



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

# THE CALL

*Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!*

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✱ April 2025

## *Reverently Speaking*

*The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna.*

Joshua 5:12

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

So, where is your next meal coming from? Groceries you haul home from the store? Something on the restaurant menu that looks good to you?

Until recently, these were about the only choices most of us had, meal-wise. Until, that is, the advent of meal-kit delivery services.

Once the domain of those trying to lose weight, gourmet meal kits have become a hot little corner of the food industry. Trading under names like Blue Apron and HelloFresh, these companies offer subscribers a box of fresh ingredients each week that they can use to whip up their own gourmet meals at home. Open box. Follow recipe. Dig in.

Rapid delivery services like UPS and FedEx are key to the success of these enterprises. So is an ingenious plastic sack of frozen goo that sits inside a shiny foil "space blanket," transforming the humble cardboard carton into a single-use disposable cooler. Consigning all that packaging to the landfill may not be so good for the environment, but consumers don't seem to be overly bothered by that ecological transgression.

Once you have a subscription to one of these services, the food cartons show up each week like clockwork. You don't have to order them — although most services do allow for some substitution options. The boxes just come.

One day, long ago, the Hebrews, recently emancipated from slavery in Egypt and at the point of starvation in the wilderness, woke up to find bread from heaven! They called it manna, and like the Blue Apron boxes, it came on a regular basis — not once a week, but *every morning*!

This went on for years. Israel's manna rations didn't include such ingredients as quinoa, fresh basil or chili paste. But without fail, each daily delivery included a fine, flaky substance that "was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey" (Exodus 16:30). The Israelites scooped the stuff up and baked it into cakes, the ultimate in convenience food for busy working refugees.

There was no shipping box, no freezer pack, no insulating liner. The manna arrived on the ground fresh, like shimmering morning dew. Its shelf life was limited to one day, so there was no stockpiling it for the future. But who among them was concerned about that, when the Lord delivered a fresh supply each day (with double, less-perishable rations on the eve of the Sabbath, to spare God's people the temptation to work on their day of rest)?

It's remarkable how often the Lord sends us just what we need, when we need it. It was true for the ancient Israelites, and it remains true for us today.

What we're talking about here, in theological terms, is called "providence." It's not a word you hear so often anymore — unless you're talking about the capital of Rhode Island. That city was named by its pious founder, Roger Williams. He gave thanks for "God's merciful providence" in leading him and his followers to that place. This was after they were driven into the wilderness by the governing authorities of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Those Puritans didn't like Williams' unorthodox theological views. The early settlers of Rhode Island didn't discover any flaky white stuff on the ground, but they did find plenty of game in the forest and fish in the streams. That was manna enough for them.

It's been said that "life is understood backward, but it must be lived forward."

Isn't that so often the way it is with us, in times when we feel trapped by dire circumstances? When jobs are lost, when relationships fail, when sickness intrudes — even when we've lost the car keys — we may not think at the time that God is close at hand, guiding our circumstances. But then, wonder of wonders, we discover that we have what we need, after all. And we give thanks.

Such experiences are our *manna moments*. They may not always seem so at the time — but, later on, with a little distance to reflect back on the situation, a pattern of loving care emerges. We come to see the providential hand of God active in our lives in the most remarkable ways. When that happens, the place we once imagined to be wilderness turns out to be a place of blessing after all.

There comes a time, though, when the manna ceases. That's what happened to the Hebrews. On the very day the Israelite people are bringing in their first harvest in the promised land, they awaken to discover, for the first time in 40 years — except for Sabbath-days — that no manna coats the ground! That's not because the Lord has ceased to be generous. It's because the people of Israel no longer need such heavenly largesse. It's not that the Lord has stopped providing: God has simply started to provide in a different way.

We are all partners with the Lord in this business called living. It's not that we are some kind of pampered house-pet. For instance, Cassie and Clarence, our cats, simply walk to their food dishes in the kitchen and voila, the kibble appears. Surely there are times and seasons when we may need the manna, but God's purpose is to bring us to the place where we no longer need it.

Even then, if we expand our field of vision, we'll discern the Lord at work, guiding us in the very ways we provide for ourselves and our loved ones. All that we have is ultimately God's generous gift. Isn't that enough?

Yours in Christ,



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 18th. 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

Sunday, April 13

### **Palm Sunday**

Holy Eucharist and Blessing of Palms

8:00am and 10:30am (*with incense*)

April 14 • 15 • 16

### **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week**

Holy Eucharist 12:10pm

April 17

### **Maundy Thursday**

12:10pm Holy Eucharist

7:00pm Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

April 18

### **Good Friday**

12:10pm Stations of the Cross

7:00pm Good Friday Liturgy

April 20

### **Easter Day**

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:30am Choral Eucharist (*with incense*)

## Youth News

**Vacation Bible School 2025 will take place August 4-8, 2025. The VBS theme this year is True North: Point kids to Jesus, a faithful friend we can always trust.** Guide kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North! Stay tuned for supply lists, but feel free to contact Alicia at [aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com](mailto:aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com) to volunteer for a week of faith, fun, and fellowship!



## Adult Christian Education

**Sunday mornings at 9:30**

### ***The Grace of Les Misérables***

Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* is a truly epic story. Whether you've read the novel, seen the Broadway musical, heard its soundtrack, or seen the several screen adaptations, you already know the power in the story. In this six-week video study, Pastor Matt Rawle of Asbury UMC in Bossier City, Louisiana, dives into six ideals found in the story—grace, justice, poverty, love, revolution, and hope—each represented by a character in Hugo's story. As these imperfect and relatable characters interact, we can see how these ideas work together (perhaps even in spite of each other) out in the world. Rawle brings us to the intersection of Church and Pop Culture by drawing parallels between the iconic story and musical and our Christian calling, inspiring us to both understand our faith and live it out in our daily lives.

Here is the rest of the line-up:

4/6 – Building the Barricade: *Les Amis*

4/13 – The Blessed Garden: A Hopeful Vision

*This class, facilitated by the Rector, meets in Rm 302 (the Library) on the third floor of the parish building.*

## Thanks to those who have pledged in 2025!

Chris & April Adams  
 Patrick & Alison Allman  
 DeHart & Patty Ayala  
 Irene & Peter Baker  
 Mr. & Mrs. Alston Barrow  
 Siegfried & Linda Barry  
 George Bedell  
 David Belcher & Mallory Lykes  
 Desmond Benjamin  
 Bill & Allison Besselieu  
 Mike & Pam Billings  
 Benjamin & Jeannie Borsch  
 Edwin & Judith Bourdeau  
 Thomas & Juanita Boyd  
 William & Kathryn Boyd  
 Mr. & Mrs. John H. Boyet  
 Barbara Brotherton  
 Derrick & Beverley Brown  
 Donreece H. Brown  
 Kerry Brown  
 Richard & Laurie Brown  
 Warren Brown  
 Don & Campbell Burton  
 Norton & Linda Busby  
 Julian H. Byrd  
 The Rev. Rick Campbell  
 Steve & Debbie Cantler  
 Nicole Carr  
 J. Frazier Carraway & Claire B.  
 Carraway  
 Dr. & Mrs. Stephen F. Chambers  
 Richard & Ginger Chapman  
 Charlotte Churchill  
 Holly Clemmons &  
 Katie Pastorius  
 Chris & Martha Cobb  
 Gary Cotter & Sharon Colucci  
 Richard Connor  
 Peter Connors  
 Don & Summer Crawford  
 Piers & Pamela Curry  
 William & Stacy Curtis  
 Wayne A. Daley  
 Robin DeLaverigne  
 Terri Diaz  
 Michael & MaryBeth Dickinson  
 Wallace A. Dixon  
 Edward and Lynn Dorman  
 Dennis & Melinda Dundore

Lindell Dye  
 Dr. James & Sunny Endicott  
 Rodrick & Lucinda Evans  
 Susanna Fenhagen &  
 Tony Morrison  
 Richard Ferlita &  
 James Carmichael  
 Ms. Pat Frank  
 Mr. & Mrs. William A. Gillen Jr.  
 Bradley & Alicia Hall  
 Hiram & Wynnette Hampton  
 Eric & Loueita Hargens  
 Mary Beth Harris  
 Vernon & Charlotte Henderson  
 Paul Henley & Joanne Byars  
 Staige & Tricia Hoffman  
 Bill Hudson  
 Christopher Hunt  
 Michael & Christean Hursey  
 Diana Jodice  
 Margo & Larry Kemm  
 Beth Kennington  
 Judy Kent  
 Patrick & Sharon Keogh  
 Fran Kerr  
 Robert & Elaine Kimble  
 Carole T. King  
 David King  
 Susan Kiniry  
 Victoria & Charles Klug  
 Laura Kruper  
 Jack & Anne Kutchmire  
 Katherine Lawless  
 George & Rosemary Levy  
 Alex & Kim Liggett  
 Adrienne Love  
 Sue MacIsaac  
 Rosemary S. McAteer  
 Kirk McCann & Dorothy Peters  
 Lloyd & Barbara McFarquhar  
 David McLay  
 Michael & Linda McGhee  
 Warren L. Miller  
 James M. Moore  
 Michael & Michele Morris  
 John & Susan Mueller  
 Michael & Janet Norona  
 Bill Nipper  
 Anne T. Paige  
 Charles & Elizabeth Palm  
 Robert E. Parr

Bill & Ingrid Peterson  
 Sally Phethean  
 Craig & Louise Polley  
 Anna Putney  
 Ryan & Dana Putney  
 Tom Rankin  
 Larry & Joan Rayburn  
 The Rev. & Mrs. John Reese  
 Janis Temple Riasanovsky  
 The Rev. Edward R. Rich  
 Jennifer & Charlie Richardson  
 Kristi Roberts  
 Victoria Rubel  
 Catherine & L. Gray Sanders  
 Paul & Elisabeth Scheuer  
 Chip Sellas  
 Chris Sherman  
 Mark & Maria Shroka  
 Jim & Diana Shuler  
 Ron Simmons  
 Jane & Nathan Simpson  
 Donald & Virginia Sink  
 Earl & Jan Smith  
 Gregg & CJ Smith  
 Jennifer Smtih  
 Maxwell & Teri Sobel  
 Carol Jean Spoto  
 The Rev. & Mrs. Jerold Stadel  
 Linda K. Stevens  
 Paula Stewart  
 Kathleen Stoy  
 Catharyn Szuba  
 Matt & Carolyn Tapie  
 Doug & Lori Taplow  
 Keri Thatcher  
 Arlene & Steve Tonnesen  
 Betty Trueblood  
 Nancy Turner  
 Georgia & Milton Vahue  
 Ray & Jeanne Vince  
 Christopher & Maureen Watson  
 Jaret West  
 Jack Wheat  
 Pat Wolfe  
 Betty Wood

### Senior Vocal Recital

Please join Ethan Lucas, tenor section leader in the Louise Lykes Ferguson Memorial Choir, as he presents his senior recital at The University of Tampa on **Saturday, April 5 at 7:30p.m.** The concert will be in the Charlene Gordon Theatre in the Ferman Center for the Arts, on the campus of UT. The theater is located on North Blvd, north of Kennedy. Plenty of free parking is available in the Thomas Parking Garage, directly across from the venue. You don't want to miss this wonderful opportunity to hear Ethan sing a variety of tenor arias, operatic selections, and classical repertoire. The concert is free and open to the public.

### Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee will be meeting **Sunday, April 6th** to plan our annual Cinco de Mayo luncheon. The proceeds of the luncheon will benefit Operation Smart Start. If you are a current member of the Outreach Committee or are interested in finding out more about it, please grab a cup of coffee in the Parish Hall and join us upstairs after the 10:30am service. If you're interested but unable to attend, please contact Keri Thatcher at 813-313-7816 for more information.

### St. A's Book Club Meeting for April 2025

Founded in October, 2024, our Book Club has grown to over twenty members. Our first two choices were Ernest Hemingway, "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" (Nov 10) and Claire Keegan, *Small Things Like These* (Dec 8). In 2025, we shall usually meet on the first Sunday of the month, after the 10:30 am Eucharist, and in the third floor Library, room 302. Bring your coffee & snacks. If you enjoy good reading, challenging ideas, and cogent discussion, come and join us.

Here is our remaining Book Club 2025 date and the book we shall discuss.

Sun **Apr 6** / 7<sup>th</sup> meeting / Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist* (1988), 197 pp, \$15.

Come and join us. If you want to be on our mailing list or if you have any questions, please do email me, Ray Vince, Book Club secretary, at [rvince@hccfl.edu](mailto:rvince@hccfl.edu) or text me at 813-857-7419.

### Good News of Freedom / The Lenten Series 2025

Raymond M. Vince

In this Lenten Series, we shall examine the good news of Jesus by asking six foundational questions, about God, the world, knowledge & faith, our neighbor, the nature of time, and how we should live.

5:30 pm Eucharist in the Chapel / 6:00 pm Supper

6:45 pm Lent Series begins / 7:30 pm end.

How should we live? / To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly.

**Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025** (Altar Guild)

# February 2025 Vestry Meeting Highlights

## NEW BUSINESS – DOMINICAN DEVELOPMENT GROUP (“DDG”)

Eric Hargens introduced Christy Wallace and Sally Thompson and made opening remarks about the DDG, its mission of organizing mission teams to travel to the Dominican Republic to help with building Churches, schools, and other necessary infrastructure, and the DDG’s previous relationship with St. Andrew’s and its members. Christy Wallace and Sally Thompson gave a presentation about the DDG, including its purpose of assisting the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic with development initiatives by providing project planning, expertise, fundraising support, and organizing mission teams from the United States to assist with projects. Ms. Wallace and Ms. Thompson discussed how the mission teams operate and how DDG supports those mission teams. Ms. Wallace and Ms. Thompson also answered questions from the Vestry about DDG’s programs and how St. Andrew’s could resume its involvement.

**Eric Hargens made a motion to resume St. Andrew’s involvement with DDG, including using the funds in Account 8090, which are restricted to building churches, to support the initiative. Wayne Daly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Eric Hargens and Keri Thatcher agreed to begin organizing a meeting to plan a first mission trip and to find members interested in participating.**

## RECTOR’S REPORT – Fr. Reese

As of 2/18/25, there was \$200,001 in the operating account and \$62,643 in the parish reserve account.

As of 1/31/25, there was \$31,800 in the Foundation’s checking acct – monies available to the vestry.

Total available funds from principal for years 2021 thru 2024: \$299,541.

There was \$3,275,936 in the Foundation principal as of 12/31/24 (as opposed to \$3,092,638 at the end of 2023, an increase of \$183,298 for the year). And that’s with transferring 124K from principal to checking during the course of the year in order to pay for various projects.

There is also \$119,139 in the Dan Curtis fund fbo St. Andrew’s within the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay. This fund is designated for church maintenance purposes. Current amount available is about \$500. (We spent 12K from this fund to repair leaks in the church roof this year.) Community Foundation will let us know the amount of the 2025 distribution at the end of February.

2025 Annual Stewardship Campaign – is now concluded. As of 2/19/25, we have 136 pledges for 553K, which is 54K more than last year at this time. There are still 21 pledgers who pledged 19K in 2024 whom we have not heard from for 2025.

Wine Tasting Event – with Chris Sherman and Chris & Martha Cobb was on Saturday, 2/15. Good turnout of about 40 winebibbers. Many thanks to Allison and her friend for playing viola and violin!

Parish Picnic – is Sunday, 3/2 at 12:30 at Picnic Island.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – is on Tuesday 3/4 at 6PM (hosted by the Youth).

Ash Wednesday Services – are on 3/5 at 8AM, 12:10PM, and 7PM (with choir).

Lenten Series – Tuesdays starting on 3/4 (Shrove Tuesday) and continuing through 4/8. Each evening be-

## February 2025 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
<b>Revenues</b>	\$47,950	\$59,451	\$98,674	\$118,902
<b>Expenses</b>	\$72,267	\$59,451	\$155,752	\$118,902
<b>Net</b>	(\$24,316)	(\$0)	(\$57,077)	(\$0)

gins with Holy Eucharist in the Children's Chapel at 5:30, followed by potluck supper in the Parish Hall at 6PM and the program at 6:45PM. Ray Vince is this year's presenter.

Stations of the Cross – Fridays in Lent (3/7 through 4/18) at 12:10PM in the church. Come and join us each week for this simple, yet moving, service. It only lasts about 25 minutes.

Parochial Report – Pam Frost sent a copy of the draft report for the vestry's perusal prior to the meeting.

**Keri Thatcher made a motion to approve the Parochial Report. Allison Besselieu seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

In Jerry Divers' estate, he left a \$500,000 bequest to St. Andrew's Foundation.

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 Audit – Wayne Daley; Paul Henley

Foundation Audit – Allison Besselieu; George Levy

Audits are due by September 1, 2025.

Need Second Nursery Attendant – There is a candidate for the position, who is being background checked.

Ryan Hebert Retiring – on 4/27. There will be a farewell party after services that day that Jennifer Richardson & Martha Cobb will coordinate. Fr. Reese will arrange a gift. Coleman Flentge also plans to leave in the spring. However, he is willing to stay with us through the summer, if it would help us with the transition. Ideally, the new organist/choirmaster post will be a single position, rather than being split into two positions.

At the Rectory, a dangerous tree also has to be removed. Fr. Reese obtained quotes with the lowest being \$3,400 from Total Outdoor Maintenance/Tim Robinson.

**Jennifer Richardson made a motion to spend \$3,400 from the maintenance/reserve fund for Total Outdoor Maintenance to remove the dangerous tree. Pam Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Piers Curry**

Piers thanked the vestry for their efforts in the Stewardship campaign and discussed the strong results. Piers thanked Jerry Divers for his gift to the Foundation. Piers encouraged the vestry to attend the upcoming parish picnic, Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, and the Lenten series. Piers thanked the committee chairs for their service and George Levy for volunteering to be Junior Warden.

#### **JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – George Levy**

George has been reviewing existing vendors and service agreements but does not anticipate any changes to them. George's philosophy is to have the right sized vendors to ensure costs are in a reasonable range and to avoid unnecessarily spending funds. Patrick Keogh volunteered to assist George with issues and provide support.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT – Eric Hargens**

Eric discussed the current financial statements. We use cash basis accounting, which makes large, planned expenses, including quarterly property and health insurance premiums, have a significant effect on the budget. Also, collections were down in January as expected. However, the budget should smooth out over the year if we hit our budgets for annual revenue and expenses.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Allison Besselieu – Parish Life**

Allison discussed the upcoming parish picnic and being in a good position with plenty of volunteers. Allison also discussed the upcoming events – Lenten dinner on March 18, Easter, and Ryan's retirement party.

**New Business** - Wayne Daley raised the issue the unhoused population using the St. Andrew's parking lot as a restroom facility and options to alleviate the issue. Wayne raised the idea of possibly having a port-a-potty placed in the parking lot. The vestry discussed this possibility, including costs, permits, and liability. Wayne is going to research the cost of a port-a-potty.



## St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Lenten and Easter Schedule

*See page 3*

### FOOTWASHING ON MAUNDY THURSDAY



### 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

#### 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.