



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✱ April 2021

Reverently Speaking

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

1 John 3:18

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

The story is told of two elderly men, roommates in a nursing home. One had recently gone blind and was living in quiet despair. He felt that life held little for him. He wanted only to die.

His roommate could see just fine, but he had trouble getting around. He rarely left his bed, which was next to the window of their room.

Neither one could remember how it happened, but one day the man who could see began describing to his roommate what was going on in the world outside their window. He told him of the mail carrier making his rounds; of neighbors walking their dogs; of the teenage boy and girl who passed the window every day after school — who first held hands, then embraced, then had an argument, then reconciled once again.

As the days went on, the blind man came to live for these updates from the outside world. His friend seemed to take such joy in it and had a real gift for describing what everything looked like.

Then one day his friend — who was much sicker than he had imagined — died. A new patient was wheeled in.

The blind man asked his new roommate if he would let him know what was happening outside the window.

"I'd be glad to," said the roommate, "but I don't know how I could do that. There's nothing outside our window but a solid brick wall."

The blind man was bewildered for a moment. He felt betrayed by his former friend. Had he been playing him for a fool? But then he realized, in a flash, what a precious gift his friend had given. He had spun, out of nothing but the stuff of his imagination, an entire world. He had dreamt up the mail carrier, and the neighbors, and the pair of teenage lovers — and he'd made those characters as real as if they'd lived outside that window, every day.

In that moment of revelation, the man realized there are things worse than having no sight. It is far worse to have no imagination, no inner vision.

Albert Einstein, who most people would consider the avatar for the pursuit of knowledge, once said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world ... Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions."

(continued)

What's true for education would also seem to be true for theology and the life of discipleship. We pursue knowledge of the Bible, knowledge of God, knowledge of doctrine — all important things — but sometimes we can become so enamored with that knowledge that we fail to cultivate an imagination of what God is actually wanting to do in us and through us. Plenty of biblical scholars aren't believers, for example

They have knowledge, but no imagination. We need both a strong foundation of the knowledge of God and a holy imagination to live out the vision for eternal life God has for us, both now and in the future.

Perhaps that's why John consistently refers to his audience as "children" in the First Letter of John, which is more of a homily. It's an invitation to cultivate a childlike imagination for the kind of life God has made possible for them in Jesus Christ.

A child at play believes he or she can be or do anything. A healthy imagination breeds creativity, confidence and a vision for the best of what life can be. Imagination can lead to discipline in pursuit of an imagined goal, a focus on what to embrace and what to avoid in pursuit of that goal, and the imitation of the kind of people we want to be. Children of God need to cultivate a healthy imagination for the kind of people God created them to be — people modeled on Jesus Christ, who love God and one another — and then develop the habits and practices that get them there.

As we journey through this Eastertide and rejoice in the resurrection, let's imagine the possibilities and live into being the Christians God has called us to be. Don't just acknowledge God and say you're a believer. Instead, imagine what God has in store for you and live as a Christian. That's how we change and how God can use us to change the world. *Alleluia! Christ is risen!*



Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Reese".

The Rev. John Reese

ANNUAL MEETING AND VESTRY ELECTION REVIEW

In light of the recent Annual Meeting and Vestry Election, the vestry is undertaking a review of how the process worked. Our initial assessment is that (1) vote by mail and (2) the ability for parishioners to attend remotely were very successful. Historically, we have had ballots cast at the annual meeting in the range of 70 to 80 votes. This year, more than 150 vestry ballots were received, reflecting a significantly increased participation. Originally we anticipated this year to be a "one-off" with a return to live voting only. However, the vestry now is examining whether vote by mail should be offered as an option at all future annual meetings. We welcome and solicit the input of any parishioners with their thoughts on the topic. – L. Gray Sanders, Senior Warden

BUDGET VOTE

We received 91 ballots. There were 91 'yes' votes and zero 'no' votes. Thus, the 2021 budget stands approved by the parish.

Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30

Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit

Learn to walk more closely with God with the boldness and the zeal of the apostles.

There's no better explanation for how to live out the Great Commission—following the instruction of the resurrected Jesus Christ to spread his teachings to all the nations of the world—than in the Acts of the Apostles. It is a unique and crucial book that chronicles the story of God's grace flooding out to the world through the lives of the apostles in the decades immediately following Christ's ascension into heaven. In the video series *Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit*, author and biblical scholar Matthew Skinner explores six key themes that illustrate the ways in which reading Acts is capable of igniting our imagination about the character of the Christian gospel, the work of God's people (the church), and the challenges of living faithfully in a complex and changing world.

Matthew Skinner is an ordained teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Here is the line-up:

4/11 – What God Has Done

4/18 – What God Does

4/25 – Discernment and Change

5/02 – Opposition

5/09 – Saints around the Edges

5/16 – This Changes Everything

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



From the Parish Register



Baptisms

Stella Grace Schubert



Deaths

Ann Crowder

Charlie Carl



Donations to Saint Andrew's Foundation

In Loving Memory of Virginia Mullen

Jean Turner

Laura Boyd

Nell Rorebeck & Family

In Loving Memory of Ann Crowder

Rosemary McAteer

In Loving Memory of John Wolfe

David & Jean Dilley

In Honor of Don & Virginia Sink James & Melissa Ackles

Youth News

Upcoming Children & Youth Activities:

Sunday, April 11, 2021

We will resume Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. on zoom
It's just 40 minutes, you can wear your jammies, and bring your bed head (no judgment whatsoever!).
We pack every minute full of faith, fun, and fellowship. Games, fun, and connection for all ages.

Meeting ID: 870 1375 1335

Passcode: 346sUq

If any adults or youth in grades 9 & up are interested in assisting with Sunday school, or want to join us, just show up with the meeting ID & passcode, or reach out to Alicia Schmid anytime at aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com I would LOVE to have your presence and help!

Sunday, April 11, 2021

Nursery care will resume in the nursery from 10 a.m. - Noon

Nursery staff will be taking all necessary precautions. Please call the church office for questions.

Sunday, April 18, 2021

Children's Chapel in the Courtyard at 10:30 a.m.

Join us for chapel time in the courtyard just for kids! We would also love youth helpers— kids look up to our teens, and this is a great way for them to serve. Sing songs in worship, hear cool Bible stories, and much more! Our time in chapel lasts for about 40 minutes, and kids are brought in to their parents during the service at the passing of the peace. If weather is too hot or rainy, we will relocate to the 6th floor so we can spread out.

Sunday, April 25th from 6:30-8:30pm

St. Pete Pier Night for Youth & Families

Wear your walking shoes, bring water, and come check out some of the awesome outdoor entertainment spaces St. Pete Pier has to offer! Kids in 5th grade and under are welcome to attend with a parent or guardian. Adults are welcome too! Please join us. We will get to see lots of art, a self-driving mini-bus, and other entertaining sights as we take in the beauty and vibrancy of St. Petersburg and Tampa bay. Invite a friend to this outdoor event and get ready for a night of fun & fellowship!

Sunday, May 23rd from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Explore Lectio on the Go at the Tampa Riverwalk

We will meet in St. Andrew's courtyard and walk to the riverwalk by way of Curtis Hixon park, enjoying the sights of downtown as we pause for inspiring Godly reading, reflection, and prayer. Invite a friend, dress comfortably, and bring water (also consider wearing insect repellent as needed). We will need volunteers to read short readings aloud. *Lectio on the Go* is open to anyone who feels led to attend! Please join us for this meaningful event, that is sure to bring peace and connection to all who attend.

Please email Alicia Schmid anytime at aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com to get involved in any youth, children's, or family activities!

February Vestry Meeting Highlights

Appointment/Election of Executive Committee

Father Reese appointed Gray Sanders as Senior Warden. Gray nominated George Levy as Junior Warden. Jim seconded. Vestry unanimously elected George as Junior Warden. Gray nominated Ingrid Muellerleile as Clerk. Jim seconded. Vestry unanimously elected Ingrid as Clerk. Ingrid nominated Richard Ferlita as Treasurer. Jim seconded. Vestry unanimously elected Richard as Treasurer.

Committee Assignments

Christian Education – Jim Morgan (chair), Jennifer Richardson

Foundation Liaison – Gray Sanders (ex-officio)

Helping Hands – Lynn Dorman (chair), Kathy Lawless

Outreach –Lori Taplow (chair), Richard Ferlita

Homeless Ministry – Sue McIsaac (chair), Kathy Lawless

Parish Life – Pam Curry (chair), Jennifer Smith

Buildings & Grounds – George Levy

Stewardship & Evangelism – Gary Cotter

Welcoming – Jennifer Richardson

Media – Paul Scheuer

Diocesan Convention Delegates – Lynn Dorman, Kathy Lawless, Gray Sanders, (Paul Scheuer, alternate)

Audit Committees: Lynn volunteered to chair the Parish Audit, and Piers volunteered to chair the Foundation Audit.

RECTOR'S REPORT

A warm welcome to our new vestry members:

Pam Curry, Richard Ferlita, Kathy Lawless, Paul Scheuer, and Lori Taplow.

As of 2/15/21, there was \$236,831 in ops account and \$85,344 in the parish reserve account.

As of 2/17/21, there was \$33,650 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry. On 1/27/21, the Foundation transferred \$20,000 from Foundation principal to the checking account (this \$20,000 is part of the 2017 allocation). (continued)

February 2021 Operating Summary

| | <u>MTD Actual</u> | <u>MTD Budgeted</u> | <u>YTD Actual</u> | <u>YTD Budgeted</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Revenues | \$60,871 | \$46,754 | \$84,493 | \$93,509 |
| Expenses | \$46,905 | \$48,776 | \$102,903 | \$97,553 |
| Net | \$13,965 | (\$2,021) | (\$18,410) | (\$4,043) |

We have another \$6,473 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. (NB: \$47,000 has already been transferred to the Foundation checking account from the 2017 allocation, which totaled \$53,473).

We have another \$75,659 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.

We have another \$63,718 available from the Foundation principal as a result of the 3% spending allocation designated by the Foundation Board for 2019 at their meeting on 2/27/19.

We have another \$72,918 available from the Foundation principal as a result of the 3% spending allocation designated by the Foundation Board for 2020 at their meeting on 2/4/20.

And there was \$2,929,677 in the Foundation principal as of 12/31/20, as opposed to \$2,785,795 as of 12/31/19, an increase of \$143,882 for the year (a 5% uptick for 2020).

There is also approximately \$99,000 in the Dan Curtis fund fbo St. Andrew's within the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, with \$4,371 in grant money available for 2021. This fund is designated for church maintenance purposes.

There is Adult Christian Education at 9:30AM in the third floor library. There is no nursery or coffee hour. Alicia launched a 9:30AM Zoom Sunday school class for youth that started on 2/14. Alicia will commence Children's Chapel in the courtyard (sixth floor in case of inclement weather) starting on 3/7. She has planned an outdoor youth retreat for Sunday afternoon, 2/28 at St. Leo's.

Annual Stewardship Campaign – is now concluded. As of 2/16/20, we have 155 pledges for 406K, which is 19K less than last year at this time. There are still 14 pledgers who pledged 26K in 2020 whom we have not heard from for 2021. Many thanks to all the phone calls and contacts you have made with folks during the past two months. Your valiant efforts are very much appreciated!

Rector's Housing Allowance – request to designate \$16,000 of the Rector's salary for 2021 as a housing allowance. This is for IRS/tax purposes.

Richard made a motion to approve the request to designate \$16,000 of the Rector's salary as 2021 housing allowance. Vestry approved unanimously.

Parochial Report – we need to approve it and send it on to diocese by 3/1. Pam will email you a copy of the draft.

Jim moved to accept the Parochial Report as submitted by Pam Frost. Vestry approved unanimously.

Foundation Board – will meet on 3/3 and set this year's allocation (in the range of 2%-4%, as stipulated by the Foundation indenture). George Bedell and Pat Wolfe are eligible for re-appointment by the vestry to three-year terms on the board. They are both willing to serve another term.

(continued)

Jennifer R made a motion to appoint George Bedell and Pat Wolfe to serve once again on the Foundation. Vestry approved unanimously. Richard mentioned we should recognize Pat for her dedication and time as she volunteers for the Foundation and keeps the books perfectly.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Gray Sanders

Gray reported on the vestry election. It went very smoothly and with the mail-in ballots, we had significantly higher participation than in past years with the in-person annual meetings. He will include these thoughts in the annual budget approval announcement. He reported that he has instructed Pam to keep the ballots for 30 days and then destroy them. Gray is moving forward with the church inventory. Lynn, Sue & Paul volunteered to help.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – George Levy

George reported that the open roof repair projects have been completed. The A/C driplines are being addressed and upgraded. He asked Richard to report what he encountered with fence on the Madison Street side of the church. He reported that the fence posts have rusted through. The section needs to be replaced. George also reported that the entire fence is suffering from rust and is proposing scraping and painting all the fence posts with rust inhibiting paint to slow down the deterioration. He had previous estimates but will get refreshed estimates and present them to the Vestry at the next meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Piers Curry

Piers reported that pledges are still down compared to the prior year. The Operating fund is in better shape this year than last year, with expenses down. The PPP Loan Forgiveness has been applied for.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OUTREACH:

Sue reported that Easter Boxes of Hope are underway.

HOMELESS MINISTRY:

Sue reported that the church is now receiving delivery of water bottles for the lunch feedings. She said she and 3 other volunteers will be attending the Metropolitan Ministries Bridge Builders event.

HELPING HANDS:

Lynn is planning for the upcoming kitchen cleanup on Friday, March 19th from 12-4. Volunteers from Daughters of the King will be helping.

STEWARDSHIP:

Gary thanked all for the help in encouraging pledges.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE NEW RECTOR LEADS HIS FIRST FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, BY ZOOM.



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 adults

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.