



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

# THE CALL

*Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!*

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✕ December 2020

## *Reverently Speaking*



*“Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.”*

Mark 13:35-36

Dear People of St. Andrew’s,

On April 7, 1789, the U.S. Senate created a position called “doorkeeper.” They appointed James T. Mathers to the position. The doorkeeper’s duties required him to make sure all senators were alert and ready for business, and it required him to keep them doing business for the duration of the time, undisturbed by others. They could not leave or “check-out” when things got dicey and disruptive. They needed to stay the course until decisions were made and any new paths forward were forged.

The doorkeeper kept them present, ready, alert, and willing to engage. To be a doorkeeper also meant keeping those inside vigilant, active, on task, engaged, and aware. No falling asleep on the doorkeeper’s watch!

Sometimes, the doorkeeper needed to be prepared to deal with noise, intruders, or crowd control, so that the Senate could continue to do its duty even during and after disruptive events. Always alert and aware, the doorkeeper is often seen as the calm, friendly face of the Senate, a “stamp of approval” for the healthy disruption that goes on within the Senate chamber.

Jesus advises his disciples to keep awake, to stay alert, for God will win in the end. Look, Jesus says, for the disruptive presence of God to break through into your current reality.

We don’t often think of God as disruptive. We like to think of our vision of God as a calm, serene, peaceful God, who leads us beside still waters and carries our burdens. But in Mark 13:24-37, we see also the disruptive nature of God, disruptive to the forces of evil, to sin, to wrongdoing, and to injustice. Even disruption in death. In fact, you could say that the very onset of Advent in a sense is the sign of the beginning of God’s disruption of our ordinary world with God’s extraordinary presence. The disruption of our mundane and transitory world with God’s sacred and eternal promise. The disruption of our mortality with God’s offer of resurrection life.

Our job is to be vigilant and look for the signs of God’s disruptive presence in our lives and our world. And then we must allow God in fact to disrupt us and move us into new truths and new places and spaces.

We are the doorkeepers for God’s disruptive presence. We are the ones who can see the signs of God in the world and in the lives of people everywhere, and let them know to pay attention, as the Holy Spirit disrupts our spiritual slumber and ushers in extraordinary acts of love and healing, goodness and beauty that serve to counteract our fears, pain, complacency, and mundanity.

*(continued)*

If you are thinking that this virus, this political climate, the divisions between people, the state of our economy, the disillusionment of our young, the sadness of our churches is winning the battle for this world, then you are missing the signs of God's disruptive Spirit. You are missing the readiness and the alertness that Jesus tells us is so vital to our role as disciples of Jesus in this world.

Be alert, Jesus says. Stay awake, he tells us. Be ready for your mundane and ordinary life to be disrupted by sacred and sacramental things, by extraordinary things.

Be ready for your predictable life to be disrupted by unpredictable things.

Be ready for your rational and realistic life to be disrupted by mysterious and fantastic things.

Be ready for your easy and complacent life to be disrupted by challenging and amazing things.

Be ready for your difficult life to be disrupted by the love and grace of the Holy Spirit of Christ.

Be ready for your spirit to be renewed so you can mount up on eagles' wings and proclaim the glory of the Lord in this Advent season.

Be ready.

Because you don't want to miss this moment. You are God's witnesses.

Be intentional about your faith.

Be vigilant in looking for the signs of God all around you. For strange things are coming. And God is breaking into the midst of our lives and our world.

This is the good news of Advent. This is the good news of God's kingdom....on earth as in heaven.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese



**Christmas Lessons & Carols**  
**Sunday, December 20th at 5:00PM**

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge, was first held on Christmas Eve in 1918. Since then, churches around the globe have continued this time-honored celebration, highlighting the start of the Christmas season. Join us on **Sunday, Dec. 20 at 5p.m.** as the section leaders of The Louise Lykes Ferguson Memorial Choir present music for this festive worship service. Traditional and new carol settings by David Willcocks, Egil Hovland, Malcolm Archer, John Rutter, and others are sure to lift your spirits as we commemorate the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Join us in person, or via livestream on St. Andrew's FaceBook page or Youtube channel.



# SAINT ANDREW'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 20 — 11:45 a.m.

## Greening of the Church



Sunday, December 20 — 5:00 p.m.

## Christmas Lessons & Carols



Thursday, December 24

## Christmas Eve services

5:30 p.m. — Choral Eucharist (Rite II)

11:00 p.m. — Choral Eucharist

(Rite I with incense)

A string ensemble will play  
at both services, with pre-service music at  
5:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.



Friday, December 25

## Christmas Day service

10:00 a.m. — Choral Eucharist (Rite I)

## *Gifts for Christmas Flowers & Music*

Please return this form by  
December 11 in order for your  
dedication to be printed in the  
bulletin.

☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ donation  
to Christmas Flowers:

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ donation  
to Christmas Music:

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

This form may be mailed or  
placed in Sunday's collection  
plate. Proceeds beyond  
Christmas expenses will be  
used to fund other special  
music and flower needs  
throughout the year.

# Stewardship 2021

Dear St. Andrew's Family,

In the past year, we've been faced with unprecedented challenges in our lives. I've been touched and energized by our congregation and the support they have generously provided.

This year we have been reminded of how generosity can transform us, our community and our church. Your financial generosity empowers the ministry of St. Andrew's and transforms our community on a daily basis.

We can transform what generosity looks like as well. As we call upon you to be generous financially, we also ask you to be generous in staying connected to fellow parishioners, in caring for those in need, and in maintaining our beautiful church community.

Your pledge is about more than our parish budget. It is about how we transform generosity and allow generosity to transform us. I know that as we change the lives of others through our ministry our lives will be changed through this work. In an act of transformational generosity, Jesus gave his life for the world. And for you and me. By giving we walk in Jesus' footsteps. We live out our call to discipleship.

On behalf of the Vestry, thank you for your faithful witness to God's transformative call on our lives. I'm grateful you are part of the St. Andrew's family.

Faithfully,

Piers Curry

Piers Curry

Treasurer

## FAITH·FILLED GENEROSITY: my 2021 pledge

In gratitude for God's many blessings, I/we pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I/we plan to fulfill this pledge \_\_\_\_\_ weekly, \_\_\_\_\_ monthly,  
\_\_\_\_\_ semiannually, \_\_\_\_\_ annually.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please contact me about including the church in my estate plans.

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**

509 E. Twiggs St. Tampa, FL 33602

# Adult Christian Education

## Sunday mornings at 9:30am

In *The Case for Christmas*, Lee Strobel reveals what he discovered as he sought to separate the holiday from the holy day, the facts from the fantasy, and the truth from the tradition. We will explore:

- \* What the Gospel accounts actually say, what other stories about Jesus' birth emerged in the first through third centuries, and how we can know the biblical accounts are accurate
- \* The Bible's claim that Jesus was born of a virgin and whether that idea--and other aspects of the Christmas story--developed from the pagan religions of the day
- \* Some aspects of the Christmas story that don't seem to match with the historical or archaeological record, such as the census, the existence of Nazareth, and the slaughter of the innocents
- \* The great mystery of the incarnation--how Jesus could be both fully God and fully human at the same time--and how we can know he is truly the promised Messiah

Here is the rest of the line-up:

12/6 – Beneath the Fake News

12/13 – A Mind-Boggling Proposition

12/20 – The Prophetic Fingerprint

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

## Youth News

Greetings and Happy Advent! We are starting our Advent calendar activity with the children and youth this week. We have scratch off calendars. Each day they will scratch off that day, then watch a short video on the church's website: [www.http://saintandrewstampa.org/](http://saintandrewstampa.org/) and then talk about that day with their parents. We still have Advent calendars if anyone needs one and wants to participate. Sunday school is still going on via zoom each Sunday. I am doing the youth and Donreece is doing the children. If you are interested in having anyone attend, just contact me and we will put you on the email list for an invitation each week. The youth are still working on the Scout program P.R.A.Y. every other Saturday and we are really getting into some great information about the Episcopal Church and our personal walk and beliefs.

I am praying this pandemic will end soon. When it does, we will need people to help with the kids. Please just start praying now to see if God would have you give some time in the future to our next generation. We talk a lot about stewardship and I realize it is hard now with the restrictions. But we will be back to normal eventually and we will need adults to help guide our kids. So please pray about how God might use you here in the future, and, as always, pray for our kids and youth.

Here is the contact info for the 9:30AM Sunday School zoom classes:

Victor Van Pelt's Youth Class Meeting Number is 7397649410 and the Password is X6w8fc.

Donreece Brown's Children's Class Meeting Number is 75036943148 and the Password is Sunday.



## From the Parish Register

### Deaths

Robert Hursey

John Chapman



# October Vestry Meeting Highlights

## RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 10/5/20, there was \$164,944 in ops account and \$86,744 in the parish reserve account.

As of 9/30/20, there was \$19,433 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry (with about 11K still to be paid out for the AV project).

Via an email vote on 6/30/20, vestry approved the new audio visual project for the church, along with a phone/internet upgrade for offices, parish building, and church. Foundation made initial payments of \$2,403.68 to PBX-Change (total cost is \$4,807.35), \$1,122.60 to ACCI (total cost is \$2,245.20), and \$7,589.95 to Layton A/V Audio Visual Solutions (total cost is \$15,179.91).

We have another \$33,473 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: \$20,000 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 \$2,688,259 in the Foundation principal as of 9/30/20, as opposed to \$2,785,795 as of 12/31/19, a decrease of \$97,536 for the year to date.

There is also approximately \$99,000 in the Dan Curtis fund fbo St. Andrew's within the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, with \$3,116 in grant money left available for 2020. This fund is designated for church maintenance purposes. (We recently paid out \$5,500 from this fund to repair the northwest corner of the church roof. We are now/still leak-free in the church!)

Sesquicentennial Celebration – St. Andrew's turns 150 in 2021. We will celebrate with Choral Evensong on All Saints' Day, Sunday, 11/1 at 5PM. But with the coronus among us, the rest of the program year remains murky.

Virtual Church – continues ad infinitum.

Church audio visual project update – Via an email vote on 6/30/20, vestry approved the new audio visual project for the church, along with a phone/internet upgrade for offices, parish building, and church. We confirmed this at the July vestry meeting. Total payments will be \$4,807.35 to PBX-Change, \$2,245.20 to ACCI, and \$15,179.91 to Layton A/V Audio Visual Solutions, all to be paid from Foundation funds. PBX-Change and ACCI have completed the new internet/phone set-up.

## November 2020 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
<b>Revenues</b>	\$53,064	\$48,385	\$493,328	\$532,239
<b>Expenses</b>	\$44,604	\$48,385	\$504,255	\$532,239
<b>Net</b>	\$8,460	(\$0)	(\$10,956)	(\$0)

Layton is installing the new system on 10/15 and 10/16. Many thanks to Doug Taplow for modifying the sound booth and making the two new shelves for the front column cameras. And thanks to Paul Scheuer as well for manning the phone on the stick for so many Sundays. The Layton representative will be in church on Sunday, 10/18, to supervise the unveiling of our many-camera system.

We have a change order in the amount of \$615 from Layton (see email attachment). This is to upgrade the camera above the baptismal font to be zoomier and to add pre-wiring for yet another camera on the right rear column of the nave.

**Peter moved to accept the change order, with a second from Jim. The motion passed unanimously.**

The new, recurring, monthly phone/internet bill with PBX-Change will be \$724.35, as opposed to our current \$600 per month with Proximiti. Thus, there will be an annual increase of about \$1,500 for phone/internet services.

There is Adult Christian Education at 9:30AM in the third floor library. There is no nursery, children's Sunday School, Children's Chapel, or coffee hour. Victor launched a 9:30AM Zoom Sunday school class for youth that started on 10/4. He is also working on having a Zoom SS class for younger kids as well.

Lumina Choirs – We have yet to hear back from Lumina regarding our acceptance of their rent proposal of \$100 per month.

Annual Stewardship Campaign – launched on 10/4. Many thanks to Gary and Sue for speaking at Sunday services. First mailer went out on 10/5. Next mailer will be sent in early November.

Pet Blessing – in church courtyard on Saturday, 10/3 at 10AM. We had a goodly turnout of pooches.

Virtual Diocesan Convention – is Saturday, 10/17. Don, Gray, Jennifer S., and yours truly will gather in the Parish Hall to partake in the virtual festivities. FYI: Diocesan apportionment for us for 2021 will be 63K, as opposed to 58K in 2020.

#### **SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Gray Sanders**

Gray stated he is seeking volunteers to begin the church inventory in mid-December.

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

George reported that all projects are up to date and completed. The touch up painting for the A/V wiring will be taken care of by the A/V installation crew.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT – Piers Curry**

Piers reported the key areas of St. Andrew's finances are doing very well. Although we are in the red by \$63,000 for the year, he feels confident that the amount will be made up by year end. Non-pledge and plate offerings are behind for the year, but to be expected considering the circumstances of COVID. Now that all PPP monies have been allocated and used, the Forgiveness Application will be submitted.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **OUTREACH:**

Sue reported that they have had a great volunteer turnout for the homeless lunches. She stated that Metropolitan Ministries is planning to distribute hot meals for Thanksgiving. Gabriel's Giving Tree is underway with Lin Busby placing an announcement in the bulletin offering parishioners several options to participate in the program this year.

##### **HELPING HANDS:**

Lynn reported that they are still seeking volunteers.

##### **STEWARDSHIP:**

Gary asked for additional volunteers to speak in front of the parishioners in November.

##### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Questions were raised regarding the Slip & Fall litigation concerning an alleged incident last year. St. Andrew's received the insurance demand. No settlement yet.

##### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Father Reese announced that Father Rick Campbell has accepted the call of Priest-in-Charge at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church in Zephyrhills. November 1<sup>st</sup> will be his last Sunday. The church office will be coordinating collections for a purse. Fr. Jerry Stadel will step in as Assisting Priest, preaching once a month and visiting the homebound and shut-ins.

## St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## ST. ANDREW'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

*see page three*



### 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.