



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✱ April 2018

Reverently Speaking

“Do not be alarmed, you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.”
—Mark 16:6

Dear People of St. Andrew’s,

If you were to create a new religion that had at its center a testimony of how God has visited the earth – and if you wanted to make it as convincing as possible - how would you craft your story?

You’d want to start with absolute certainty: God turning up in some unmistakably public place – let’s say, giving a speech at the United Nations. The 24-hour news networks would pick it up right away. God’s speech would be bounced off dozens of satellites so people the world over could view it in real time.

You’d want to roll out a few miracles, too – big ones. God showed Moses how to part the Red Sea. You’d at least want a dry footpath between New York and London this time around. Water from a rock? How about a river bursting out of the Grand Canyon? The U.S. Navy has its Blue Angels precision flying team. You’d want some real angels to show up, trailing stardust in their wake, flying circles around the fighter jets.

As for special effects, you’d spare no expense. The general public is pretty jaded about movie special effects by now, having seen everything the CGI artists can offer. They’ve watched Harry Potter zooming around on his broomstick, and giant alien spaceships blowing up the White House with a death ray. You’d need something really splashy.

If that’s so, isn’t it a wonder how poorly put-together are the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ resurrection? Each Gospel has its own version – and none of them agree on every detail. Some of them even contradict each other.

Strangest of all is Mark’s version. At its heart is a whole lot of nothing – an empty tomb.

“Sorry, you missed it,” says the angel to the women, standing there slack-jawed in astonishment. “He’s already come and gone. If you start right now for Galilee, you just might catch up with him!”

No, if you were going to create your own story of God coming to earth in human form, then dying and rising again, that’s not how you’d write it.

Which is exactly the point: a mysterious, incomprehensible resurrection story is one that’s far more likely to be true!

In the case of the women at the tomb, whatever they were feeling (alarm/terror/amazement) was soon replaced by great joy when they realized the truth - that Jesus, who had truly died, was truly alive again. The angel was right.

Many of us come to Easter just as the women came to the tomb: anxious and afraid, perhaps even disillusioned and depressed. So what does Easter joy have to say to us today?

Do we need a new emotion word for that joy that should perk along as an undercurrent to our Christian life? The writer G.K. Chesterton suggested not a new word, but returning to an old one - mirth. Chesterton said he thought Jesus sometimes had to restrain himself from smiling because he knew Christianity's great secret - that the promise of the kingdom of heaven *is true*. But to meet us where we are, Jesus had to restrain himself from breaking out in joy. Or as Chesterton put it, "There was some one thing that was too great for God to show us when he walked upon our earth; and I have sometimes fancied that it was his mirth."

But we can settle for the word "joy." Perhaps it's a word that comes closest to depicting the deep and abiding satisfaction in knowing that Christ is risen.

Joy is not dependent on fluctuating emotions or circumstances. Joy is a condition of "gladness," "delight" and "exultation of spirit." In fact, joy is less a feeling of the moment than a long-range optimism that come what may, in the end, God will make things come out right.

It is joy that should impel us to be "Easter people" in the world. It is joy that should lead us to a "deep and abiding dissatisfaction" with a world in which crucifixions are still horribly common and people are shut up in tombs of fear, violence and heart-break.

Untranslatable joy – we are glad to be the recipients of it, regardless of where our other emotions are today. It is the heartbeat of our faith. It is what makes Easter so special. I pray that you will have a happy and joy-filled Eastertide. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese



Cinco de Mayo Outreach Mexican Buffet

Sunday, May 6 after the 10:30am service

Enjoy this grande Mexican buffet lunch knowing that proceeds will go to VBS scholarships f

or Cornerstone Kids

Adults \$10, Kids \$5

A PASCHAL FAQ

(This informative question and answer series is from The Rev. Richard Losch, Livingston, Alabama)

Almost anywhere we turn these days we see an outgrowth of the Internet, the ubiquitous FAQ, For the computer illiterate, this stands for “Frequently Asked Questions.” We have assembled here an FAQ about Easter:

Why does the date of Easter vary?

The ancient church calendar, like the Jewish one, was based on the phases of the moon. The date of Easter is tied to the full moon at the time of the Vernal Equinox. It was argued for centuries as to whether it should be the full moon nearest, or the first after the equinox, and whether it should be the Sunday nearest or after.

Where does the word “Easter” come from?

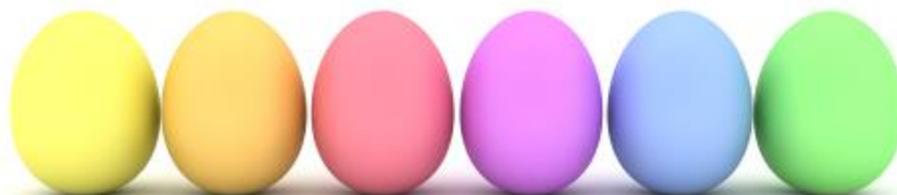
This word actually has pagan origins. It is a corruption of Oestra, an ancient Celtic goddess of sex and fertility (comparable to the Roman Venus or Greek Aphrodite), whose festival was celebrated in the spring. Oestra stemmed from the Middle Eastern fertility goddess Ishtar or Ashtoreth. As Judaism arose it replaced this pagan spring festival of Ashtoreth with the celebration of the Passover. When Christianity came to Britain, the Paschal feast overtook the worship of Oestra, but the name remained and eventually evolved into “Easter.”

What do rabbits have to do with Easter?

Absolutely nothing. The rabbit is an ancient symbol of Oestra, Ishtar and Ashtoreth. Considering the rabbit’s fertility, it is an appropriate emblem of these goddesses of fertility. This pagan symbol seems to have hung on for centuries, even though the goddesses it represents are long forgotten. The “bunny” has become a deeply embedded symbol of secular Easter celebrations, but it will not be seen as a Christian symbol in any church (at least we sincerely hope not!).

And what about eggs?

The egg is also an emblem of Oestra, Ishtar and Ashtoreth, but it nonetheless has a distinctly Christian symbolism as well. It is a very ancient pagan symbol of spring, representing the re-birth of the earth from a seemingly dead “stone.” To Christians, however, the chick emerging from the egg is symbolic of Christ emerging from the tomb. Early Christians would cut off the end of an egg and remove the contents, leaving the empty shell as a symbol of the empty tomb. It is obvious that such a joyous symbol should be gaily decorated, and by the Middle Ages, Easter egg decoration had become a fine art form in many Mediterranean regions. By the time Faberge wrought his magnificent jeweled eggs, the religious significance of them had been all but forgotten (although Tsar Nicholas gave a Faberge egg to the Empress Alexandra every year at Easter). The idea of the Easter bunny laying colored Easter eggs is pure American whimsy.



Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30am

The God We Can Know: Exploring the “I Am” Sayings of Jesus

The God We Can Know is a seven week small group study designed to explore the “I am” sayings of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. This series will help us find and form an answer to the most essential question in the Christian faith, “Who do you say I am?” One by one, Jesus’ statements grab our imagination, reveal more about his identity and purpose, and connect us to the God of Moses, who spoke the first “I Am.” These significant, yet ordinary images (bread, light, shepherd, vine, and more) give us insightful ways to experience Jesus and point us to a God who wants to be known.

The DVD, filmed on location in the Holy Land, allows us to travel with Rob Fuquay, Senior Pastor of St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, and actually see the places where Jesus stood while disclosing his true identity, and in what context he spoke each “I Am.” We’ll journey from the Judean wilderness to the Galilean hills and into the heart of Jerusalem.

Here is the line-up:

- 4/8 - Introduction to “I am” – Knowing God
- 4/15 - I am the Bread of Life – Knowing God’s Satisfaction
- 4/22 - I am the Light of the World – Knowing God’s Guidance
- 4/29 - I am the Good Shepherd – Knowing God’s Care
- 5/6 - I am the True Vine – Knowing God’s Power
- 5/13 - I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life – Knowing God’s Way
- 5/20 - I am the Resurrection and the Life – Knowing God’s Possibilities

This class, facilitated by the rector, meets in Room 302 (the Library) on the third floor of the Parish Building.



Calling all Graduates!! If you have a soon-to-be graduate in your family, let us know so we can honor them on **Sunday, June 3** during the 10:30am service!!

Please contact Alicia Schmid at aschmid@saintandrewstampa.org with the following info:

- Graduate’s name
- A picture of the grad
- The name of the high school they graduated from if a high school grad, and their future university or career goals
- OR university they are graduating and future career goals
- The graduate’s favorite Bible verse
- One fun fact about the graduate
-

Each graduate will be honored individually!

Thursday morning Bible Study is studying the book of Exodus using the study guide *Exodus: Learning to Trust God* by James Reapsome. "Trust God. It sounds so simple. Yet it is often difficult to trust God with the important areas of our lives -- our money, our career, our marriage, our health. In the book of Exodus, Israel's struggles resemble our own. In this story of hardship and hope, we can learn along with Israel that God is worthy of our trust." Join us in the library at 10:30am on Thursday mornings!

This class, facilitated by Alice Prucha, meets in the Library on the third floor of the Parish Building.

February Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT – Fr. Reese

- As of 2/20/18, there was \$205,241 in ops account and \$140,004 in the parish reserve account). As of 2/21/18, there is \$50,394 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry. (Foundation transferred the \$37,783 allocated by the Board for 2015 from principal to the checking account on 10/12/17. This will allow us to pay the \$27K for asbestos removal and \$11K for architect's fees from the Foundation.) 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. We have another \$75K (approximately) available from the Foundation principal as a result of the 4% spending allocation designated by the Foundation Board for 2018 at their meeting on 2/21/18. And there was \$2,179,149 in the Foundation principal as of 2/15/18 (which includes an \$82K bequest from the estate of Sylvia Frazier). We will soon be adding a bequest of approximately \$400K from a charitable remainder trust given to the Foundation by the late Barbara Faber. There is also \$102K in the Dan Curtis fund *fbo* St. Andrew's within the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, with \$3.2K in grant money currently available.
- Annual Stewardship Campaign – is now over. Currently, we have 179 pledges for \$436K. There are still 19 pledgers who pledged \$27K in 2017 who we have not heard from for 2018. Of that \$27K, there is about \$18K out there from 2017 pledging parishioners who are still active here at St. Andrew's in 2018. Many thanks to all the phone calls and contacts you have made with folks during this past couple of months. Your valiant efforts are very much appreciated!
- Sixth Floor – we now have a leasing agreement with The Dohring Group, seeking a possible tenant for the sixth floor.
- Parochial Report – Pam sent this out to you along with the regular monthly packet of financials. We must approve it and remit to the Diocese NLT 3/1.
- **Al Getz made a motion to approve the Parochial Report. Brad Hall seconded. The Parochial Report was approved unanimously.**
- Annual audits – We need someone to chair (and form) the audit committee that will conduct internal audits of both the parish financials and the Foundation financials. **Barbara Brotherton agreed to chair the audit committee.**
- Gasparilla Pirate Parade – Saturday, 1/27. Youth and choir manned the parking lot and made a combined \$2,020 off the revelers (\$1,220 for youth, \$800 for choir). *(continued)*

February 2018 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$36,447	\$48,210	\$72,207	\$96,420
Expenses	\$42,117	\$48,210	\$101,887	\$96,420
Net	(\$5,669)	\$0	(\$29,650)	\$0

- Bishop's Visitation – Bp. Michael Garrison will be with us on Sunday, 4/29. He is the retired Bishop of Western New York (and the Rector's Bishop when he served at Trinity, Fredonia, NY from 1997 to 2005.) He assists Bishop Smith on a part-time basis. Since we just had confirmation when Bishop Smith was with us last June, there won't be any confirmations when Bp. Garrison visits.
- Diocesan Convention Delegates – We need three intrepid vestry members (plus a fourth to act as alternate) willing to attend Convention in Punta Gorda on Saturday, 10/13. Paula Stewart, Al Getz, Don Crawford volunteered to be delegates. Alternate is Barbara Brotherton.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Peter Baker:

Peter is encouraging all vestry members to participate in chairing committees and in attending events at St. Andrew's. Peter will be meeting individually with Vestry members to get a better understanding of their talents and desires.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Al Getz:

The roofer (TNT) will start work on church by Friday. Al will keep us posted on his progress. A paper towel dispenser in the 2nd floor women's restroom has been reinstalled. Al has planned a meeting with the Sexton to monitor the cleaning of stainless steel fixtures. We have received a proposal from CCP Construction for the 1st floor restrooms in the Parish Hall. A total renovation (replacing everything in rest rooms, to include toilets, partitions, flooring, walls, ceiling, countertops, sinks, mirrors, paper towel dispensers, etc.) totals \$56k+. There was discussion on the scope of the renovation and the possibility of phasing the improvements. Al presented a proposal for some of the more critical aspects of the improvements and will be mindful that the restrooms will not be under construction during Eastertime functions.

A motion was made by Ben Borsch to request a second quote, circulate it to the Vestry members via email, and to move forward with the critical renovations as outlined by Al, which involve removal of wallpaper and painting of walls, removal and replacement of ceilings, and replacing exhaust fans, in an amount less than or equal to \$13,130. The funds are to be disbursed from the Reserve Fund. Motion seconded by Chris Capsambelis and passed unanimously.

The playground boat requires pressure washing and sealing. Al will obtain a quote. Sexton's closet is in need of decluttering, re-organization and additional tools are needed.

A motion was made by Peter Baker to approve funds, up to \$500, to purchase necessary tools for the closet. The closet will be kept locked once restocked. The motion was seconded by Jim Morgan and passed unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Fr. Reese:

We are starting off 2018 with a deficit as in prior years due to pledges that tend to come in at year-end as well as significant expenses for a quarterly property insurance payment and our yearly A/C contract being paid in full for the year. In comparison, our Ops account is above where we were last year at the same time, giving a positive indication for the coming year.



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.



HAPPY PANTRY! Thanks to **Barbara Brotherton** who has taken over the role of picking up all the groceries for the lunch program... Little lady does a big job!

PARISH LIFE – Cate Hammer and Chris Capsambelis:
Cate Hammer again circulated a signup sheet for the Lenten dinner hosted by the Vestry and Parish Life which is scheduled for March 6, 2018. The signup sheet is for side dishes and donations for the dinner.

The Vestry is also providing Coffee Hour fare for Easter Day, April 1. We need to prepare for a large turnout.

On the second Sunday in March, following the 10:30 service, *Adventures in Eating with Chris Sherman* will be launched. The event will begin with a tour of Oceanic Market with lunch afterward.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Jim Morgan:

Jim reported that VBS is scheduled for June 25th through 29th this summer.

OUTREACH REPORT – Richard Ferlita:

The Outreach committee will host the Lenten series chili dinner on February 27, 2018. Richard encouraged the Vestry to attend these interesting sessions presented by Dr. Haig Mardirosian

NEW BUSINESS:

Chris Capsambelis informed us that his wife, Julie, is responsible for the informative and eye-catching slide shows on display in the Parish Hall. Chris Cobb supplies the photos and Julie puts the slide shows together. Chris Capsambelis encouraged all to send photos and information to Julie if we wish to have it included.

Lori Taplow now has the photos of the parish taken recently by Chris Cobb. She will come up with a plan to check the directory information for accuracy prior to publishing the new directory.

Chris Capsambelis suggested that, due to our location downtown, we may want to schedule an active shooter training session. In addition to our Vestry members, this training should also include our ushers and Edwin, our parking lot monitor. Chris will organize this session.

CPR and defibrillator training was suggested. We would need a volunteer to set this up.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



KleanKits: It's that time of year again where we start seeking donations for our KleanKit initiative to benefit the homeless community. To help parishioners remember to bring in items, we will set aside the last Sunday of each month to collect one new item for each kit. A member of the Outreach Committee will be stationed outside the sanctuary prior to the start of both Sunday services to collect the featured item for the month (please feel free to bring everything in at once if you shop in bulk!). A box will still be available in the Parish Hall (side hallway) for any donations brought in on at any other time. Thank you in advance for your donations!

- April 29 – Deodorant (stick)
- May 27 – Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- June 24 – Razors (men's disposable)
- July 29 – Bar Soap & Washcloths

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@](mailto:secretary@saintandrewstampa.org)

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.

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

2018 IS FULL OF FUN & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

WHAT: Youth Night!

WHEN: Sunday, April 8, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

WHO: Youth in middle & high school

WHERE: The 6th floor

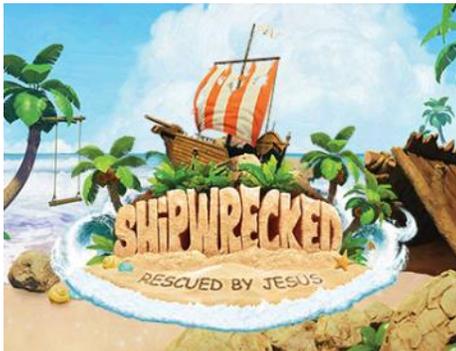
WHY: To learn life skills, play games, enjoy a meal together, and spending time together, growing in Christ and in friendship.

Invite your friends! It's going to be an amazing night! April 8th we will have a baking service project for our local fire department.



SUMMER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JUNE 25-29

SHIPWRECKED!! RESCUED BY JESUS



WHAT: VBS 2018: Shipwrecked Planning Meeting for VBS 2018!

WHEN: Sunday April 29, May 27, June 10, June 24 after services.

WHO: Adults & Youth interested in serving during VBS 2018 (VBS will take place June 25-29)

WHERE: 3rd floor library (room 302)

WHY: To cast the vision for VBS 2018 and plan all necessary details!

SPECIAL EVENT!!!

Youth & Parents Night:

What Can I DO to Help Keep My School Safe?



WHEN: Sunday, May 20, from 5:30-8 p.m.

WHO: Youth in middle & high school (5th grade & up please), friends, and parents

WHERE: St. Andrew's Parish Hall

WHY: To brainstorm ideas, share a meal, enjoy fellowship with one another, and learn something new, while we empower the community in hopes that we can help end gun violence in our schools.