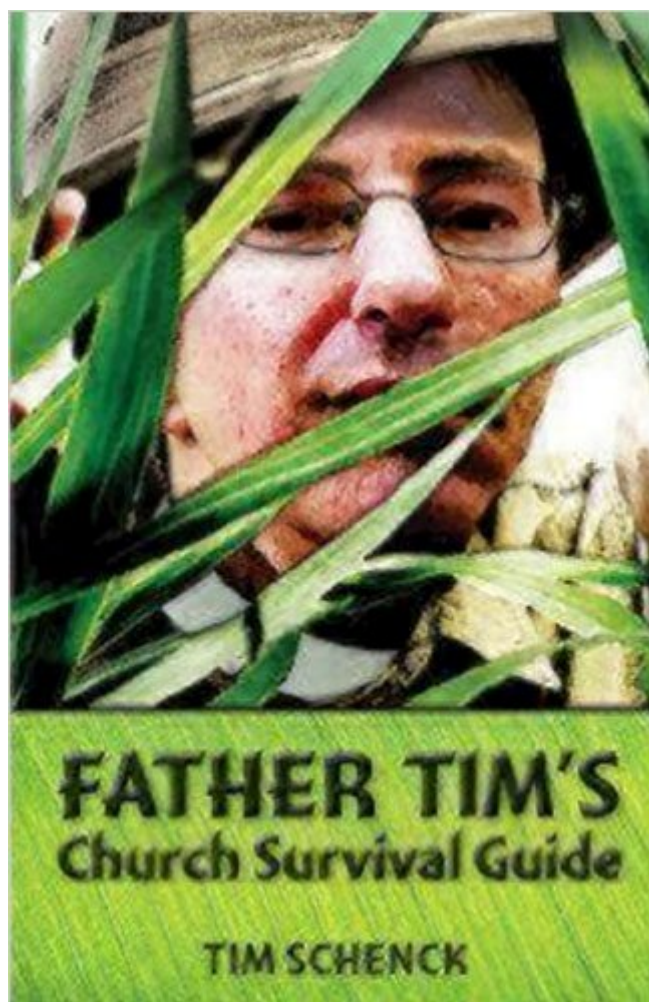


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# Father Tim's Church Survival Guide



## Synopsis

"If you have little tolerance for ecclesiastical blowhards; if you've ever fantasized about implementing a clergy rating system (CRS); if you've ever sought tips on surviving diocesan convention; if you've ever tried to weasel your way out of pledging; then this book is for you," says author Tim Schenck. "My take on church life isn't for everyone—clergy who take themselves too seriously will hate it. But know that it all comes out of a place of deep love for God and the Church. There are inevitably things that drive us nuts about such an imperfect (i.e., human) institution. Yet if we can't observe and comment on our own foibles we're left without much hope. And anyway if God doesn't have a sense of humor, I'm hosed."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I had the privilege of being in seminary with Tim, and I am glad to see that he has not lost his wit (or his wits). If you are looking for an in-depth analysis and history of the Episcopal Church, this is not the book for you. But if you want the Cliff's Notes (sorry, Tim, I'm not as technologically hip as you are) version of helpful things to know, this will definitely get you started. Tim does well translating the insider stuff for non-Episcopalians. You'll learn the difference between "episcopal," "Episcopal," and Episcopalian." You'll get some good tips on how to choose a church. You'll find out the dynamics of all kinds of committees! And, you'll hopefully discover people you want to include in your walk of faith. The book is probably even more fun for Episcopalians. It takes great skill to hold a mirror up to people and make them laugh with you at what they see. Tim has that skill. As he warns, if you take

yourself too seriously, you won't enjoy this book. But if you can take a joke, Tim can tell it, at the same time that his love of the Episcopal Church and its members shines from every page. Tim's most important gift, though, is reminding his readers that people in church--including the clergy--are just people, like everyone else in the world. They come for all kinds of reasons, some of which are not particularly noble, but God willing, together they reveal Christ alive and working in the world.

This book made me laugh throughout and I'm still laughing. Written for Episcopalians (not Episcopalians because there's no such thing) by an Episcopal priest with a sharp wit and a serious coffee addiction, it pokes fun at aspects of our church life while also serving as a real guide for regulars, newbies, and anyone interested in joining the Episcopal Church. What we find funny in this book depends entirely on how willing we are to laugh at ourselves and at the stuff that goes on in our own parishes. Yet, I can pretty much guarantee belly laughs from an incident the author refers to as "Goose Gate" on page 113. While I don't agree with Father Tim's assertion that smart phone surfing during a meeting is as benign as knitting, I do agree that laughter is good for the soul.

Very funny and a great gift to Episcopal priests with a sense of humor. Buy it! Annual meetings, convention, acolyte goofs (especially loved the mention of wine in the layabout bowl!) altar guild, etc etc.

the more you like church, the more this book will make you laugh. The bishop's acceptance speech cuts across all denominational lines and even spills out into the corporate world. This is a clever, smart, inspiring, and hilarious book.

I truly loved reading this book. A great read for anyone who wants to learn about or learn more about the Episcopal church. Highly recommend

Fr. Tim has caught the essence of what it means to be a long time Episcopalian - the good, the bad and the ugly.

This man is a natural comedian. He is right on.

Clever and creative in many ways, but the snark and glibness put off this cradle Episcopalian.

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