing projects, George Washington Carver Park with 324 apartments, men's dormitories, and Victory Village with 300 apartments and men's dormitories were built, along with lunchroom and a grade school. Many workers camped in the sage brush area back of Pittman.

On New Year's Day, 1944, the Basic Townsite was officially renamed Henderson. This was one of the first outward signs that the community was achieving some degree of permanence. For the next few years, BMI exceeded its planned production rates and employees numbered 14,000 at peak production. However, by 1947 magnesium was no longer needed for defense, the plant closed, and more than half of the employees

left. Almost as quickly as the city was built, it all but disappeared. For a period, the fledgling city of Henderson seemed destined to fade into history when plans were made to dismantle the plant. This was averted in part at least, because of the efforts of Nevada officials, particularly those of its lone congressman and both senators. To save the city, members of the Nevada Legislature gathered in Henderson to evaluate the possibility of state administration of Basic Magnesium. While this recommendation was not implemented, within days of the visit the legislators unanimously approved a bill giving the Colorado River Commission of Nevada the authority to purchase the industrial plants. Governor Vail Pittman signed the Bill on March 27, 1947, helping to save Henderson from becoming war surplus property. The complex was subdivided and sold to several private companies that had production processes that could be adapted to the equipment already in place. In exchange, these companies were assured of ample water and electrical power for many years.

Once private industry became established in the late 1940s, Henderson became recognized as a permanent city. In the early 1950s, BMI once again began producing material needed during the Korean War. In 1953, the community was officially incorporated as the City of Henderson. With the help of local industry, the City of Henderson, Nevada, was officially incorporated on April 16, 1953.

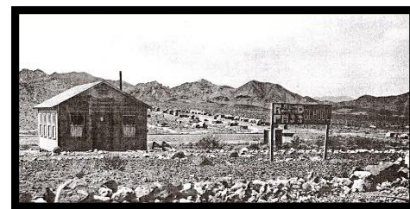
Modern Henderson Emerges

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Henderson remained a relatively small factory town. In the early 1980s, the first master planned community, Green Valley, was plotted. In 1988, the facilities of one of the companies manufacturing rocket fuel at the former BMI plant site, Pacific Engineering and Production Company of Nevada (PEPCON), caught fire. The conflagration ignited tremendous explosions that destroyed many of the facility buildings, killed two people and injured 372. In the aftermath of the tragedy, Henderson started to move away from heavy industry to other types of businesses. Today, much of the former plant site has become warehouses

EARLY HENDERSON SCHOOLS

The Henderson school system began with a one-room schoolhouse established in 1932 serving children from a mining district bordering the Boulder Canyon and became known as the Railroad Pass School District. In 1942, plans for the Basic townsite's first school were developed for children of BMI workers. The Railroad Pass School District was officially expanded to include Basic Townsite, including its new trailer camp, and Pittman. A new Board of Trustees, including two BMI employees, was established, teachers were hired, and crews began construction of a 12-grade school building and auditorium in the Basic townsite. The auditorium was available for use by the community at night and for church services on Sundays. The school was designed to serve approximately 1000 pupils. The first graduating class of 10 students was in the spring of 1943. The original Basic townsite campus continued to serve students as Townsite Elementary and Henderson Junior High into the 1960s.

By legislative action, schools in Henderson joined the Clark County School District in 1956. The number of Henderson city schools has grown to over 65, including public, private, and post-secondary schools.



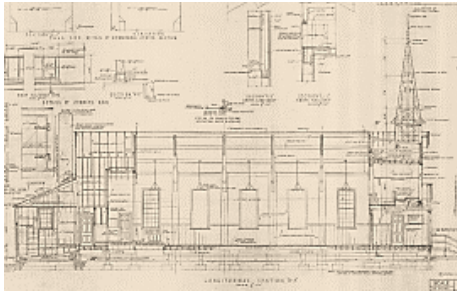
*The one-room Railroad Pass schoolhouse,
1932*

and office buildings, and the community has become a residential sister community for Las Vegas with large residential and resort developments.

Henderson's population in 1980 was 24,363; by the end of the twentieth century the population had reached 175,381. In 2023, population increased to more than 322,000.

EARLY CHURCH BUILDINGS

The newly constructed Basic Townsite included two church buildings; one to be used as a site for Catholic worship and one to be used for Protestant services. These church buildings were erected according to plans from the US Army Quartermaster sometime in the early 1940's. The *Mobilization Buildings/Regimental Chapel/Type CH-1* was constructed at military bases and wartime installations across the US. The standardized design specified details for construction of the pews and their placement, the altar, sanctuary chairs and the organ loft, although the steeple was sometimes replaced by a cross and a lightning rod.



Standardized Plans for Mobilization Buildings/Regimental Chapel/Type CH-1

In 1983, Congress directed the Department of Defense (DoD) via the Military Construction Authorization Act to demolish remaining World War II-era temporary buildings, like the chapels. (Shaw Wasch, Perry & Landreth, 1992).

Today, the City of Henderson has grown from 13 square miles to more than 103 square miles. Now Nevada's second largest city, with a thriving economy, master-planned communities, world-class recreation, and proximity to several of the country's national and man-made treasures, it is one of the fastest-growing cities in the nation.

Building Communities of Faith

Religious services in the newly constructed townsite were sparse. On November 15, 1942 a community Sunday School was organized. The School Board granted permission for the use of school rooms for a nominal fee.

In October, 1942, Rev. Roy Crouch, representing the Federal Council of Churches (now the National Council of Churches) in Southern California, was sent through its Mission Council to the area to conduct a religious survey of townsite residents. On November 9, 1942, 84 persons met with Rev. Crouch at the Townsite school and signed a petition requesting that an Interdenominational Church be formed under the Federal Council of Churches. (The signers represented ten Protestant denominations — 26 Methodist, 25 Baptists, 14 "Christians", 11 Presbyterians, 7 Episcopalians, 2 Fundamentalists, 2 Universalists, 1 Lutheran, 1 Community Church, 1 United Brethren and 5 not indicated.) The church was duly organized to be called Basic Community Church. Funds were appropriated for a

Interdenominational Protestant Church and a Catholic Church by the federal agency that financed the development of defense plants during World War II.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the Protestant church were held at Texas and Army Streets (27 E. Texas) on September 7, 1943, and the first services were held in the new building on February 22, 1944. In January 1944, when the Post Office was dedicated, the name of Basic Townsite was changed to Henderson, and the church became the Community Church of Henderson.



*Community Church of Henderson
1940s*

In September, 1944 rumors of the closing of the BMI plant led many church members to move away. Rev. Crouch resigned, and from September 1944 until April, 1945, the Henderson Community Church was

under the direction of its Church Council and Grace Community Church of Boulder City, with substitute pastors filling the pulpit. In April, 1945 Rev. George Patterson of Phoenix, a Presbyterian, was called through the Federal Council of Churches of Southern California. He served until April, 1950. Then followed a series of ministers from various denominations. — Ford Gilbert, Methodist; Douglas Weeden, Baptist; Dr. Clayton Gill, Congregational; Vernon Hoffman, Congregational; Dr. Gerald Mill, Christian Church.



St. Timothy

St. Timothy was an early Christian evangelist and the first Christian bishop of Ephesus. The Apostle Paul met him during his missionary journey, and Timothy became Paul's companion and missionary partner. Paul consecrated Timothy as the Bishop of Ephesus in the year 65, and he served 15 years. In the year 97 Timothy tried to stop a pagan procession of idols, ceremonies, and songs, but the angry pagans beat him, dragged him through the streets, and stoned him to death. In the 4th century, his relics were transferred to the Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople. His feast day is celebrated on January 26th.

Building St. Timothy's

Isaiah 43: 19 I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

While participating in services at the new Community Church, Episcopal worshippers were making plans to establish a church in the Basic Townsite. In early 1944 the Rev. Barclay Johnson received an appointment from the National Council to Boulder City, Henderson, and Searchlight. He was vicar at St. Christopher's in Boulder City and "priest-in-charge at Henderson." He left before the end of 1944 and, because of the temporary shutdown of the B.M.I. complex. Those who wanted to attend Sunday school and/or church traveled to St. Christopher's.

Rev. Winston Trever was appointed to lead the "greater parish" for Boulder City and Henderson in October 1944. Grace Church in Boulder City took charge of work in Victory Village and Carver Park (Boulder City News, Oct. 1944). In the fall of 1945 townsite children were still being transported

to Boulder City to attend Sunday classes. In January 1946 Henderson held its own Sunday school sessions which met in the high school (as were the Sunday schools of two other churches). In early 1946 Sister Paula, of the Sisters of the Holy Nativity of Las Vegas, began directing the Henderson Sunday school for the Episcopal Church.

The initial organizational meeting of the "Church of Saint Timothy, Episcopal" took place on 9 April 1946 at the home of a member of the congregation. Rev. Lamer, vicar of St. Christopher's, Boulder City, represented Bishop Lewis, and a church council was elected at that meeting. The first service, Holy Communion, was held by Rev. Lamer on 21 April 1946 at the former ration board house at 107 Water Street. A building was purchased by the church in 1946. The people of St. Timothy's agreed to pay for one-half of the salary of a resident priest and asked the bishop to appoint one.

St. Timothy's regular Sunday services began on 19 May 1946. They were conducted by Rev. Lamer and Rev. Rosson, the rector of Christ Church, Las Vegas. Effective that day, 18 people transferred to St. Timothy's from St. Christopher's in Boulder City. Bishop Lewis also attended that service and confirmed two people in Henderson.

The Rev. Howard E. Davis was appointed by Bishop Lewis as the first vicar of St. Timothy's. (For a list of St. Timothy's clergy over time, see Appendix A.) His inaugural service was conducted on 18 Aug 1946 in the church/rectory at 107 Water Street. Thanks to the efforts of Rev. Davis in building St. Timothy's congregation, Bishop Lewis noted in 1947 that St. Timothy's had the most baptisms, the most confirmations, and the largest church school in the state in 1946. Rev. Davis left St. Timothy's to become a chaplain at San Diego State University in 1947.



*St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Henderson
circa 1952
Miriam Hall Stevenson Potter Collection*

Rev. Davis was replaced by the Rev. John Farrell in October 1947. A sunrise service was held on Easter day 1948 at the Community Church because St. Timothy's meeting site on Water Street was too small. The children's special vestments for the occasion were on loan, probably arranged by Sister Paula, and the service was conducted by Rev. Farrell, who left as vicar of St. Timothy's in May 1948.

The Rev. Henry A. Link, the honorary canon at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Wyoming, became vicar early in 1949. With the assistance of Nevada's Senator Pat

McCarran, he made arrangements to purchase the former 37-foot x 97-foot chapel at Blythe Air Force Base in

California for \$53,000. The Blythe building was completely equipped and was transported to Bullhead City, then to Henderson, for use as the new St. Timothy's Church.

Bishop Lewis took out a \$10,000 mortgage on his house in Reno to ensure completion of St. Timothy's building activity. Poor health forced Rev. Link to leave Henderson later that year. Bishop Lewis held the first service in the partially completed new facility in the fall of 1949.

After Rev Link's departure, St. Timothy's had no resident vicar for six months until the Rev. Albert E. Stephens, Jr. arrived in February 1950. In 1950, with the financial help of the National Church, a new rectory at 42 Pacific St. (across the street from the church) was received in trade for the old one on Water Street (Henderson Home

News [HHN],
August 1950).

The vicarage,
an original
Henderson



St. Timothy's beautification work, about 1952; Rev Stevenson top left

July or August 1951 St. Timothy's requested permission to purchase the land on which it stood to complete a beautification program. Tragically, Rev. Stephens was killed in an auto accident on 3 September 1950. He was briefly replaced by the Rev. Ralph Stevens in 1951, then by the Rev. Robert Stevenson in January 1952. Rev Stevenson conducted sunrise services on Easter Sunday 1953 at a cross that had been erected on the side of

Black Mountain facing the B.M.I. plants and the Henderson townsite. Later the same year, Rev. Stephenson left St. Timothy's for Reno, to become part of the diocese's general mission.

GROUNDBREAKING

Before the service, four stakes are set in the ground, at the corners of the proposed building. Three cords are prepared, two to extend diagonally from corner to corner, a third to enclose the space. A spade is placed at the site of the Altar.

As part of the Episcopal service for the founding of a church, Rev. Link led a rite for the groundbreaking in June 1949. Workers, church members, and local dignitaries gathered to bless the site of the new church building. (Boulder City News, June 1949)

"townsite" home, was then remodeled. The remodeling increased the size of the living room by extending it into the carport. One of the two bedrooms was also enlarged, and the kitchen was remodeled. (This vicarage was replaced with a new vicarage purchased on 8 Jul 1960.) In



Vicarage prior to 1953 renovation

NEVADA BISHOP AFFIRMS FAITH IN ST.
TIMOTHY'S

This headline appeared in the *Henderson Home News* on Jan 15, 1953.

"My faith in Henderson has paid off at last," said the Right Rev. William Fischer Lewis, Episcopal Bishop of Nevada, while visiting St. Timothy's for confirmation ceremonies. The number of local parishioners had tripled during the previous year, and a group of 17 people were confirmed at the Sunday morning service. More than 100 people attended luncheon with the bishop following the service.

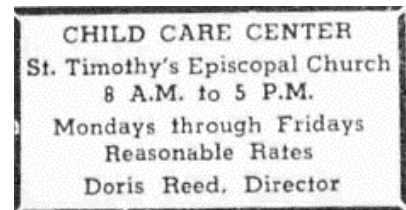
In September 1954 Bishop Lewis transferred Rev. Robert H. Cochrane, curate of Trinity Church, Reno, to St. Timothy's. Rev. Cochrane stayed until early 1960 when he became associated with Christ Church, Las Vegas. (In 1976 Rev. Cochrane was consecrated Bishop Coadjutor and, later that same year Bishop of the Diocese of Olympia, one of the few Nevada priests who would become a bishop.)

The legal title to the land was not secured until 8 Apr 1952 when the Colorado River Commission, deeded lot I, Block 25 to the Bishop of Nevada. Bishop Lewis reported at the 1953 convocation that, "We have at last secured legal title to the

church and land at Henderson and are buying the vicarage there as well. In early 1955 St. Timothy's was the proud beneficiary of a new cross, and Rev. Cochrane started a fund for the purchase of new church doors (Chase, 2001).

During the years following its founding, St. Timothy's began a vibrant program of community involvement and service (HHN, 1949, 1953).

- Carver Park/Victory Village Recreation – Members of St. Timothy's began serving more than 60 children of Carver Park as they supervised play activities at the Carver Park administration building. (HHN, July 1949)
- Vacation Church School – St. Timothy's provided summer learning activities for young children in the community. During the two-week classes, children heard Bible stories and presented dramatizations of the stories they had learned. (HHN, July 1953)
- Welcome Wagon – St. Timothy's was instrumental in organizing a local chapter of this national organization for women, whose purpose is to offer civic help by providing facilities for the amusement of teenagers and helping to promote a closer relationship between merchants of the city and the residents. (HHN, July 1953)
- Boy Scouts - Rev. Stevenson served as Protestant chaplain for Nevada, Utah, and Arizona Scout councils. (HHN, July 1953)



Henderson Home News,
July 1953

- St. Anne's Guild - St. Anne's Guild offered women the opportunity for spiritual growth and nourishment, fellowship, activities focusing on mission and ministry, opportunities for service, social action and advocacy, and connection to a worldwide network of Anglican women (HHN, July 1953).

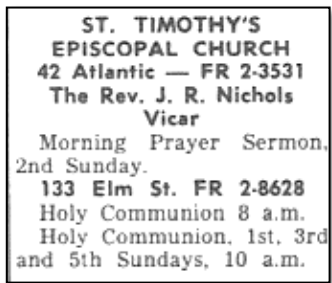
During the summer of 1956 Rev. Cochrane had as his assistant Edward E. Murphy, a theological student at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, who assisted in the daily services, with parish calls, and with vacation church school, during a five-week period. The statistics for the year 1957 were given at the January 1958 annual meeting. Twelve infant baptisms, thirteen adult baptisms, and eighteen confirmations were reported. There were at year's end 142 communicants in good standing, 105 families, 156 confirmed people, and 245 baptized members. The highest budget in the church's history was approved at the meeting (Crowell, 2006).

Rev. Cochrane left St. Timothy's in January 1960. Church members assumed responsibility for services at St. Timothy's until his temporary replacement, Rev. Arthur Kean, arrived in February 1960 (HHN, Feb. 4, 1960). Rev. Kean's replacement, the Rev. Robert Nicholas, arrived in August 1960 from Idaho. Prior to coming to St. Timothy's, Rev. Nicholas was part of the national Episcopal ministry for developing clergy members for rural communities. Rev. Nicholas became an active member of Henderson's religious community, becoming a founding member of the *Ministerial Fellowship*, an interdenominational group for local ministers that met once a month at St. Timothy's (HHN Jan. 17, 1961).



The status of the church building and rectory during this time is unclear. Services were listed in the local paper at 42 Atlantic Ave. (There appears to have been some confusion over the actual address of St. Timothy's over the years.) Rev. Nicholas' address was listed as being at 133 Elm Street, indicating a change in the location of the rectory. The Mission Council elected by the congregation at its annual meeting in January 1961 was responsible for implementing improvements to the church property in the coming year. A new roof and a new furnace had recently been installed, and a retaining wall around the church property was nearly completed. Landscaping of the grounds was the next task for the new council (HHN, January 1961).

Rev. Nicholas' wife, Barbara, made local news in an article entitled "Woman & House & Kids — Scouts; That's How Barbara Started" (HHN, February 2, 1961).



*Henderson Home News
January 19, 1961*

In addition to being the mother of three children, Barbara received her master's degree in religious science from St. Margaret's House in Berkeley, CA, where she majored in child development. When she and her family relocated to Henderson, she became the den mother for the local Boy Scouts, who met at the Nicholas home on Elm Street.



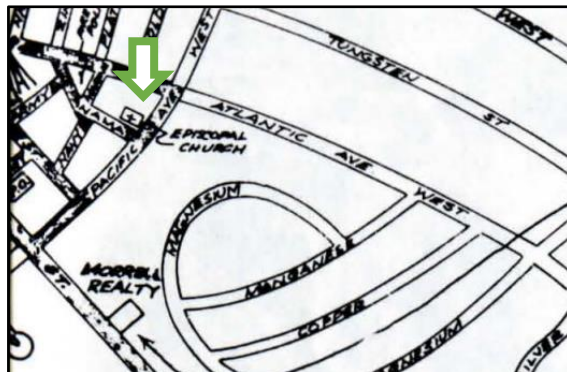
*1St. Timothy's in March 1961
(Rev Nicholas is at the middle back
of the group and the Right Rev
Wright is on the right.)*

It appears that the original church building was used for the Right Reverend William G. Wright's visit to confirm a group of 15 youth in March 1961 (HHN, March 25, 1961). However, ads for the church services seem to indicate that some services might have been held at Rev. Nichols' (sic) home on Elm Street (HHN), although this may also be a clerical error. A map from community directory pamphlet from 1961 shows the church building where it stands today (Luskey, 1961).

On Nov. 25, 1961, the Episcopal Young People of Southern Nevada met at St. Timothy's for the first of a semi-annual get-together. Twenty-

five young people and advisors met for Holy Communion, morning session, lunch, afternoon session, and a dance in the late afternoon.

In May 1962, the Right Reverend Wright, Episcopal Bishop of Nevada confirmed a class of five adults at St. Timothy's. The Bishop also met with the Mission Council to discuss the building program of the Church, including the addition of new classrooms for the Sunday School and a multi-purpose room for Church activities (HHN, May 31, 1962).



*Luskey's Henderson-Boulder City "Blue Book"
Directory, 1961*

**ST. TIMOTHY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
PACIFIC AND PANAMA ST.
FR 2-3531
The Rev. J. R. Nicholas
Vicar
133 Elm St. FR 2-2-4628
Morning prayer and Ser-
mon 2nd and 4th Sunday 9:15
A.M.
Holy Communion every Sun-
day 8 a.m.
Holy Communion & Sermon
1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays, 9:15
a.m.**

It appears that the questionable information on the church ad in the Henderson paper was finally updated to show the correct location of the church and the proper name of the vicar over a year later in August 1962. St. Timothy's worship, fellowship, and study programs continued to develop in the Lenten season of 1963, offering a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, various study groups focusing on Lent and Easter, and rehearsals for a Junior Choir (HHN, 26 Feb 1963).

Fundraising for church improvements (bridge tournaments, rummage sales, women's teas, spaghetti dinners, fashion shows) were also ongoing church programs.

Rev. Nicholas resurrected an interdenominational Easter Sunrise service at the base of Black Mountain that was inaugurated by Rev Stevenson in 1953 but had been discontinued for several years (HHN, 11 Apr 1963). In addition to special services for holidays, Rev. Nicholas began to share short articles related to scripture in the local paper (HHN, 12 Dec. 1964).



The Rev R. Stevenson at the Easter Service in 1953 at the base of Black Mountain

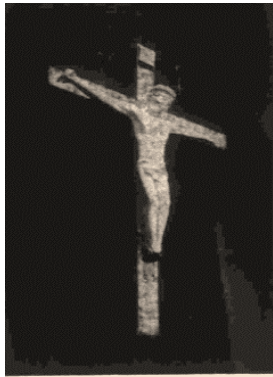
St. Timothy's continued to serve the community in several other ways.

- In collaboration with the Henderson Service Club and the Clark County Mental Health Association, Rev Nicholas planned the public presentation of a series of eight films on mental health in weekly meetings at St. Timothy's parish house (HHN, 12 Jan 1965).
- Cub Scout Pack 36 continued to meet at the church, participating in a "Cubmobile Derby" with Western movie and television stars Wild Bill Elliott and Dolly officiating (HHN 27 July 1965).
- A service of "Recognition and Rededication" was held at St. Timothy's for all who were involved in the teaching profession and members of the community interested in honoring them for their work (HHN 8 Sept 1966).
- St. Timothy's Art Guild offered instruction in beginning oil as a class and as a workshop for those wishing to use their own composition (HHN 6 Oct 1966).
- Rev. Nicholas worked with other Henderson church leaders to establish "The Local," a coffee house near Texas and Army Streets that was open for teenage poetry reading and music on Friday evenings (HHN 21 Dec 1967).
- Free immunization clinics to prevent diphtheria, polio, and measles, along with free well-child examinations, were offered at St. Timothy's monthly in collaboration with the District Health Department (HHN 1972-74).



Rev George Gerard

Rev. Nicholas retired from the clergy in 1968 to pursue work in marriage and family counseling (HHN 14 Jan 1969). On 8 September 1968 the Rev. George Gerard assumed the position of vicar at St. Timothy's. The Rev. George Gerard and his wife, Judy, came to Henderson after spending six years outside of the USA. Rev. Gerard oversaw two Spanish-speaking congregations in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Prior to coming to St. Timothy's, Rev. Gerard was vicar at St. Mary's the Virgin in Winnemucca from 1962-1967.



"I cut away everything that didn't look like Christ."

Sculptor Ben Sweet presented a crucifix to St. Timothy's carved from a single piece of sugar pine, especially ordered from Oregon (HHN 19 June 1969).

In addition to his duties at St. Timothy's, Rev. Gerard conducted intermittent Christian Healing Missions in Henderson and Pioche. He reorganized St.

Timothy's youth activities, new Bible study groups were begun, and Rev Gerard continued to provide sermonettes for the local paper during the holidays (HHN 24 Dec 1968). Sunday School classes were scheduled for children in kindergarten through eighth grade in the hour before the

communion service at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings. An evening Youth Fellowship group was formed for high school students. Sunday services and Bible study groups were expanded.

**ST. TIMOTHY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
Pacific & Panama Street
The Rev. George Gerard
Church Phone 565-3531
Sunday Services:
8:45 a.m. Church School
9 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10 a.m. Holy Communion
7 p.m. Youth Group
Wed., 10 a.m. Bible Study
Fri., 7:30 p.m. Bible Study

In May 1969, The Rt. Rev. Wright, Episcopal Bishop of Nevada, conducted a three-day preaching mission at St. Timothy's on "Doubt and Dogma" (HHN 22 May 1969) in addition to confirming new members of the church.

A chapter of the Order of St. Luke was organized at St. Timothy's in January 1971 following a three-day mission of Spiritual Healing at the church (HHN 11 Feb 1971). The International Order of St. Luke the Physician (OSL) is an ecumenical organization dedicated to Christian healing ministry, founded for the purpose of restoring the ministry of healing to the Church as well as to extend healing ministry beyond the Church to the greater community into hospitals, nursing homes and everywhere where people were in need (St. Cross, nd). Rev. Gerard worked with St. Viator's Catholic Church in Las Vegas to offer a Charismatic Clinic for the member of OSL and other interested members of the community (HHN 15 Apr 1971). St. Timothy's also offered a "Family Life Day" program aimed at helping parents deal with the demands of parenthood (HHN 16 Sept 1971).

GOD HAS A PLAN
FOR YOUR FAMILY!
If You Want to Know What
It Is Come To---
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
CORNER OF PACIFIC AND PANAMA
Saturday, January 29th
Session Begins 9 AM — Ends 4 PM
WELCOME HUSBAND AND/OR WIVES
Bring a Sack Lunch

The new Bishop for Nevada, the Rt. Rev. Wesley Frensdorff came to lead a Confirmation and Communion service

"They're doing some things at St. Timothy's with the Holy Spirit. I don't agree with it, but it's kind of interesting," a valley cleric told a reporter. (HHN 5 May 1972).

St. Timothy's in May 1972 (HHN 11 May 1972). That same month, Rev. Gerard caused some stir in the clerical community in Henderson when he offered a service devoted to the "laying on of hands." According to a description in the Henderson Home News (25 May 1972), the traditional

Episcopal service added a time for members of the congregation who desired to come forward to the altar rail to receive a special prayer by Rev. Gerard.

Weekend Renewal

St. Timothy's also hosted a series of "Weekend of Renewal" services with special guest speakers and performers who shared ideas about healing, deliverance, and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (HHN 20 July 1972). The speakers included the host of a religious radio program in Phoenix, an evangelical speaker from Peru (HHN 22 Jan 1974), a religious leader described as a "Bible teacher and Prophet," (HHN 14 Feb 1974), and a choir from the evangelical Melodyland Christian Center in California (HHN 21 May 1974). These monthly programs also included an author and publisher of Christian books and member of the Board of the Order of St. Luke the Physician (HHN 30 May 1974), a former professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of California at Berkeley (20 Feb 1975), and a retired general and a member of the Executive Board of the Episcopal Charismatic Fellowship (HHN 8 July 1975). These speakers, and others, repeated their program of "spiritual awakening" at St. Timothy's beginning early in the following year (HHN 12 Feb 1975).



Other changes and additions to St. Timothy's included new programs, services, and signage.

- A summer youth program of "singing, praying, sharing, Bible Study and arts and crafts" (HHN 25 June 1974) featuring youth from Maranatha Ministries.
- Children aged 9 to 19 were invited to attend a cooking class, "Tricks for Treats," at the church in collaboration with the Nevada Cooperative Extension (HHN 19 Aug 1975).
- A new sign created by a local artist was donated to St. Timothy's. Located at the front left-hand corner of the outside of the church, it read, "From Jesus, With Love" (HHN 1 May 1975).
- A new Sunday evening service was established at St. Timothy's for "prayer, praise, teaching and sharing" (HHN 1 Jan 1976). An Al Anon group began to meet weekly (HHN 7 Mar 1978).

In May 1975, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church adopted a revised certificate of incorporation listing Rev. George Gerard and members of the Vestry as the officers of the corporation (Clark County Recorder). The address for St. Timothy's was listed as 42 Pacific Ave.

Rev. Gerard left St. Timothy's in 1979 to serve at St. Columbus Church and Retreat House in Inverness, California. He and his wife also operated *Iona House*, a retreat center for counseling and prayer (HHN 8 July 1982).

There is little evidence for activities at St. Timothy's in 1979. Rev. Gerard performed a funeral service early in the year, but there is no indication that the weekend renewal services continued after 1978. An article in

the local paper (HHN 26 July 1979), indicates that during this time St. Timothy's was only having one church service at 10:00 on Sundays, and the Sunday School classes met at the same time. A service of "prayer, praise, and sharing" was offered on Wednesday evenings. The Rev. Wayne Bickford was listed as the preacher for these services, and the Right Rev. Wesley Frensdorff celebrated the installation of Rev. Bickford as rector of St. Timothy's (HHN 27 Sept 1979).

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church	
Schedule of services for St. Timothy's Episcopal Church for the week of September 9:	Wednesday, September 12: 10 a.m. Bible Study; 12:10 p.m. Mass; 7 p.m. Praise and Sharing Service.
Sunday, September 9, 10 a.m. Worship and mass; 10 a.m. Childrens Church; Coffee fellowship after service.	Office hours: Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Come worship with us, Panama and Pacific. Where Christ reigns.

2Henderson Home News, 6 Sept 1979

Church activities gradually began to appear again in the local news. The women's group met to plan a church bazaar, the children of the church marched in Henderson's Christmas Parade, and Al Anon continued its weekly meetings. Chapters of Overeaters Anonymous and Gamblers Anonymous also began to meet weekly at the church (HHN 20 Nov 1980; 18 Aug 1981). The use of evangelical guest speakers at St. Timothy's began again for weekend renewal programs (HHN 15 Jan 1980). "Christian Unity" services were scheduled Wednesday evenings at St. Timothy's. Rev. Wayne Bickford

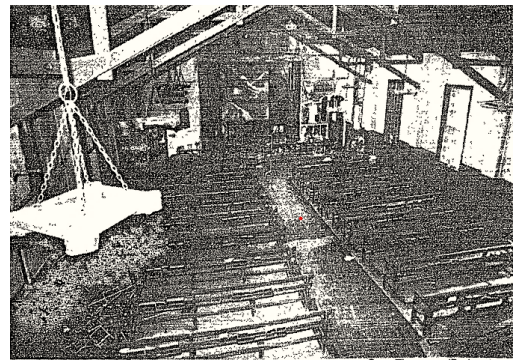
participated in talks with a Catholic priest, and an Assemblies of God Pastor to share with the community what God had been teaching them through their ministries (HHN 28 Feb 1980).

Rev. Bickford left St. Timothy's, and in September 1981, Rev. Gerard returned to Henderson to assist with church services and meetings at St. Timothy's. He and his wife, Judy, held weekend "healing missions" and offered counseling (HHN 8 July 1982).

FIRE!

On New Year's Day, 1982, firefighters responded to a fire at St. Timothy's. The investigation of the fire that gutted the sacrament room revealed that the cause of the fire was arson. According to the Henderson Fire Department vestment cloths and altar linen were piled in the center of the room and accelerant was poured on the materials. They theorize the arsonist stood in the doorway and threw a lit match on the pile which exploded. (HHN 7 Jan 1982).

A 22-year-old Henderson man was arrested in connection with the fire and burglary of the church. Police alleged the suspect stole a small refrigerator and other household items, stashed



Charred remains of sanctuary (LVRJ 27 Feb 1982)

them across the street, and torched the church to cover his tracks (LVRJ 27 Feb 1982). According to investigators, the man was seen running from the scene as firefighters arrived to fight the fire. The suspect was stopped several blocks from the fire by a police officer who became suspicious of his appearance. The suspect was alleged to smell like smoke and had singe marks on his face and hairline and burn marks on his blue and red ski jacket. He was also alleged to have had an inflammatory material on his boots. Ironically, the officer who arrested the suspect was a member of St. Timothy's. The suspect was not connected with the church (LVRJ 27 Feb 1982).

A Fire Department commander said that the 40-year-old building was built with heavy material that probably saved the roof from caving in. The fire that nearly destroyed the church forced the congregation to find a temporary place of worship. Church services and meetings were held in a room in St. Peter's Catholic Church annex. Father Caesar Caviglia offered the meeting place immediately after the fire that reportedly caused \$100,000 damage to the church (HHN 7 Jan 1982).

St Timothy's Decides to Rebuild Church

"We know that something good will come of all this. Already we've been shown what beautiful Christians of all denominations we have in this valley," Director of St. Timothy's Altar Guild (LVRJ 27 Feb 1982).

Parishioners had to decide whether to demolish a fire charred structure or completely remodel the old building. Despite the overall dismal situation, it was determined that the actual structure of the building and its pitched, open-ceiling roof was still strong enough to pass city building codes. Insurance money amounted to what it would

cost to put the church in the condition it was in before the fire; however, church members decided to upgrade and modernize the nearly 40-year-old structure. The original building had become one of the city's architectural standouts in what was an otherwise drab fiat-roofed skyline, so it was decided to keep the high-pitched roof, but the inside ceiling was lowered a few feet to allow for a crawl space and insulation. The church's building committee planned for increased energy efficiency and a more modern look for both the inside and the outside of the building. As one elder parishioner said, "It (the building) was fine for when it was, but let's move on to the future" (HHN 16 Feb 1982).

The church temporarily moved Sunday worship services to the sanctuary at Henderson's First Baptist Church (16 Feb 1982). Church members held a Rummage Sale on Lake Mead Drive to raise funds for rebuilding the church (HHN 13 May 1982), and various other local churches made generous contributions to the church for its rebuilding. St. Timothy's congregation was back in the church building by summer. A Eucharist service was celebrated by Father Burt Ward of St. Jude's Ranch (24 June 1982).



Picture published 2 May 1996

The rebuilt church building was dedicated in a ceremony on July 25, 1982, that was celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Frensdorff, Bishop of Nevada (HHN 22 July 1982). An open house on October 2 invited the local community to view the newly constructed church (28 Sept 1982).

Rebuilding Community

St. Timothy's was able to begin again to offer services to local residents. Al Anon and Gamblers Anonymous resumed weekly meetings at the church. A musical concert, "To God be the Glory," was performed by the "Timotheans," free to the community (HHN 8 Dec 1983). Ladies of St. Timothy offered a community yard sale at the church, including baked goods and "sidewalk café" (HHN 10 May 1984). The season of Advent was heralded with a spaghetti supper for congregation and community members, for a small donation to the church (6 Dec 1984), and a *Concert of Christmas Carols* presented by musicians from St. Timothy was open to the public (HHN 13 Dec 1984). The Las Vegas Crisis Pregnancy Center offered a session designed to offer guidance and compassionate support to women who were experiencing a crisis in pregnancy (HHN 17 Oct 1985).

IT'S ONLY TEN MINUTES FROM GREEN VALLEY...

WHERE: In Henderson, of course, at Panama & Pacific
WHAT: St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
WHEN: Sundays at 10:00 AM (Service of Holy Communion with Church School & Nursery)
WHY: It's more than a building and a service -- it's a family!
For more information, come on Sunday morning OR
Call the Church Office at 565-8033, mornings.

Henderson Home News, 14 March 1985

Regular worship services resumed, led by Rev. Gerard (HHN 2 Feb 1984). A program of guest speakers began again, featuring an evangelist from Phoenix speaking on the gifts of healing (HHN 20 Sep 1984) and clergy from Inverness, California talking on "The Incarnation" (HHN 11 Oct 1984). Rev. Gerard offered a seminar on different types of prayer (HHN 31 Jan 1985). A weekly series of Lenten teachings on "Principles to Live By" were led by Rev. Gerard and his wife, Judy (HHN 19 Feb 1985). Seminars were presented at St. Timothy's on discovering "Gifts of the Holy Spirit", based on Romans 12: 6-8 (HHN 25 Mar 1985). Rev. Gerard led a series of Friday evening sessions on the life of Christ (HHN 10 Oct 1985), and a Seder (Passover) Dinner, was celebrated in the Parish Hall on Maundy Thursday, followed by a celebration of the holy communion (HHN 30 Mar 1986). A six-week film series film was offered on Saturday nights that examined "traditional family values and how they may be restored and nurtured" (HHN 8 May 1986).

**ST. TIMOTHY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Presents:
**'SEX, DRUGS,
AND ROCK-N-ROLL'-
AN OVERVIEW
OF THE OCCULT**

guest speaker:
**MIKE MAYBERRY
OF THE HDN. POLICE DEP.**

**THURS. MARCH 6TH, 1986
AT 7:00 P.M.
43 W. PACIFIC AVE.**

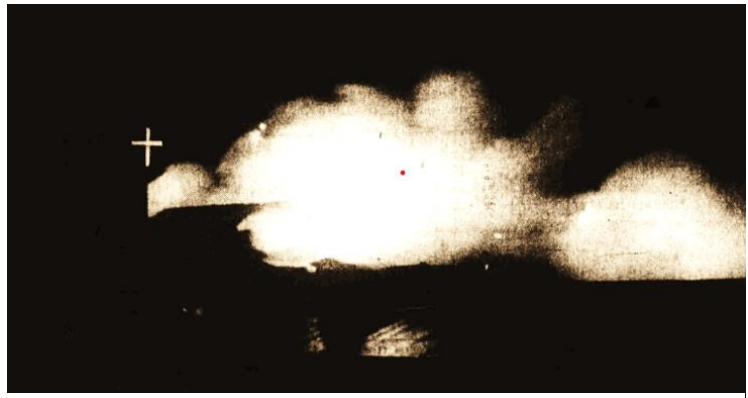
HHN 4 Mar 1986

In Jan 1987, the Rt. Rev. Stewart Zabriskie traveled to St. Timothy's to lead a three-day seminar on "Living the Christian Life" (HHN 20 Jan 1987). Guest speakers continued to contribute to St. Timothy's. The founder of the Cornerstone Church brought a message about the fundamental doctrines of orthodox evangelical Christianity (28 July 1987), the Executive Director of Barnabas Ministries encouraged a balance in renewal within the local church (8 Sep 1988), and a leader for Operation Rescue spoke on the sanctity of life (HHN 20 Apr 1989).

FIRE GUTS ST. TIMOTHY AGAIN!

Sunday night, 27 May 1990, Henderson and Clark County firefighters arrived at the scene of a fire at St.

Timothy's church. Henderson police briefly blocked off part of Water Street when heavy smoke from the fire covered the ground there. Fire officials concluded that the blaze was due to an electrical problem in the circuit to a water heater in the storage room. Although arson was not the official cause of the fire, parishioners had found the doors to the priests' study closed, when they had been left open, and the offering box had been moved (LVRJ 30 May 1990).



The cross atop St. Timothy's reflects the devastating fire (HHN 5 June 1990).

Initial reports said that damage from this fire was extensive, much greater than damage from the fire eight years earlier (HHN 31 May 1990). The roof of the sanctuary collapsed, and most parts of the church

"People were sorry, but the church is the people, not the building," said one member of the congregation (LVRJ 30 May 1990).

sustained water damage. The damage was estimated at \$500,000, although the

church carried a two-million-dollar insurance policy. Plans to rebuild the church building were soon underway, including smoke detectors, a fire alarm, and sprinklers. (LVRJ 30 May 1990).

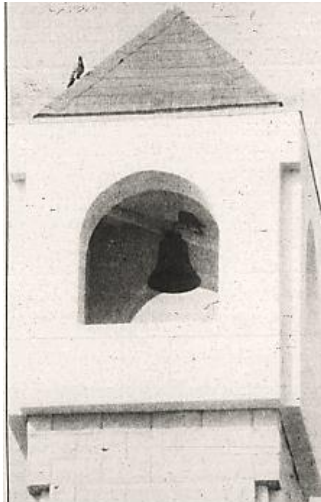
The Rev. George Gerard was visiting Germany and was unavailable at the time of the fire, but church members began salvaging undamaged items from rooms in the church as soon as they were able. The Community Church in Henderson, the First



Members of St. Timothy's built a new building after a fire destroyed the church (HHN 9 Apr 1992).

Baptist Church of Henderson, and the Sisters of Charity in Boulder City all offered the temporary use of their facilities to St. Timothy's for worship services (LVRJ 29-30 May 1990).

Members of St. Timothy's again decided to rebuild on the same site. "This is downtown Henderson, and this is our history and our legacy," commented one parishioner. St. Timothy's new construction project (represented by McLaughlin Architect) was granted a variance to allow 11 on-site parking spaces where 69 were required (HHN 9 Apr 1991). A request for an Architectural Review for the new church building was made in September 1991. (See a timeline for the rebuilding St. Timothy's see Appendix B.)



Pigeons In downtown Henderson found a new perch at the recently completed St. Timothy's Episcopal Church on the corner of Pacific and Panama (HHN 25 Feb 1993).

A dedication ceremony for the new building was led by Rt. Rev. Stewart Zabriskie at St. Timothy's on February 21, 1993, with Rev. Gerard as celebrant and the Rt. Rev. John David Schofield of the San Joaquin Diocese attending. The service marked Rev. Gerard's retirement from the Episcopal

ST. TIMOTHY'S CLERGY MOVE ON

It is interesting that 1996 also marked the establishment of St. Paul's Charismatic Episcopal Church in Henderson under the leadership of two of St. Timothy's previous clergy members, Revs. Gerard and Hoff.

St. Paul's Charismatic Episcopal Church
 1661 Galleria Dr.
 (White Middle School, Henderson)
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10AM
 Father George Gerard • 564-1152
 Father David Hoff • Father Charles Coleman

HHN 13 June 1996

church after 25 years of service (LVRJ 20 Feb 1993).

Rev. Dr. Lloyd Rupp assumed leadership of St. Timothy's in 1994. Information about church activities during this time is scarce, but it appears that the church community continued with their traditional service time, programs, and fundraisers. A raffle/bazaar (April 1995), a performance and spaghetti dinner (Nov 1995), and a Shrove pancake dinner (Feb 1996), helped raise money for the building fund. About 30 families belonged to the parish at this point.

One highlight of the year was St. Timothy's 50th anniversary, 1946-

St. Timothy's celebrates 50th

St. Timothy's Episcopal Parish in Henderson will celebrate its 50th anniversary of faith at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 4, according to the Rev. Lloyd Rupp, rector of the historic church.

"We're anticipating that many former members and clergy will join us to celebrate this occasion," said Rupp.

(St. Timothy's members over the years have stood fast in the faith as evidenced by fires in 1982 and 1990. In view of the reconstruction of the church on two occasions by the faithful Christians, I salute them all," Vernon Scholes, senior warden, said.

The Right Rev. Stewart Zabriskie, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada, will head the celebration which includes the 11 a.m. Eucharist, a reception following the service, and an open house in the parish hall from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The Rev. George Gerard served the parish for 25 years until his retirement in 1993. Rupp came to the church in 1994.

(HHN 25 Apr 1996)

1996! Church members celebrated the perseverance of their community through the trials of the two fires at St. Timothy's and its reconstruction. A 50th anniversary fall festival was held at the church, including a rummage sale, a bake sale, arts and crafts, children's activities, entertainment, and food - including hot dogs, hamburgers, and a fish fry (HHN 26 Sep 1996).

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Pastor Rev. Dr. Lloyd Rupp
WORSHIP • Tues. Noonday Service • Fri. Noonday, Sun. 8AM & 10AM Holy Eucharist • 10AM Nursery & Sunday School Classes.
Pacific & Panama • 565-8033 In Downtown Henderson

Additional church services were soon added to St. Timothy's schedule. More than 65 unhoused individuals attended a holiday dinner on Thanksgiving Day (18 Dec 1997) as part of the *Friends in the Desert* program beginning at St. Timothy's in 1996. With the help of community organizations (especially *The Ladies Philoptochos Society* of St. John's Greek Orthodox Church), the *Friends* program eventually served hot sit-down meals to the homeless and

disadvantaged six days per week, and distributed sack lunches on Saturdays so the hungry had a meal for Sundays (*Friends in the Desert*, n.d.). At the beginning of the 21st century, the city of Henderson struggled to address the needs of the poor and unhoused. As part of the city's advisory group, Rev. Lloyd Rupp, advocated for the establishment of a centralized program in Henderson to address their needs (HHN 14 Mar 2000). Members of St. Timothy's and other local churches participated in the CROP walk, a fund-raising program run by Church World Service to support programs like *Friends in the Desert* (HHN 15 Feb 2001). Sunday and weekday worship services and programs at St. Timothy's continued.

On January 29, 2001, President George W. Bush issued executive orders related to improving the participation of faith-based and community organizations in federal funding supporting the delivery of social services, like *Friends in the Desert*. Although somewhat controversial, these

initiatives allowed groups like the *Friends* program to apply for federal grants to facilitate missions supporting the common good (HHN 26 July 2001). In 2009, the Obama-Biden administration continued this initiative, and President Biden restored the program in 2021 (White House, 2021), allowing for more stable funding for *Friends in the Desert*. Rev. Rupp continued to work with the city toward the establishment of a shelter in Henderson for the unhoused (HHN 14 Aug 2001). St. Timothy's and *Friends in the Desert* were often cited as examples of volunteer service in the community (HHN 16 Aug 2001). "Volunteers for *Friends*

Meals offered through non-profit organization

The *Friends in the Desert* Foundation assists those in the Henderson community who are afflicted by homelessness, addictions, poverty or lack of basic needs.

The organization serves free dinners five days each week at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in downtown Henderson.

All are welcome, a spokesman said. Food is donated, prepared and served by different church groups or service clubs.

Donated food is delivered by volunteers to low-income seniors living in public housing, the Henderson Boys and Girls Club, the Family Resource Center and welfare office.

The Foundation trustees and officers lead meetings addressing community concerns and would like more people to become aware of the issues and solutions to problems.

For more information, call 565-8033 or 564-5224.

HHN 9 July 1998

of the Desert say they enjoy what they do, and those they help say they feel the joyful spirit of the volunteers” (HHN 16 Aug 2001).

The Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori (a Henderson resident) held the 2001 annual convention for the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada in southern Nevada. It featured a choral Eucharist on the opening night that was performed by more than 90 singers directed by Mary Ann Jones, music director at St. Timothy's (HHN 18 Oct 2001). Bishop Schori also installed Rev. Dr. Lloyd G. Rupp as rector of St. Timothy's in an ecumenical service and reception at the church attended by many church and city leaders. A well-known advocate for the homeless, Rupp was chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Friends in the Desert and the president of Poverello House, a local day care facility for homeless men. He was a member of the Henderson Allied Community Advocates and the steering committee of the southern Nevada Homeless Coalition (HHN 29 Nov 2001).

THE BELLS OF ST. TIMOTHY'S

One wrinkle in the church's relationship with the larger community was related to the bell tower. A letter to the editor (HHN 3 Apr 1997) complained that *“the bells begin at 7 a.m., whether you're ready to wake up or not, by bonging the hour, then after about three minutes they swing into a rendition of one of their hymns... the chimes bong the quarter hour...adding measures of music until 45 minutes after the hour, then you're at the full hour again... At noon, after the bells sound the hour, here comes the hymns again. This continues at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., when, once again the hymns can be heard...Why should I be subjected to hymns that are not of my faith? In closing I would like to say that I am willing to compromise. This is my suggestion: Begin the bells no earlier than 8 a.m., chime only on the hour, play the hymns at noon and 6 p.m. and quit the bells at 8 p.m.”*

NB: St. Timothy's no longer follows the bell schedule described in this letter.



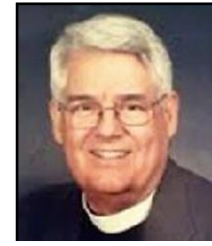
Part of the 2001 Christmas celebrations at St. Timothy's included a free holiday feast for people who otherwise might have dined alone (HHN 27 Dec 2001). In December 2004, a Homeless Persons Memorial Candlelight Vigil was held at St. Timothy's in remembrance of people who died while homeless in Las Vegas and Henderson during the year. Attendees stood outside as the names of the 41 dead were read aloud to mourners (HHN 16 Dec 2004). In addition to feeding the unhoused, a St. Timothy's volunteer cooked and delivered food to homebound senior citizens (HHN 6 Jan 2005). In 2006, Mayor Jim Gibson presented a key to the city to Rev. Lloyd Rupp for his longtime role with Friends in the Desert (HHN 2 Mar 2006).

St. Timothy's also initiated a Summer Folk Harp Camp (HHN 6 Apr 2006). Students paid \$200 for 14 weeks of lessons, an initial orientation, and a recital at the end of the course. (A folk harp differs from the concert version in that the concert harp has pedals that change the tone of the strings, and the folk harp uses levers.) St. Timothy's celebrated the church's involvement in downtown Henderson by hosting *Community*

Day in May 2007. The church provided food, games, and entertainment to the city's citizens (HHN 26 Apr 2007).

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori celebrated her tenure as the Bishop of Nevada with a visit to St. Timothy's and the state's other 36 parishes before leaving for New York City, where she took on the role of the nation's Presiding Bishop in November 2006. She was the first woman to hold the position in the church's 400-year history (HHN 28 Sept 2006). She was succeeded by Rt. Rev. Dan Thomas Edwards, installed in Henderson in 2008 (HHN 10 Jan 2008).

Also in 2008, Rev. Michael Annis took over as Priest-in-Charge at St. Timothy's. He and his wife, Joyce, had served together in Indiana, California, Iowa, and Pennsylvania, before retiring to Henderson in 2003. He came to St. Timothy's



Rev. Michael Annis

**St. Timothy's
Episcopal Church**
Serving Henderson and Southeast Las Vegas
43 W. Pacific (at Panama) Henderson
Phone 702-565-8033
Maunder Thursday
7pm Foot Washing and Holy Eucharist
Good Friday
Noon Meditation on the Cross and Passion
7pm Tenebrae
Holy Saturday
7pm The Great Vigil of Easter
Easter Day
8 & 10am Holy Eucharist

51073468

LVRJ 7 Apr 2009

and the Church of the Epiphany. (LVRJ 20 Feb 2014). Sunday and holiday

services were offered as before. Church and community activities were still in place. The Ladies Auxiliary held their annual holiday bazaar on Water Street (LVRJ 15 Nov 2008). The Al-Anon Morning Glories group continued to meet weekly in the parish hall (LVRJ 9 June 2008). Friends in the Desert fed the needy. A mission to serve the elderly in Henderson Health and Rehabilitation was also begun during this time.

Missions supported by members of St. Timothy's included international outreach through Kenya KEEP (Kids' Educational

Enrichment Projects) and *The Gift of Sight*. Kenya Keep was originally organized in 2002 to cover the costs of girls' schooling, so that they would not be sold into marriage. Over time, the mission of Kenya KEEP was expanded to include a variety of projects to support students in Kenya. The Gift of Sight gathered donations of money and refurbished eyeglasses. The donations were used to perform eye exams and cataract surgeries on patients from 5 to 105 years of age in Kenya, Haiti, Vietnam, and the Philippines. (The African Anglican church assumed direction for this ministry in 2014.)

In 2012, Rev. Annis, his wife Joyce, other members of his family, friends, and St. Timothy's youth group members participated in a mission trip to an Indian Reservation in Utah. Their task, to remove an old, abandoned trailer, was completed in conjunction with St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Navajo Land. During the week the group from St. Timothy's was there, a camp was held for the children on the

reservation. Rev. Annis secured enough funds to take the Navajo children on a river rafting trip down the San Juan River. A follow-up visit was planned for 2013, but Rev. Annis become very ill and was unable to attend. The camp, however, went on that year as planned and continued a couple of more years in Rev. Annis' honor. Two members of the original group also had a couple of businesses in Blanding, Utah, and they registered the Navajo children as company owners of a limited liability company. They worked, received pay for their effort, and received profit sharing. One business, a Native American chocolate company called *Lickity Split* was run by the children with some mentoring. The business received the highest national Small Business Association honors for entrepreneurship. This resulted in an invitation to the White House for a reception and a handshake from President Bush. Several years afterward the Navajo children's group made a trip to St. Timothy's to make a complete dinner for Friends in the Desert (personal



*Layperson Muriel Dufendach
with Rev. Carol Walton*

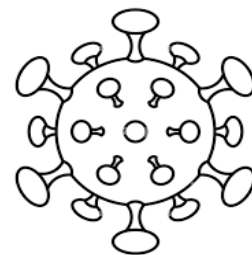
correspondence from Joyce Annis, 2023). Unfortunately, Rev. Annis retired from St. Timothy's just before he passed away in 2014.

Rev. Carol Walton joined St. Timothy's in 2015 as part-time clergy. In vital churches, like St. Timothy's, priests deferred to laypeople to carry out some traditionally priestly functions. At St. Timothy's laypeople sometimes presided at funerals and always at the two weekday Eucharist services.

They distributed elements consecrated the prior Sunday by the congregation's priest-in-charge, the Rev. Walton, who sits in a pew and receives with everyone else. Rev. Walton, who served 24 hours a week, was happy to accommodate. "I'm not going to take over something that a layperson has been doing, because I think that's part of vitality: having ministry that people want to do," Walton said (MacDonald, G.J. 21 Mar 2017).

Pandemic

Rev. Walton and the members of St. Timothy's were soon confronted by another threat to the church. Restrictions mandated by efforts to control the outbreak of the coronavirus challenged members of St. Timothy's and other houses of worship in Nevada. Parishioners of St Timothy's found ways to stay connected throughout the shutdown. Worshipers wore masks and practiced social distancing at church. Communion no longer offered wine. As the pandemic restrictions continued, St. Timothy's offered online services, and teams of people, clergy, Vestry members, and others reached out to parishioners on a regular basis by phone calls or emails. Friends in the Desert could no longer serve indoor meals, and volunteers worked to provide meals that could be eaten outdoors.



Even so, membership and giving declined during the height of the pandemic years (2019 – 2021). The same was true for many congregations during this time. In 2004 there were 7,200 parishes and missions in the Episcopal church. By 2021, there were 6,294. The number of Episcopal congregations with ten or less adults on a Sunday jumped to 568 in 2021 (from 392 in 2020). Nearly 10% of Episcopal congregations had ten or fewer adults in church of a Sunday (Goodhew, D. 16 Dec 2022). Episcopal Relief & Development funded sixty-three international emergency response initiatives reaching over 1 million people through community-led activities (Coleman, N 2020). St. Timothy’s continued to complete its mission as well as it could. Rev. Walton left St. Timothy’s in 2021, and was replaced by Rev. Christopher Schuller.

St. Timothy’s Today: The Center of Joy

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, St. Timothy’s is thriving. Attendance has grown, improvements to the facilities are being completed, and the church’s ministries have expanded. The Rev. Chris Schuller was installed as a full time Rector in 2023.



St. Timothy’s carries on a long tradition of service in the wider church and to the local area. The church participates in diocesan and national church events and community outreach programs. St. Timothy’s hosts a neighborhood feeding program and welcomes various groups who meet at the church for support, prayer, and weekday communion services.



Sunday Services

8:00 am - Rite One
 10:00 am - Rite Two
 5:00 pm - The Feast*

*THE FEAST is a weekly evening service to feed body, mind, and spirit with a food feast following at 5:30-ish. The service consists of music, a share/testimony from a quest speaker, and communion from reserved sacraments. An additional worship time is planned for 11:30 on Sundays in 2024.



The number of Worship Assistant Team members more than doubled in 2023. An integral part of St. Timothy’s worship, this team greets members and visitors at each service, bears oblation to the altar for communion, ushers people to available seats, assists people to the altar during communion, and collects the offering.



Hospitality Committee

This committee is responsible for hosting a variety of social fellowship events such as annual meetings, receptions for the Bishop, installations, funerals, Consecration Sundays, and other celebrations. They also arrange for coffee and treats after services.



Friends in the Desert at St. Timothy's began serving food for the needy in 1996. The program serves approximately 30,000 hot, sit-down meals each year to the homeless and disadvantaged six days per week. Friends also distributes sack lunches on Saturdays so the hungry have a meal for Sundays and to allow Friends to give thanks and rest for the week ahead. This program relies on charitable donations from the community and from members of St. Timothy's congregation.



St. Timothy's Sunday School resumed in 2023 following a lull of several years. The group of children is growing steadily, and the stewards are looking forward to expanding both the number of children who attend and the variety of activities.



A chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King, a lay religious order for women, was installed at St. Timothy's. Women in the Order are communicants of the Episcopal Church and churches in communion with it. A Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service, and evangelism dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish.



Monday Bible Study

St. Timothy's Bible study helps people examine their personal religious or spiritual beliefs and practice. A small group meets weekly in the sanctuary to read, discuss, and pray. Holy Eucharist follows this meeting in the sanctuary.



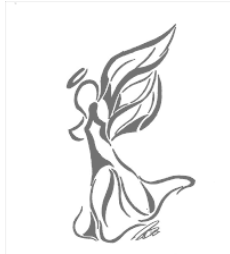
Henderson Care Center Prayer Service

St. Timothy's church members travel weekly to nearby senior living facilities to offer devotions, prayer, fellowship, and communion to interested residents.



Caregivers Support Ministry

The Caregivers Support Group at St. Timothy's is a community of people coming to terms with the giving and receiving care for long-time health concerns. Members enjoy round table sharing time and refreshments, followed by two group support times, one for caregivers and one for their loved ones. Caregivers share information and concerns with one another while their loved ones participate in music and physical activities.



Visiting Angels

Visiting Angel serves communion to individuals in nursing facilities, hospitals, and private homes. Members in this group have successfully completed the Safe Church and Communion training.



Healing Prayer Ministry

Healing prayers are offered as part of the church services each Sunday for those who ask.



Music is an important part of worship at St. Timothy's. The Chancel Choir meets weekly to prepare anthems and support for congregational singing during services. Additional music is provided by the church's music director, other church members, and community musicians during Sunday services to enhance worship.



A weekly study group for senior women as they support and affirm one another with acceptance and love. Women of Grace participants select Bible readings and other materials that enhance their journey of faith.



The Altar Guild continues to present a beautiful altar space for worship. Committee members make sure that the altar hangings are appropriate to the liturgical season, the candles are filled, communion supplies are ordered, and altar linens are laundered.



Creative Endeavors

This committee creates *Chrismons* to decorate a special tree in the narthex during Advent. The word *Chrismon* is derived from "Christ Monogram." Church members create or purchase white and gold religious symbols representing many aspects of the Christian faith.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Members of this group create and donate prayer shawls, baby blankets, and knitted octopi. They also knit hats, scarves, and blankets for the homeless.



Stewardship Committee

The stewardship committee collects a comprehensive time and talent survey for church members to identify stewards for existing and future church ministries. It also conducts a pledge drive to gather financial support for the continued growth of the church and its ministries.



Publicity and Marketing

This group works with the stewardship committee to publicize our pledge drive. A special logo was created for the church and the church website was updated.



Greater Faith Ministry

The Greater Faith Ministry involves faithful stewards of God's written word in bringing the tangible love and presence of God to all participants.



Gamblers Anonymous

St. Timothy hosts a weekly meeting for this group in the parish hall. During the meeting, members have the chance to share their experiences, worries, fears, and successes. Members can also discuss any temptations they may have recently had.



Al-Anon is a fellowship of people who have been affected by the alcohol abuse of a loved one. This small group meets regularly to absorb the strength and hope of others who have lived with alcoholism. St. Timothy's Al-Anon group meets once a week in the parish hall.

APPENDIX A

ST. TIMOTHY'S HENDERSON CLERGY

Name	Date Arrived	Came From	Date Left	Left For	Notes
Johnson, Barclay	January, 1944	Toronto, Canada	October 1944	St. John's Aberdeen MS	Priest in Charge. Lived in Boulder City Deposited, 8 Feb 1954
Davis, Howard Eugene	August 1946	Curate, Calvary, to PA	October 1947	Chaplain, San Diego State College, CA	First Vicar. Deposited 16 Dec 1958
Sister Paula	1946	Sisters of the Holy Nativity, Boulder City	1948		(Sunday School asst)
Farrell, John Hugh Raymond	October 1947	NV	May 1948	Soc. of St. John, Cambridge	Vicar
Henry, Adam	January 1949	Little Snake River WY	September 1949	Maine	Vicar resigned due to poor health
Stephens, Albert E. Jr.,	February 1950	Asst., St. Andrew's, CO	September 1950	Died 3 Sept, 1950	Vicar Died in auto accident
Stevens, Ralph	January 1951	Trinity, Inder WY	December 1951	St. Paul's, Elko, NV	Vicar
Stevenson, Robert	January 1952	St. Peter's, Detroit,	September 1954	Reno, NV General Mission	Vicar
Cochrane, Robert Hume	September 1954	Curate, Trinity, Reno	Jan, 1960	Assoc. Rector, Christ Church, Las Vegas	Vicar Later Bishop, Olympia, WA
Murphy, Edward E.	Summer 1956				Seminary student, assistant
White, Jack	Summer 1958	Syracuse University			Assistant
Kean, Arthur S.	February, 1960	Carson City	May, 1960		Temporary Priest
Nicholas, John Robert	August, 1960	Idaho, Nat'l Episcopal "Town and Country" rural pastor program	September 1968	Retired; Worked as Marriage and Family Counselor; assisted at St. Luke's NLV	Vicar
Gerard, George	September, 1968	St. Mary the Virgin, Winnemucca	1978	Inverness, CA	Vicar

Name	Date Arrived	Came From	Date Left	Left For	Notes
Bickford, Wayne	September, 1979	Minnesota	1981	Non-parochial 1981-	Rector
Gerard, George	1982 (Asst 1981-83)	Inverness, CA	1993	Charismatic Episcopal Church of St. Paul, Henderson	Priest in Charge d. 2003
Hoff, David	1989	Asst, Boulder City	1990?	Charismatic Episcopal Church of St. Paul, Henderson	Assistant; listed in Journal of Diocesan Convention as Canonically Resident in 1990
Edmonds, Curtis	1987		1992		Associate Rector
Rupp, Lloyd	1994	Kansas City, MS Chaplain, USN	2008		Interim Priest; Rector, 2001 d. 2018
Kaslo, Joseph	2002	African Christian Fellowship, Las Vegas	2003	African Christian Fellowship, Las Vegas	Assistant
Annis, Michael	2008	Church of the Epiphany	2013	Retired	Priest in Charge d. 2014
Lewis, Cynthia	2013	St. Christopher's	2015		Interim Priest
Walton, Carol	2015		2021		Priest in Charge
Schuller, Christopher	2021		present		Priest in Charge, 2021-2023 Rector, 2023 -

APPENDIX B

Rebuilding St. Timothy's

Beginning in 1971, there were a series of real estate transactions related to the ownership and oversight of church property and buildings (Clark County Recorder).

- ⌚ Sept 1971 – A quitclaim deed was granted by the Bishop of Nevada to the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada for Lot 197, Block 7, Henderson Division 3 (rectory) and for Townsite Lot 1 in Block 25 (church).
- ⌚ May 1975 - St. Timothy's Episcopal Church adopted a revised certificate of incorporation listing Rev. George Gerard and members of the Vestry as the officers of the corporation.
- ⌚ June 1976 – A quitclaim deed to the church property was granted by the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada to St. Timothy's.
- ⌚ Apr 1978 – The Henderson Planning Commission and Architectural Review Committee approved a request by St. Timothy's for the addition of Sunday School classrooms and a church office. This was approved by the City Council in May 1978.
- ⌚ Jan 1982 - Before the new additions were complete, the altar and sanctuary were demolished by fire on New Year's Day.
- ⌚ July 1982 - The new church building was dedicated in a ceremony on July 25, 1982.
- ⌚ May 1990 – St. Timothy's was once again destroyed by fire.
- ⌚ Mar 1991 - St. Timothy's new construction project (represented by McLaughlin Architect) filed an application for a variance to allow 11 on-site parking spaces where 69 were required.
- ⌚ Sep 1991 - A request for an Architectural Review for the new church building was made.
- ⌚ Nov 1991 – St. Timothy's received approval for the updating of utility services.
- ⌚ Sep-Nov 1992 – A mechanic's lien was filed against St. Timothy's by Desert Ready Mix Concrete Co. (This lien was later released).
- ⌚ Oct 1992 - A Grant of Easement for Nevada Power was granted for work that crossed the southwest corner of the church property.
- ⌚ Dec 1992 - A Certificate of Occupancy was issued for St. Timothy's for a commercial interior remodel by the Henderson Planning Department.
- ⌚ 1992 – An application was approved by the Henderson Building and Safety Dept. for fencing around the church property.
- ⌚ Sep 1993 – St. Timothy's filed an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation, changing the corporate officers to "the rector, church wardens, and vestry of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Henderson, Nevada."
- ⌚ Jan 1993 – A Mechanic's Lien from Trident Construction against St. Timothy's was released. An additional suit was filed against the church by Richard Varley Construction Co. for \$7768.20. (This lien was later released.)
- ⌚ Feb 1993 - A dedication ceremony for the new building was led by Rt. Rev. Stewart Zabriskie at St. Timothy's on February 21, 1993, with Rev. Gerard as celebrant and the Rt. Rev. John David Schofield of the San Joaquin Diocese attending.
- ⌚ July 2008 – A substitution of trustee and deed of reconveyance from George and Judy Miller Gerard to St. Timothy's was recorded.

There has been some confusion over the exact address for St. Timothy's over the years. The original description of the church site was Townsite Lot 1 in Block 25. The address has been described as 41 or 42 Atlantic Ave, the corner of Panama and Pacific Avenues, and finally, 43 W. Pacific Ave.

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