



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

# THE CALL

*Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!*

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✱ April 2022

## *Reverently Speaking*

*Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.*

John 12:3

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

Several years ago, a man in New York City was abducted. The kidnappers called his wife and asked for a \$100,000 ransom. She talked them down to \$30,000. The story had a happy ending: the man returned home unharmed, the money was recovered, and the kidnappers were caught and sent to jail.

But don't you wonder what happened when the man got home and found that his wife got him back for a discount? Calvin Trillin wrote about this incident. He imagined out loud what the negotiations must have been like: "\$100,000 for that old guy? You have got to be crazy. Just look at him! Look at that gut! You want \$100,000 for that? You've got to be kidding. Give me a break here. \$30,000 is my top offer."

I'd like to think if I were in a similar situation, there would be people who would spare no expense to get me back. They wouldn't haggle over the price. They wouldn't say, "Well, let me think about it." I like to think that they would say, "We'll do anything for you."

The point of that story is this: sometimes it's okay to be extravagant! Now, that is precisely what the story from last Sunday's Gospel from John (12:1-8) is all about. Jesus is on His way to the cross. It is just a few days before Passover. The chief priests and scribes are plotting against Him. Judas is about ready to betray Him. The crucifixion is less than a week away and Jesus knows it. Jesus and His disciples stop at Bethany... just a few days before, Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead there in Bethany. Now, as they are having dinner, a woman comes to Jesus and does a beautiful but extravagant thing for our Lord. John tells us that the woman was Mary (the sister of Martha and Lazarus). Mary brings an alabaster jar of very expensive ointment. She breaks open the jar and pours the costly perfumed oil on Jesus' head... she anoints His head with oil.

Why did she do that? Some say it was an act of gratitude in which she was thanking Jesus for raising her brother Lazarus from the dead. Some say it was an act of consecration in which she was baptizing Jesus to encourage Him to go into the Holy City and do what had to be done. Others say it was a foreshadowing, an act of preparation, in which she was anointing His body for the death which was to come in Jerusalem a few days later. All say it was an act of love and kindness.

But the story doesn't end there. Mary (after doing this beautiful thing) is criticized by some of the folks in the room. Judas reprimanded her for being so wasteful. And then Jesus reprimands Judas for being so "stingy."

Stinginess means being overly concerned about money... sort of like the kidnapped man's wife, who obviously felt that money is very important.

*(continued)*

Maybe she reasoned like this: “Which is easier to replace, a husband or \$100,000?” That is stingy thinking, materialistic thinking. That is the Judas mind-set. That’s the way Judas thought. “What a waste! Look what we could have done with all the money we could have gotten from selling that perfumed oil. Think of how many poor people we could have fed!”

Now, Judas didn’t intend to do that... in fact, it wasn’t even his oil, but it sounded good... and Judas was probably surprised and taken aback when Jesus complimented Mary on what she had done.

Now, the point of the story is simply this: sometimes it’s okay to be extravagant. That’s Mary’s mind-set. If you lived strictly by the Judas mind-set, you would have no bell tower on the church, no flowers on the altar, no art, no vestments for the choir or clergy, no fine organ, no beautiful weddings. Your daughter would come to you and say, “I’m in love and I’m so happy... I want to get married.” And you would say, “Well, why don’t you just elope? It’s much cheaper. It would be wasteful to have a wedding.” But the Mary mind-set says, “Sometimes in the name of love and kindness and gratefulness, it’s okay. Indeed, it’s beautiful to be extravagant.”

Maybe that’s what Mary was doing that day in Bethany – expressing her indescribable thanksgiving to Jesus. Sometimes words just aren’t big enough and perhaps this extravagant act was her way of trying to say “thank you” to her Lord for all that He had done for them... and for the most recent act of calling her brother Lazarus out of the grave.

Do you have that kind of victorious spirit?

Do you have that kind of deep faith?

Do you have that kind of extravagant gratefulness?

If not, why not? Because Jesus taught us that it’s okay to be extravagant in our generosity and in our gratitude.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John +", with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Rev. John Reese

### **Stations of the Cross: Fridays in Lent 12:10pm**

Come and join us for this 30-minute devotional, observed on Fridays in Lent at 12:10pm running through Good Friday on April 15. Our Stations of the Cross, a gift from Nathan & Jane Simpson, are a series of pictures representing certain scenes in the Passion of Christ, each corresponding to a particular incident. Formerly the number of stations varied considerably in different places but fourteen are now generally acknowledged. The object of the Stations is to help the faithful to make in spirit, as it were, a pilgrimage to the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. It is carried out by passing from Station to Station, with certain prayers at each and devout meditation on the various incidents in turn. It is very usual, when the devotion is performed publicly, to sing a stanza of the "Stabat Mater" while passing from one Station to the next.

# LENTEN & EASTER SCHEDULE

Fridays in Lent  
**Stations of the Cross** 12:10pm

Sunday, April 10  
**Palm Sunday**  
Holy Eucharist and Blessing of Palms  
8:00am and 10:30am *(with incense)*

April 11 • 12 • 13  
**Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday  
of Holy Week**  
Holy Eucharist 12:10pm

April 14  
**Maundy Thursday**  
12:10pm Holy Eucharist  
7:00pm Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

April 15  
**Good Friday**  
12:10pm Stations of the Cross  
7:00pm Good Friday Liturgy

April 17  
**Easter Day**  
8:00am Holy Eucharist  
9:30am Choral Eucharist & Flowering of the Cross  
11:30am Choral Eucharist *(with incense)*

***Please note that there are  
three services on Easter Day;  
We hope your family will join us!***

## *Easter Flowers and Music*



### Flowers:

Donation made by:

---

In honor of:

---

In memory of:

---

### Music:

Donation made by:

---

In honor of:

---

In memory of:

---

Deadline: April 10 for inclusion in Easter Program.  
Proceeds beyond Easter expenses for flowers will be  
used to help fund altar flowers and other special  
flower needs throughout the year. The proceeds  
from music donations will fund special music for  
Christmas Eve services this year.

# Adult Christian Education

**Sunday mornings at 9:30**

## ***Seven Words: Listening to Christ From the Cross***

Examine the last seven words of Christ on the cross this Lent.

The most difficult part of Lent is, of course, contemplating our Savior on the cross: the physical pain, the humiliation, and the undeniable injustice. Our hearts break. It's natural to try and avoid the reality of how Jesus died, but it is from the cross that Jesus shows his deepest love for us. As Jesus draws his final breath and utters his last words, it is then that his deep trust in the Father and his divine glory are revealed.

In *Seven Words*, we will look at Christ's final words from a biblical and historical perspective, seeing how we can find life and hope in them. The six-session DVD features The Rev. Susan Robb, Senior Associate Pastor at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas.

Here is the rest of the line-up:

4/10 – Into Your Hands

## ***What's So Amazing About Grace?***

In this six-session video Bible study, bestselling author Philip Yancey explores the concept of *grace*--the one thing the world cannot duplicate and the one thing it craves above all else--and explores what it looks like in action. He also examines how Christians, as the sole dispensers, are doing at lavishing the grace on a world that knows far more of cruelty and unforgiveness than it does of mercy.

As Yancey explains, true grace is shocking and scandalous, for God does not excuse sin but *always* treasures the sinner. God always extends his grace to individuals regardless of what they have done--for no one is unforgiveable in his eyes. Grace thus shakes our conventions with its insistence on getting close to sinners and touching them with mercy and hope.

Yancey offers compelling and true portraits of grace's life-changing power. He searches for its presence in his own life and in the church. He asks how Christians today can contend graciously with moral issues that threaten all they hold dear. And he challenges each of us to become living answers to a world that desperately wants to know, "what's so amazing about grace."

Here is the line-up:

4/24 – No Strings Attached

5/1 – An Unnatural Act

5/8 – The Art of Forgiving

5/15 – Grace Put to the Test

5/22 – Grace Abuse

5/29 – Dispensing Grace

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

## Parish Picnic



Please join us as we celebrate the return of the St. Andrew's Parish Picnic. Earl and Jan Smith have again graciously offered to host the family picnic at their home on **Sunday, May 1st** starting at **1pm**.

The Smith's address is 3627 Berger Rd. in Lutz.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided by the church.

Don't forget lawn chairs or picnic blankets, outdoor games, sunscreen, bug spray or anything else you would like to bring for a festive gathering outdoors filled with fellowship, food and fun!

## Cookbooks are here!!



The Commemorative Cookbooks celebrating the 150 years of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church created by the Daughters of the King are now available. Due to the overwhelming response from parishioners, we had many more than our goal of 150. Some recipes did not make it into this edition, but a supplement will be issued in the future. We will allow one book per family, and if need be, additional copies will be requested. Please pick up a copy after each service and sign up if one is not available. Thank you!

## Homeless Ministry Volunteers Needed

It is beginning to feel like summer and the Homeless Ministry would appreciate some extra volunteers. Wednesday and Friday especially. We need volunteers that can pick up 3-4 trays of sandwiches from Metropolitan Ministry and bring them to the church by 9:00am and then help make the bags to pass out at 9:45. While we need volunteers, monetary donations are still greatly appreciated. Please consider volunteering. You can reach out to Sue MacIsaac at 813-382-8790 or her email: [suemmacisaac@gmail.com](mailto:suemmacisaac@gmail.com)



### From the Parish Register



#### Marriages

Tyler Overstreet &  
Michelle Dickinson



#### Deaths

Charles Caro



#### Transfers In

Joe & Kathy O'Sullivan



# February 2022 Vestry Meeting Highlights

## RECTOR'S REPORT – Fr. Reese

As of 2/21/22, there was \$230,209 in ops account and \$83,507 in the parish reserve account.

As of 1/31/22, there was \$24,383 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry.

We have \$20,659 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. (On 1/27/21, \$20,000 of the \$75,659 allocated for 2018 was transferred from the principal to the checking account. On 7/21/21, another \$20,000 from the 2018 allocation was transferred from the principal to the checking account. On 10/5/21, another \$15,000 was transferred from the principal to the checking account.)

We have \$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 \$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.

We have \$81,371 available from the Foundation principal as a result of the 3% spending allocation designated by the Foundation Board for 2021 at their meeting on 3/3/21.

Total available funds from principal for years 2018 thru 2021: \$238,667.

There was \$3,218,925 in the Foundation principal as of 12/31/21, as opposed to \$2,929,677 on 12/31/20 (an increase of \$289,248 for the year).

There is also approximately \$99,000 in the Dan Curtis fund fbo St. Andrew's within the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay. This fund is designated for church maintenance purposes. We spent the 2021 allocation of \$4,250 to pay TNT Roofing for repairs to the NW corner of church roof.

Columbarium Project – Benches (two for columbarium area and one for south garden next to church) have arrived and look great! Many thanks to Ashley Thomas for donating them.

Annual Stewardship Campaign – is now concluded. As of 2/23/22, we have 157 pledges for 429K, which is 23K more than last year at this time. There are still twenty-four pledgers who pledged 50K in 2021 whom we have not heard from for 2022. 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!

Parochial Report – we need to approve it and send it on to diocese by 3/1. Pam Frost emailed you a copy of the draft for your perusal prior to the vestry meeting. If you have any questions, please call Pam in the office. Request was made to approve this report for signature at a later time by the executive team.

*Parochial Report. Barbara Brotherton made a motion to adopt the Parochial Report with a second from Derrick Brown. The report was unanimously accepted. The executive committee was asked to stay following the meeting in order to sign the report.*

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – on Tuesday 3/1 at 6PM (hosted by the Youth).

Ash Wednesday Services – are 3/2 at 7:30AM, 12:10PM, and 7PM (with choir).

(continued)

## February 2022 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
<b>Revenues</b>	\$30,481	\$50,564	\$83,388	\$101,128
<b>Expenses</b>	\$38,224	\$50,564	\$100,260	\$101,128
<b>Net</b>	(\$7,743)	(\$0)	(\$16,871)	(\$0)

Lenten Series – Tuesdays starting on 3/1 (Shrove Tuesday) and continuing through 4/5. Each evening begins with Holy Eucharist in the Children’s Chapel at 5:30, followed by supper in the Parish Hall at 6PM and the program at 6:45PM. Fr. Ed Rich will be this year’s presenter. His topic will be Paul’s Letter to the Galatians.

Here is the line-up:

3/1 – Youth

3/8 – Daughters of the King (Sue).

3/15 – Outreach (Loueita)

3/22 – Choir (Barbara)

3/29 – Altar Guild (Jennifer)

4/5 – Parish Life (Pam)

Stations of the Cross – Fridays in Lent (3/4 through 4/15) at 12:10PM in the church. Come and join us each week for this simple, yet moving, service. It only lasts about 25 minutes.

Bishop Election – Saturday, 4/2 at the Cathedral. Our delegates are Lori, Loueita, Brad, and the Rector.

Vestry Retreat – The tentative date is September 10<sup>th</sup>. The retreat will also include our September Vestry meeting.

Parish Picnic – Should we try it? Vestry feels we should do it.

Foundation Board – will meet soon and designate this year’s allocation (range is 2% to 4% of principal based on a three-year rolling average, as per Foundation by-laws).

Parish & Foundation Audits – time to form two audit committees to conduct 2021 audits.

Foundation Audit: Kathy L and Jennifer R

Parish Church Audit: Pam C and Barbara B

**SENIOR WARDEN’S REPORT:** Richard Ferlita. He states that he is new in this job and that he will provide a report for subsequent meetings. He notes that Father R has covered most of the information which would have been shared in his report.

**JUNIOR WARDEN’S REPORT:** Richard Chapman– Subsequent to reviewing last month’s minutes, he has checked the water leak and recommends that we do some in house water testing costing in total about \$200-\$300. He states that the project should be started by next meeting. He referenced the mural proposed by Nancy Turner and provided some detail about the mural, including that the mural/mosaic is made of tile and will be 8’ x 5’ and would be located above the fountain in the columbarium. Kathy L. noted that the door by the kitchen needs to be “looked at” and the light fixture needs to be repaired.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Lori Tapalow

The report notes that we have \$230,000 in the operating account. Revenues are up. Payment of the insurance of \$16,000 impacted our balance and once that amount is pro-rated, “we are in good shape.”

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**HOMELESS MINISTRY:** Sue MacIsaac: Our numbers are fluctuating and there is definitely more homeless that are getting fed than in the past. Discussion followed regarding downtown possibilities for showers for the homeless. There was also discussion about the homeless wandering around the parish facilities on Sunday mornings and how to ensure safety for parishioners. The rector will investigate the possibility of re-engaging a Sunday morning security guard.

**OUTREACH:** Lori Taplow: Lori opened up discussion regarding Lenten Series, and whether to have food. Alicia does want to do Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper with the Youth. She also wants to restore the Easter Egg Hunt. Vestry was in favor of having dinners as part of the Lenten series.



## St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## Lenten & Easter Schedule

*See full Lent & Easter schedule inside  
page 3*



### 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](http://saintandrewstampa.org)

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

[saintandrewstampa.org](http://saintandrewstampa.org)

**Deadline for articles for  
The Call:** 15th of each month  
for the following month's  
newsletter. Submit articles to  
Lauri in the church office.