



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✱ August 2017

Reverently Speaking

But when Cephas (Peter) came to Antioch, I (Paul) opposed him to his face, because he stood self-condemned; for until certain people came from James, he used to eat with Gentiles. But after they came, he drew back and kept himself separate for fear of the circumcision faction.”

—Galatians 2:11-12

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

It seems that most people dislike hesitation, waffling, indecision and wishy-washiness. We not only dislike waffling, we disrespect the waffler - unless the waffler is a person who's pouring batter on a griddle and topping the flat cake with strawberries and cream.

We usually don't respect a person who twaddles and prattles on, forever teetering on a fence of indecision. A soul like this seems weak and ineffective, and certainly not someone with leadership potential. We may not always agree with a person who knows his own mind, but we tend to have some respect for him. So when Martin Luther went to the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V at Worms, he did not fumble around and dissemble. Although he may not have said the actual words, "Here I stand," they were, as scholars have noted, words that *he could have* said, and he would have robustly agreed with the sentiment.

But what if Luther had said at Worms, "Well, you know, come to think of it, I'm not sure"? To stand or not to stand ... "that is the question, whether tis nobler" to stand or to sit, to withstand or to waffle, "to suffer the slings and arrows" of "outrageous" criticism, "or to take arms against a sea of troubles and by opposing end them"?

Was Luther the sort of fellow who couldn't make up his mind whether to go out for Italian or Thai for dinner? Did he draw up lists of pros and cons before making a decision? Was he overly sensitive about the feelings of others? Did he fret and agonize after he'd made the decision? Did he consult focus groups to see which way the wind was blowing? Was he considered a sensitive person known for his understanding of nuances and complexities unseen by others? Was he, like most indecisive folk, a people-pleaser, reluctant to upset anyone and hurt their feelings?

"Indecision may or may not be my problem." - Jimmy Buffett.

"I used to be indecisive, but now I am not quite sure." - Unknown.

We certainly do not like indecision in our politics. We may not like the decisions or stances our politicians make. But when a leader flip-flops and waffles he or she is seen as a fool and completely unworthy of our trust and confidence. No need to cite examples here. We respect a standup person more than a sitdown person. We may not like them, but we may respect them, although these days we tend to respect only those standup persons who stand up for the things we stand up for.

(continued)

Most of us believe that unity in the “essentials” is important, and that we can live with those who disagree with us on the non-essentials. But the list of non-essentials seems to be shrinking. So if we are not going to be a waffler but a “standup” person, we need to be prepared to be disliked and perhaps disrespected. Which means that in our culture, we’re probably going to be disrespected for waffling, and disliked for taking a stand. But perhaps there are times, more times than we might think, when a better response than “Here I stand” is “Here I waffle.”

“Here I sit down and confess agnosticism on the subject.”

“Here I confess that Christians may disagree on this issue”

“Here I acknowledge that only one human was infallible, and that human is not me!”

Perhaps more of us should say, “Here I waffle! So help me God! I can do no other!”

Never has there been a time when so many Christians know so much about everything. Never has there been a period when the number of people willing to say “I was wrong” has shrunk to the size of an insignificant sample. Perhaps we have too many know-it-alls, too many arrogant, sententious moralizers afflicted with a myopic inability to see any truth except their truth, and to make up the truth if necessary. “If I want your opinion I will give it to you.” Have we limited our line of sight so narrowly that we cannot concede the possibility of other dimensions? Have we become so dull and uninspired as to fail to see other possible creative alternatives?

We have, then, a world of people screeching “I’m right, you’re wrong,” whose favorite word is “outrage,” and who thus frame the world in parameters of their choosing, me versus you, us versus them.

It would be refreshing to live in a world of a few people who, instead of saying “Here I stand,” would say, “Well, here I sit down.”

Or, “Here I waffle, and here I confess to uncertainty or indifference.”

Or, “Here I confess to an utter and complete lack of interest. And I am quite comfortable with that, even in light of your discomfort. *Das Leben ist kein Ponyhof, danke!* (Life is not a walk in the park, thank you!)”

Or, “Here I stand, but I would love to listen to your point of view. Talk to me about it.”

Call me a heretic, but here I stand – I think.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Reese".

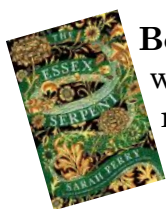
The Rev. John Reese

Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30am

The Wired Word, facilitated by the Rector, examines a current event from the previous week and analyzes it through the use of Biblical references. Come and see how Scripture can help us make sense of what's happening in the world today.

This class, facilitated by the Rector, meets in Room 302 (the Library) in the Parish Building.



Book Club: Our August meeting will be held on **August 15** at Annalee's house (4101 W. Obispo St.). We will be reading and discussing *The Essex Serpent* by Sara Perry.

Looks very good and comes very highly recommended! For September, we will read *The Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles, but a date and location have not been determined yet. Happy reading!

Thursday morning Bible Study at 10:30am

Bible study will resume on August 24 at 10:30am in the library. We will be studying Galatians using N.T. Wright's guide which can be purchased in the office for \$7.00. "Paul's project, he often says, is building -- not building with bricks and mortar but rather with people. He lays the foundation with the shockingly good news of one true God who raised Jesus from the dead, in order to build a new family with no divisions, all of whom can call God Father. In a world of widespread ethnic rivalry and trenchant divisiveness, Paul's strong corrective message in Galatians demands to be heard and reheard. In these studies, we hear once again what remains shockingly good news." Join us!

Outreach News



Operation Backpack: Thanks to you generous parishioners, B.C. Graham and Cleveland Elementary split about 75 backpacks this year to kick off the new year right.

The next **Outreach Meeting** will be **August 20th** after the 10:30 service. Plans for Oktoberfest and setting a date for Klean Kit packing in September will be the main topics. And time permitting, we'll look at dates for the annual Saint Andrew's Day Fish Fry and Gabriel Tree plans.

Klean Kit packing: Deodorant and Razors are needed for August...Thanks!



Continuing our KleanKit Collection! Each month from March thru summer, we'll ask you to bring one toiletry item to church, which will go into the KleanKits that we distribute monthly through the Lunch Program.

**Still needed: Deodorant (stick)
Socks (mens' black or white)
Disposable Razors**

Please put your gifts in the collection boxes in the Parish Hall. **We also greatly appreciate donations!** You can put your check in the collection plate, noting "KleanKits" in the memo! *Thanks!*

Kingdom Rock VBS July 2017



Dr. Constance Bess Rynder
January 10, 1945 - June 13, 2017

Connie Rynder, Professor of History at the University of Tampa,
1972-2011,
and a member of our parish since the 1990's,
died from an accident in her home.

Memorial Service will be on **Saturday, August 12 at 11:00am**
at St. Andrew's.

*Lord, thou hast been our refuge, from one generation to another
(Psalm 90:1)*



Michael Hunter
June 7, 1949 – May 30, 2017

Michael Hunter, our organist and choirmaster from 2003 to 2016,
died in hospital due to complications from acute leukemia.

Funeral will be **Saturday, August 19, 11:00am** at St. Andrew's.
May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

What Are You Worth?

A well-known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill. In the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?" Hands started going up.

He said, "I am going to give this to one of you, but first, let me do this". He proceeded to crumple the bill up. He then asked, "Who still wants it?" Still the hands were up in the air. "Well," he replied, "what if I do this?" He dropped it on the ground, and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now crumpled and dirty. "Now, who still wants it?" Still hands went into the air.

"My friends, you all have learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it, because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth 20 dollars. Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel that we are worthless, but no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value, dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to those who love you. The worth of our lives comes not in what we do, or whom we know, but by who we are."

Donations to Saint Andrew's Foundation

*In Loving Memory of
James H. Carroll*
John & Susan Mueller

*In Loving Memory of
Jean B. Divers*
Robert & Sharon Blanchard
Jane & Rick Bourkard
Isabelle Ferrell
S. Katherine Frazier
Randy & Victoria Glisson
Mary Jane Gresham
John & Jennie Hampton
Ruth Ann McLean
Jeff & Judy Mitchell
Harriet Phillips
Bill & Lynn Smalley
Carol Jean Spoto
Paul Switalski
Ted & Bobbie Taub
Mr. & Mrs. John Wolfe

*In Loving Memory of
Rita Wendling Good*
Steve & Betsy Chambers

*In Loving Memory of
Dorothy Hudson*
Mr. & Mrs. John Wolfe

*In Loving Memory of
Michael Hunter*
Mr. & Mrs. John Wolfe

*In Loving Memory of
Connie Rynder*
Frederick Vallongo
Mr. & Mrs. John Wolfe



May Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT:

- As of 5/8/17, there was \$184,011 in ops account. We have \$179,627 in the parish reserve account (which includes the \$50K bequest from Ferguson estate). There is \$78,182 in the Foundation's checking/CDs – monies available to the vestry (with \$53K of that designated to pay for painting of Parish Building and \$11K to pay for refurbishment of wall plaques in courtyard). We also have \$37,783 available from the Foundation principal as a result of the 2.25% spending allocation designated by the Foundation Board for 2015. We have another \$43,324 available from the Foundation principal as a result of the 2.5% spending allocation designated by the Foundation Board for 2016 at their meeting on 2/8/16. We have another \$53,473 available from the Foundation principal as a result of the 3% spending allocation designated by the Foundation Board for 2017 at their meeting on 2/21/17. And there was \$1,965,935 in the Foundation principal as of 5/3/17 (up \$100K from 12/31/16). There is also \$89K in the Dan Curtis fund fbo St. Andrew's within the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, with \$3.2K in grant money available for the rest of 2017. (We just spent \$4,800 from this fund to pay the roofer for the recent work on the south side of the church.)
- Donovan Audio Design (DAD) Proposal – proposal for \$3,455 to provide a video delivery system for wall in parish hall above the coffee pot table. It would connect with our mighty Bose speakers. We would thus be able to play DVDs and do power point off laptops. Price does not include the TV. A 70" would be nice for that size space. That would add another \$1K or \$2K to the bottom line.
Chris Capsembelis made a motion to spend up to \$5,000.00 out of the reserve fund for this. Irene Baker seconded and, after no discussion, the motion was approved.
- Annual audits – Al and Brad have volunteered to chair (and form) the audit committee that will conduct internal audits of both the parish financials and the Foundation financials. They will give us a report as to their progress.
- Adult Inquirers' Class – began on Thursday, 4/20 at 7pm and runs through 6/1 (seven sessions). This will prepare one for confirmation or reception into the church when the Bishop visits with us on Sunday, 6/4. We have a dozen folks in the class, with eight of them planning to be confirmed. We also have four youth that will be confirmed.
- Cinco/Siete de Mayo Fiesta– after 10:30 service on Sunday, May 7th. Great food! Nifty decorations! And we raised \$680 for Cornerstone Kids to attend our VBS in July.
- Foundation Board Meeting – Tuesday, May 9th at 5pm. Met with rep from Northern Trust. No major changes in portfolio asset allocation.
- Mothers' Day Brunch – Put on by the men of the parish after services on Sunday, May 14th.
- Sunday, 5/21 – Last day of Sunday School. We will honor our SS teachers and graduates during the 10:30 service that day.
- Newcomers' Dinner – on Sunday, May 21st at 5PM at the Rectory. Vestry provides *(continued)*

July 2017 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$35,737	\$46,840	\$285,530	\$327,880
Expenses	\$48,881	\$46,840	\$329,044	\$327,880
Net	(\$13,144)	\$0	(\$43,513)	\$0

the food and drink. Currently, RSVPs show 14 vestry members, 9 spouses and significant others, 11 newcomers, 2 Reeses – total of 36. We need to plan for this gathering.

- Rector Away 5/26 through 5/31– in Montgomery, Alabama for a family wedding. Fr. Rick will officiate at services and be available for pastoral care emergencies during that time.
- Bishop’s Visitation – Bp. Smith will be with us for the Feast of Pentecost on Sunday, 6/4. Parish Life will host the coffee hour that day.

SENIOR WARDEN’S REPORT – Jeff Coleman excused.

There will be an open-house to have a look at the upper floors on June 4, 2017.

JUNIOR WARDEN’S REPORT – George Levy:

George reported the courtyard plaques were finished and two exterior walls are almost finished being painted. Windows on the west wall are getting cosmetic repairs. Window cleaning going very well, chalking getting removed. Pews were treated and returned.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Gary Cotter excused:

Property insurance payment went out causing a deficit. Parking lot revenue deposited in May. Income good so far.

OUTREACH REPORT – Loueita Hargens, Holly Clemmons:

Siete de Mayo brought in \$700.00. Easter Boxes of Hope collected \$675.00 from parishioners, and a generous friend of Metropolitan Ministries donated matching funds bringing the total to \$1,350.00. Klean Kit donations going very slow as are the back-pack donations this year.

PARISH LIFE – Cate Hammer, Chris Capsembelis:

Chris reports Parish Life will meet next Sunday, the 21st at 9:15 am. Parish Life will be responsible for hosting the Bishop’s visit on June 4 for coffee hour after the 8 o’clock as well as after the 10:30. Twelve are going to hear The Florida Orchestra at the Straz Center and have dinner downtown on Friday.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Jim Morgan:

Jim reports there are currently four youth confirmands along with eight adults. Need more volunteers for VBS. Alicia will pick up a cake for Graduation Sunday.

New/Old business—

Newcomer dinner plans going well. Loueita and Irene will meet with Jeanette Reese on Wednesday. Al agreed to bring the left-over wine from parish kitchen. Richard will bring ice. Irene and Peter will pick up the food from La Teresita. John and Jeanette are planning to have name tags for everyone.



**Columbarium niches
now available**

The new columbarium, located north of the Children’s Chapel, is now complete and arrangements can be made for eternal rest at St. Andrew’s. Each niche can hold two urns, and the cost per niche is \$2000. For more information contact the Rector.

**Hospital
Admissions**

If you or a loved one is hospitalized, please notify the church office so that you may be prayed for and visited.



From the Parish Register

Baptism

Madison Jane Fradley-Voss

Deaths

Jean Divers

Rita Good

Curt Goter

Dorothy Hudson

Michael Hunter

Gene Nipper

Dr. Constance Rynder

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

The Rev. John Reese, Rector

Sunday Services

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. Children's Church

9:30 a.m. Christian Education
for all ages

Church Location:

Marion & Madison Streets

Mailing Address:

509 E. Twiggs St.

Tampa, FL 33602

Phone: (813) 221-2035

Fax: 224-0945

Web: saintandrewstampa.org

E-mail: [secretary@
saintandrewstampa.org](mailto:secretary@saintandrewstampa.org)

**Deadline for articles for
The Call:** 15th of each month

for the following month's
newsletter. Submit articles to
Kathy in the church office.