



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✕ December 2021

Reverently Speaking



“The word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 3:2-3

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

Is there anything as exciting as a touchdown? It's football season! Every weekend, folks all over the country gather around televisions in homes and gathering places to cheer on their favorite teams. What makes football so exciting is the struggle, the raw energy, initiative, and strategy it takes to maneuver down the field toward the goal. Each time the home team gets another first down, a cheer of glee rises from the stands. People will pay a lot of money and spend a good deal of time paying attention to who will make it through that jungle of bodies and equipment, elements and setbacks in order to score and win the game.

Survival shows are nearly as popular as football. “Survivor” is now in its 41st season. Adventure, wilderness terrain, survival challenges, struggle – these things thrill us. The thought of being alone on a desert island, out on the open seas, or in a dangerous jungle gives us an adrenaline rush, as we get in touch with our inner “wild thing,” our primal humanity.

Each step, whether on the football field or in the survivor's wilderness, challenges us to think instinctively and creatively in order to make decisions that will not only set us ahead but keep us alive and uninjured. What is it about that rush that gives us such satisfaction? We truly are as humans in some ways just slightly above our animal friends. Games allow us to get in touch with our wild place inside.

Advent, too, is about wild space. It's the time when God touched down right here on earth and started a movement that would reverberate throughout the planet. And it all started in the wilderness. God always touches down in our wilderness place – the place in which we feel most alone, most barren, most despairing, most lost. It's in this place that we hear God's voice and feel God's presence calling us out and giving us new direction. The wilderness is a place of change.

Have you ever taken a tour of a cave? Ever notice those amazing rock formations? We call them stalactites and stalagmites. They form long spikes and formations just from dripping water. Consistently dripping water. It's an amazing phenomenon. Even change that seems as slow as molasses can effect huge changes, even in something as hard as rock.

Time matters. Change matters.

That's in a sense what happened when God touched down in the wilderness long ago in the desert outside of Judea in the region of the Jordan River. God “interrupted” time and space, human culture and context, and changed everything.

(continued)

There in that “wild space,” that beautiful, remote, creative wilderness space, that uninhabited, uncontrollable, unpredictable, untamed space, God started a movement that began with the prophet John and continued with the birth of Jesus.

God’s word came to John, son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins.

The “voice crying out in the wilderness” is the proclamation that God has appeared and that God’s amazing plan for human and world salvation has been put into motion. Perhaps everyone didn’t see that initial “drop of water” that began that colossal change. But John saw it. God made sure that John saw it. And the proclamation was born.

Advent is a time of what we call “repentance.” Repentance sometimes gets a bad rap, as though we have been horrible people and must fall prostrate and ask for forgiveness. The kind of repentance John is talking about is a repentance we all need – a cleansing of the soul, a re-commitment to God as our sovereign and Lord, a removing of the debris of guilt and shame that we carry with us day to day, a renewal of our spirit. Just as that drop of water reverberates through the pond, God’s salvation energy reverberates through each of us, reminding us that God is near, God is active in the world, God is making change, and God wants to make that kind of change within us.

When we repent, God gets in touch with the wildest place in our soul and interrupts our lives in order to change our hearts, our minds, our intentions, and our actions for the future. God’s touchdowns are always places where covenants are formed, whether in the desert or in the desert of our hearts.

This Advent, try an “immersion” experience with God. Let God enter into the wildest part of your soul, the most primal part of you, and re-form you into a new creature, one that is at peace with the earth, with yourself, with your neighbors, and with God. God can begin in you a process, whether slow as a stalagmite or fast as a tsunami, that will change your heart and your life, so that you can go on to change the hearts and lives of others.

The wilderness is not only a changing place but an equipping place, a place of change but also of formation. It is an encounter that can change everything. Think about what you’d like to have changed in your life. Do you want to remove chains that bind you to an uncomfortable past? Do you want to remove guilt or shame that weighs upon your life? Do you want to remove worries or stress that impedes your wellness and your growth? Do you want to remove doubt which inhibits you from your relationship with God? Do you simply want to remove mistakes that plague you and refuse to let you go?

God can remove all of it in your wilderness place. So clear your minds and open your hearts. This Advent, let God interrupt your life and set you in a new direction.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese





SAINT ANDREW'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 12— 10:30 a.m.
Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 19 — 11:45 a.m.
Greening of the Church

Sunday, December 19 — 5:00 p.m.
**Christmas Lessons & Carols
& Parish Christmas Party**

Friday, 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 perform at both
services,
with pre-service music at 5:00 p.m.
and 10:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 25
Christmas Day service
10:00 a.m. — Choral Eucharist (Rite I)

Gifts for Christmas Flowers & Music

Please return this form by
December 12 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 2022

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

Our pledge campaign begins with Gratitude. I am particularly grateful for all the ways this community met the challenges of this year and found common ways to share a community with their neighbors.

Our stewardship campaign theme this year is about Every Perfect Gift, and reminds us of how everything we receive and everything we give comes from God. We also focused our attention on the gift of Time and the trifold of *Time, Talent, and Treasure*. I want to highlight the gift of Talent.

Talents, the blessing with which we are imbued by our Creator, are even more beautiful when they are freely given, as I have seen so often in this parish. Talents are a double gift – by Grace you have received them, by Grace you generously share them.

“Well, I am not talented, what can I give?” some might say. But you are talented, each of us is wonderfully gifted. I often am so impressed by the way so many of you give your time, counsel, wisdom, and experience to our various committees. Every one of you have something you do well, and I am grateful when those talents are shared with our parish and community. If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please do so now. Your support is deeply appreciated. As Senior Warden, I thank you for your pledges and your Gift of Talents.

Sincerely,
Gray Sanders
L. Gray Sanders
Senior Warden



From the Parish Register

Baptisms

Carol Ben Osking
Gabrielle Osking
Stella Blue Wallace

Weddings

Michael Wehrell &
Meredith Cernuda

William Leto &
Emily Yehia

Congratulations to our Confirmands!

Youth:

Abby Turlington
Fred Schmid

Adults:

Pam Billings
Peter Connors
Coleman Flentge
Elaine Kimble
Robert Kimble
Ronald Simmons
Carolyn Tapie
Betty Trueblood

Donations to Saint Andrew's Foundation

In Loving Memory of Joy Bell

Candace Springer
Fran Kerr
David & Jan Dees
Nell Rorebeck
Jean Turner
Pat Wolfe

In Loving Memory of Bill Dye

Pat Wolfe
Lawrence Dimmitt
Alice Steyaart
Marnell Sanford

Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30

Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent

Dive deep into the history of the birth of Christ.

Advent is not only the perfect time to read the story of the birth of Jesus; it's also a great time to dive deeper into the biblical texts that surround the event. In *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*, author and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine shows how the Gospel narratives connect to the Old Testament; highlights the role of women in first-century Jewish culture; and emphasizes the importance of Mary's visitation, the census, the stable, the star of Bethlehem, and the flight to Egypt. Amy-Jill Levine is Professor of New Testament at Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Here is the rest of the line-up:

12/5 – The Promise of Potential

12/12 – The Journey to Joy

12/19 – The Gifts of the Gentiles

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

Youth News

We need children and youth to participate in our Christmas pageant 12/12 at the 10:30 service - calling all aspiring angels, shepherds, magi, sheep, narrators, and more! Rehearsals will be from 9:30- 11am on Sunday, 12/5, with a final dress rehearsal on Saturday, 12/11 from 10am-12pm

**We will break from Sunday school and chapel during these weeks as we practice for the pageant.*

Our annual Youth & Children's Christmas Party will take place after the pageant on 12/12. Please bring a dish to share (potluck style, kid friendly dishes), and wear your favorite fun Christmas attire. After a potluck lunch and Christmas short film, we will meet up on the 6th floor for a nerf gun battle, and wrap up our time with hot chocolate! Invite your friends, and bring your nerf gun(s) and darts!

Please reach out to me, Alicia Schmid, with questions or to RSVP anytime (703-470-4447).

Christmas Lessons & Carols **Sunday, December 19th at 5:00PM**

The 2021 Festival of Lessons and Carols will be particularly meaningful this year as we welcome back the volunteer singers of the Louise Lykes Ferguson Memorial Choir, who have been on pandemic hiatus for nearly 19 months. 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 world have continued this time-honored celebration. The service this year is on **Sunday, December 19 at 5p.m.** and will include carols and readings that commemorate the nativity story of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. You don't want to miss this service, as it serves as a wonderful way to start the Christmas season off right, to uplift your spirit and to warm your heart! Plan to join us in person and bring a friend or two, or participate via livestream on Facebook or Youtube. A reception will follow in the parish hall.

October Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 10/12/21, there was \$168,734 in ops account and \$83,507 in the parish reserve account.

As of 10/12/21, there was \$24,380 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 \$3,085,092 in the Foundation principal as of 9/30/21, as opposed to \$2,929,677 on 12/31/20 (an increase of \$155,415 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 \$4,371 in grant money available for 2021. This fund is designated for church maintenance purposes. We plan on using that 4.3K to pay TNT Roofing for repairs to NW corner of church roof.

Pet Blessing – was in church courtyard on Saturday, 10/9 at 10AM. Great turnout! All canines, with lots of cockers and dachunds.

Confirmation Class – Youth sessions are during Sunday School at 9:30AM on Sunday mornings, beginning on 9/12 and running through 11/14. Confirmation is on 11/21 at 10:30 service. Bishop Michael Garrison (one of the diocese's assisting bishops) will preside. Unfortunately, Bishop Smith will be at Moffitt for a medical procedure at that time and therefore cannot be with us.

Adult Inquirers' Class is Tuesday evenings at 7PM, 10/5 through 11/16 (seven sessions). We have 20 folks signed up.

Sesquicentennial Celebration – St. Andrew's has turned 150 in 2021. Here is a list of events for the rest of the year:

Choral Evensong – All Saints' Sunday, 11/7 at 5PM (with reception hosted by Parish Life)

Bishop's Visitation & Confirmation – Sunday, 11/21 at both services (with reception catered, overseen by Parish Life)

October 2021 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$30,239	\$46,754	\$382,807	\$467,548
Expenses	\$35,792	\$48,776	\$471,082	\$487,768
Net	(\$5,553)	(\$2,022)	(\$88,275)	(\$20,219)

Christmas Lessons & Carols – Sunday, 12/19 at 5PM (reception hosted by Parish Life)

Columbarium Project – We paid Alvaro Cruz \$3,200 to remove all pavers from columbarium grounds, cut back on tree roots, and re-install the pavers. This was done on 9/20. We also have parishioners willing to donate shrubbery, benches, and a fountain for this beautification project. Gray reports that Nancy Turner said the project should be completed in a few weeks.

2022 Stewardship Campaign – just launched. First round of pledge cards went out on 10/14. Thanks, Gary, for heading this up (and speaking at both services on 10/17)! As has been our custom, we will be looking for folks willing to stand up and give a 2-3 minute stewardship oration/plug at Sunday services in October and November.

Virtual Diocesan Convention – will be on Saturday, 10/16. Delegates (Kathy, Paul, and Gray) will gather in the Parish Hall to partake in the virtual festivities. FYI: Diocesan apportionment for us for 2022 will be \$63,107, as opposed to \$63,666 in 2021.

Thanksgiving Day Service – Thursday, 11/25 at 10AM.

Anchor Ball – is on 12/11 at the Jewish Community Center. Does St. Andrew's wish to once again support this outreach effort benefiting Tampa Port Ministries? A table for 8 costs \$1,200. We have two parishioners paying for two seats. St. Andrew's could buy the other six seats for \$900 and then give those seats to interested parishioners. Those who attend are then urged to participate (at their own expense) in the auction that occurs during the event. We have supported this event for the past several years.

Gary made a motion to continue support of the Anchor Ball and purchase the remaining 6 seats for the St. Andrew's table at a cost of \$900. Gray seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ryan will be renting a microphone to improve the sound for the streaming with plans to replace the 2 outdated microphones in place now. The rental price would go towards the purchase price of a new one.

There was discussion regarding masks in church. The most recent direction from the Bishop is that there is no change to the "Masks are highly recommended" stance that is current.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Gray Sanders – Nancy Turner has been completing the work in the Columbarium, along with the contractors. The pavers, fountain, and shrubbery have been installed, but not the benches. A parishioner has offered to donate the two benches for the columbarium, plus an additional bench for the south garden on Madison St. side of church.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – George Levy- All roof work has been completed including roof leak repairs according to the inspection report submitted by the Leak Inspector, at no cost, by the current roofer.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Richard Ferlita- Richard delivered his financial report. He expressed concern that the checking account is getting low, but he is also resolved that it is typical for this time of year, and feels confident that it will be quite improved by year end.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OUTREACH: Lori Taplow: Thanksgiving Boxes of Hope and Gabriel's Giving Tree projects are both well under way. There will be no in-person party for the Giving Tree project.

PARISH LIFE: Pam Curry: Parish Life will host a reception following Evensong on November 7th. Some will be catered, but they are asking for volunteers to bring appetizers or desserts. There will be a catered reception after the 10:30 service on November 21st.

HOMELESS: Sue MacIsaac: Metropolitan Ministries is asking to once again partner with St. Andrew's for the Thanksgiving and Christmas meal distribution. Sue needs volunteers to help from 9:00 am to 11:00 am on Thanksgiving Day. Gray volunteered.

STEWARDSHIP: Gary Cotter: He is setting up volunteers to speak at the next 5-6 Sundays (skipping Nov. 21st).

OLD BUSINESS: There was discussion regarding the possibility of putting together a procedural manual for St. Andrew's.

NEW BUSINESS: Daughters of the King are putting together a St. Andrew's Cookbook and is asking for recipes to be submitted to Paula Stewart.

Next Vestry Meeting will be Monday, November 15th, at 5:30 pm.



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Tampa

A Festival Service of Nine

Lessons and Carols

Louise Lykes Ferguson Memorial Choir
Ryan Hebert, Director of Music/Organist
Coleman Flengte, Associate Director of Music

Sunday, December 19, 2021
5p.m.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



ST. ANDREW'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

see page three

THAT YEAR WHEN CHRISTMAS EVE WAS LIVE-STREAMED FROM THE RECTORY.



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

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
Lauri in the church office.