



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

# THE CALL

*Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!*

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✱ August 2023

## *Reverently Speaking*

*Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak...And Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.*

Genesis 32:24-25

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

I've always been amazed at those phenomenal people who can compute sums and fractions in their heads in the matter of moments. Math wizards! When I was in school, we called these super amazing computational people "geeks." Now, geeks rule the world. They've given us computers, navigational systems, smart phones, AI, online banking, and thousands of other intricate systems we barely even think about today, because we take them for granted!

But even for the best math wizard, there can come a time in their professional lives (or even in their graduate studies) when they encounter a "problem" that they just have trouble solving. Or maybe there's a college course that just feels ridiculously tough. Or maybe they've come up against a make-or-break moment in their career, in which they need to get the right algorithm to make something function. Then comes the reckoning! Talk about pressure! They spend hours, days, years struggling to come to terms, to reckon, with the "problem" at hand. Will they persevere, or will they give it up? That is the prime question (pun intended).

Years ago, the word "to reckon" was used frequently in math. It meant to figure out a bill or to do a sum. But reckon has other meanings as well, and you can see how these might relate to "reckoning out a math problem." The word "reckon" itself comes from the Middle English era. Around 1200, it meant to "count up" as in math. That's, in fact, where we come up with our idea that a "reckoning" also means a kind of judgment. At least, that's the way we think about it when we "recount" biblical stories: the "Day of Reckoning," in which all souls will be "accounted for," judged," and the world will be made "straight!" Or straightened out, if you will. After all, that's what Jesus does when he returns, right? Straightens out our mess.

Before he feels ready to reconcile with his brother, Esau, Jacob has a wrestling match with himself and God. Jacob has had a huge learning curve in his life, a huge bout of emotional and spiritual growth before this moment on the hillside. Remember the story of Jacob and Esau, in which Jacob "cheats" Esau out of his first-born right to be the covenant carrier of the family? Although it may have been his mom's idea (lots of blended family stuff in that story), Jacob struggles immediately both with carrying out the deceitful act and with carrying it in his conscience. He runs off to his uncle Laban where he bears Laban's deceit, as he does the old switcheroo on him, as Jacob works for Rachel and first receives Leah as his wife. Finally, marrying both, he proceeds on, with the stage (obviously) set for a lot of rivalry between these two wives as well. But that's another story.

As Jacob decides to go back to his own country, he is filled with self-loathing, worry, stress, and guilt over his former deceit. He doesn't know how to face his brother Esau, and he has no idea if Esau will retaliate

*(continued)*

and kill him. So, before he crosses that “Rubicon” (actually, it’s the Jabbok River that he crosses), he needs to come to terms with himself, and with God. After all, deceive others, and you deceive yourself and God all at the same time. So Jacob struggles. He struggles hard. How can he carry the covenant line when he’s a sinner, and a thief, and a coward, and a deceiver? He’s feeling insecure. He’s feeling guilty. He’s feeling afraid. He’s feeling like a jerk, a failure. Most of all, he needs to trust in the goodness of God, in God’s ability to forgive him more than he is able to forgive himself. He needs to trust in God’s wisdom in blessing him, Jacob the deceiver, as Covenant Carrier for God’s blessed people.

As Jacob struggles, God breaks him, and then blesses him. In that time of reckoning, God breaks his self-pity, his self-doubt, his wretchedness, and his insecurity. God blesses and restores him to God and himself. As Jacob limps toward the river’s crossing, bearing the visible signs of his internal struggle, he is a changed man, a humbled man, one who has reckoned with himself and has come to terms with what he’s done and who he is, and who is ready to take on the responsibility, the real responsibility and personality, of a true covenant bearer for God. At that, Jacob is able to make his transition. He crosses that river. Miraculously, he meets Esau on the other side of the Jabbok. They embrace, and the past is put to rest. That is what you call a mighty story about reckoning!

Having faith does not come without struggle. To struggle with our doubt must be part of the deepening process of our faith.

Discipleship is a much harder “struggle” to reckon with than any old math problem. After all, in math, you have a problem, you make a determination, and you declare a solution or result. But in life, when you face a dilemma or a crisis of faith, that reckoning, the struggles you feel, the disbelief, the urge to doubt, the times when reason kicks in and miracles seem fanciful or silly, that moment of decision when you need to trust Jesus, who he is, and what he’s capable of in your life, is your true time of reckoning.

God often comes into our lives in our greatest times of desperation and dilemma, most often when we find ourselves in our most deserted places. And those are the times in which we struggle the most. Those struggles are important. They are a vital part of the process of coming into a place of deep faith. The question is, will you allow God to prevail?

All of us need a little limp in our step and a little humility in our lives in order for us to trust God in times when we most fear, doubt, or misstep. When we do, we will find ourselves truly fed, truly nourished, truly at rest, truly at peace.

To reckon with God means we agree to make our paths straight, to come to terms with what it means for us to trust, to have faith in God, to believe in the person of Jesus, and to make a conscious decision to make him our Lord and Savior. We struggle, and in that process, we come to a reckoning in which we submit ourselves to God. We come to terms with who we are, who God is, and the path we want our lives to take.

So, what will it be? Will you follow Jesus, or will you go your own way?

That is the prime question.

Yours in Christ,

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

The Rev. John Reese

## Baseball With the Bishop



Get your tickets for Baseball with the Bishop as the Tampa Bay Rays take on the New York Yankees **Friday, August 25 at 6:40 p.m.**, gates open at 4:40 p.m. Bishop Scharf will participate in the 7th Inning Stretch.

Lower-corner tickets are \$33.04 (\$53 value) and a portion of this ticket offer will benefit the Episcopal Charities Fund.

To order tickets and for more information please contact Rafael Lazala at 727-825-3445 or [rlazala@raysbaseball.com](mailto:rlazala@raysbaseball.com)

## Outreach—Operation Smart Start

School begins on August 10th and that means it's time for St. Andrew's annual *Operation Smart Start!* school supplies drive. This year we are asking for students' backpacks suitable for elementary students.

The backpacks should have the following items inside: Two (2) packages of WIDE-RULED LOOSE LEAF PAPER, One (1) package of #2 pencils, Two (2) erasers (handheld or the ones that go on the end of pencils), One (1) box of tissues, and One (1) small plastic bottle of hand sanitizer.



Monetary donations are also welcome. Please write "Operation Smart Start!" in the memo of your check.

Your donations will benefit Kimbell Elementary and Cleveland Elementary Schools in Tampa.



Please make your donations by Sunday, August 6. There will be a designated collection area in the Parish Hall. For more information, please contact Chris Capsambelis at (727) 542-4547 or Martha Cobb at 813-787-4020.



**From the Parish Register**



**Baptism**

Ryan Jacob Cox

**Donations to  
Saint Andrew's  
Foundation**

*In Loving Memory of  
Diane Kemker*

J Thomas Touchton

**Donations to  
Saint Andrew's  
Foundation**

*In Honor of  
Donald & Virginia Sink's  
62nd Anniversary*

James & Melissa Ackles

## The Parish Directory is going online!

We will be launching an online (member only access) parish directory. You will be receiving Directory Information Cards that need to be completed for you and your family to be a part of the online directory.

The information will be accessed via our website and will be password protected by each participant. You choose what information will be available for other parishioners to see.

Once we have it up and running, you will be able to edit your own information directly and add your own picture. We will also provide printed copies upon request.

In the meantime, we need the information cards completed and sent back to us via mail, email ([administrator@saintandrewstampa.org](mailto:administrator@saintandrewstampa.org)) and by dropping them in the collection plate.

Pictures can be sent or emailed in as well for us to upload for you.

If you have any questions, please email Pam Frost ([administrator@saintandrewstampa.org](mailto:administrator@saintandrewstampa.org)) or Lauri Harder ([secretary@saintandrewstampa.org](mailto:secretary@saintandrewstampa.org)) or call them at 813-221-2035.

### St. Andrew's Online Directory Information Card 2023

Please write your name, and then mark the boxes that apply to you. Online password protected access is restricted to those who list their email addresses. Once set up you will be able to edit your information online yourself. We will provide printed copies upon request.

<b>Do you want to be included?</b>	<b>I want to share the following information:</b>	<b>Also show my:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, include me (us) in the directory	<input type="checkbox"/> Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Birthday (month & day)
<input type="checkbox"/> No, Leave my/our information out	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone numbers	<input type="checkbox"/> Anniversary
	<input type="checkbox"/> Email (this is required to view the directory )	<input type="checkbox"/> Childrens' Names
<b>Which Picture will you use?</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> I will email <a href="mailto:administrator@saintandrewstampa.org">administrator@saintandrewstampa.org</a> or mail a picture to the office		
<input type="checkbox"/> I do not want to use a photo-list contact information only		

Name(s)

Children

Address

Email(s)

Phone (s

Birthday (s) /Anniversary

# Adult Christian Education

## Sunday mornings through September 3rd at 9:30

***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) on the third floor of the Parish Building.*

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## Sunday mornings starting September 10th at 9:30

### ***First & Second Thessalonians: Keep Calm and Carry On***

Have you ever been discouraged in your faith? Or wondered if you are staying grounded in what you believe? This was the issue facing the believers in Thessalonica. So Paul compelled them in two letters to not be deceived by false teachers but remain diligent in doing the work set before them as they looked forward to Jesus' return. In this video Bible study, pastor and author Levi Lusko will guide us through these two letters, revealing what the apostle's words meant to his original readers and how they apply to us today. Levi Lusko is the founder and lead pastor of Fresh Life Church in Montana.

Here is the line-up:

9/10 – The Word is Out (1 Thessalonians 1:1-10)

9/17 – Never Give Up (1 Thessalonians 2:1-12)

9/24 – Born for This (1 Thessalonians 3:1-13)

10/1 – Mind Your Business (1 Thessalonians 4:1-12)

10/8 – Between Now and Then (1 Thessalonians 5:12-28)

10/15 – Keep Calm and Carry On (2 Thessalonians 1-3)

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

# May Vestry Meeting Highlights

## RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 5/8/23, there was \$217,164 in ops account and \$86,283 in the parish reserve account.

As of 5/8/23, there was \$20,622 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry.

Total available funds from principal for years 2019 thru 2023: \$376,408.

There was \$2,886,045 in the Foundation principal as of 4/25/23, as opposed to \$2,757,202 on 12/31/22 (an increase of \$128,843 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. We did not spend any of the 2022 allocation. Current amount available is \$8,981 (the allocations for 2022 and 2023).

Pictorial Directory – Pam and Lauri in office are working on this, it will be an online directory that can be continuously updated and shared electronically with parishioners. Pam is currently learning to operate Realm (which is the update for ACS, our current software system). Her goal is to then have the directory up and running sometime this year.

Planned Giving – The Foundation Board wants the parish to begin a serious effort at promoting planned giving. We could create a legacy society that would ask folks to include St. Andrew's in their estate planning.

Parking Lot Patrol – has launched. Chris Cobb is heading this up and is looking for volunteers to roam the parking lot from 10-10:30AM on Sundays, re-directing the poachers and pleading with them not to steal thy neighbor's parking space in the future.

Parish Picnic – was on Sunday, 4/16 at the home of Earl & Jan Smith. Many thanks to the Smiths for hosting once again and to Parish Life for setting up and grilling!

New Office Furniture – Pam Frost's new desk and file cabinet arrived on May Day. A big improvement over the old desk!

Foundation Board – met on 5/3 and allocated 3% of the principal for 2023. The allocation for this year is \$89,058. (Each year the range is 2% to 4% of the principal based on a three-year rolling average, as per Foundation by-laws).

University of Tampa Concert at St. Andrew's – UT Chamber Singers (select mixed choir) and Camera-ta (select treble chorus) performed on Friday, 5/5 under the direction of Ryan Hebert. Great music!

Daughters of the King – welcomed Crystal Green and Betty Trueblood as new members during a ceremony during the 10:30 service on 5/7. Congratulations to Crystal and Betty!

Cinco de Mayo - luncheon was on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 service. Many thanks to the Outreach Committee for hosting this event, which was very well attended!

Graduate/Sunday School Sunday – is during the 10:30 service on 5/21. We will recognize our high school and college graduates and thank our Sunday School teachers.

Funeral – The memorial service for Phyllis Sheaffer will be on Saturday, 6/3 at 11AM at St. Andrew's.

Vacation Bible School – will be the week of 7/31 through 8/4 at St. Andrew's.

*(continued)*

## June 2023 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
<b>Revenues</b>	\$41,341	\$50,564	\$257,501	\$303,384
<b>Expenses</b>	\$57,362	\$50,564	\$307,853	\$303,384
<b>Net</b>	(\$16,021)	0	(\$50,351)	0

Episcopal Visitation – Bishop Scharf will visit St. Andrew's on Sunday, 2/25/24 (the Second Sunday in Lent). We will have confirmation classes for youth and adults in January and February.

Parish Audit – Wallace and Holly are heading this up.

Foundation Audit – Allison and Barbara are heading this up.

**Senior Warden:** Richard Ferlita reported that the mission of the church, to be an on-going concern, has been brought up by The Foundation. It is important to the future of our church that parishioners are educated about planned giving to St Andrew's. A campaign will be launched to introduce planned giving in the estate planning of our parishioners. It is up to the Vestry to be sure that we inform folks about the importance of bequeathing something to St. Andrew's. We will all be shepherds to communicate the importance of this effort. St. Andrew's may consider establishing a legacy society. A meeting or meetings will be organized in the future to pursue this.

**Junior Warden:** Richard Chapman reports that the doors for the kitchen arrive on 5/18. They will need to be painted red before being installed. Preparations are underway to begin the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor restroom renovation this summer, when the traffic lighter. This work is estimated to take 2 or 3 weeks. Estimates to resurface and stripe the parking lot are in the \$30,000 to \$35,000 range. We may continue with the parking lot as is and just patch the pot-holes and consider resurfacing at a future date.

**Treasurer:** Pledges/Offerings were 14% above year-to-date budget. Parking revenue was 26% above year-to-date budget. Expenses are even with budget.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Outreach:** Richard Ferlita reported for Chris Capsambelis that \$908 was made on the Cinco de Mayo luncheon, proceeds to benefit Operation Smart Start this summer.

**Helping Hands:** Barbara Brotherton informed that Helping Hands will be involved in a funeral on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Barbara also mentioned that she has emailed Pat Wolfe to get a date to conduct the audit of the Foundation.

**Outreach Homeless Program:** Kathy Lawless is working with Holly Clemmons to have a meeting of volunteers for the homeless program to discuss policies and procedures on Sunday, 6/4 at 9:15AM. Agenda items will include discussion of ways to enhance the program, information about the new kitchen doors, the Mr. Bubbles shower idea, and other ways to improve the Outreach program. Some details were provided on the operations of the Mr. Bubbles shower ministry. The showers are comprised of 4 converted port-a-potties. They are on a flatbed trailer and are pulled behind a truck. They just require a faucet spigot. They are happy to discuss with us how we can help them and what they do. Water usage is minimal. They have an apparatus with the ability to heat the water. They also set up tents to allow privacy to the users. They provide towels, toiletries, and clean clothes from 8:30 to 11:30 on a Saturday morning. They run the shower water to the street drain. Time allowed for showers is limited and there is a sign-up sheet. Proposing August 19th or Sept 9<sup>th</sup> as possible dates. The Rector suggested the 8/19 date as best. A flyer will be passed to our lunch clients when the date is settled. SALT, which stands for Service and Love Together, has reached out to our Outreach Committee. They have a remote office in Wesley Chapel and also have a shower vehicle for homeless people. They have a clothing vehicle that they operate. After Mr. Bubbles, we may consider taking SALT for a test drive. Volunteers are needed for the weekday lunch program during the summer months.

**Audio Program:** Paul Scheuer mentioned that we had a gentleman come in to assess the acoustics in the church for microphones.

The meeting was closed at 6:24pm.



## 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](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.