



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✕ December 2022

Reverently Speaking



“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

Matthew 3:11

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

The transition from John the Baptist to Jesus was not quite as smooth and clean-cut as we imagined. John did not stop his work when Jesus started his. In fact, Jesus told us that John was a prophet and was actually Elijah, the one who would announce the coming of the Messiah. But in the Gospel of John, John stated that he was not a prophet and was not Elijah. When Jesus began his ministry, John continued his. The Gospels even described a time when John's disciples and Jesus' disciples got into an argument about why John's disciples fasted and Jesus' disciples did not. If we look at all the material about John, it seems that not only did John continue his ministry, but there may have been times that John and Jesus were at odds, running competing ministries.

One day Jesus was asked about John and he said that John was a great man, but that “the least in the kingdom was greater than him.” This could be one of Jesus' philosophical statements that needed to be thought about to understand, or it could be a bit of frustration that no matter how great John may be, when it comes to the real kingdom, he's not *that* great. All this makes the familiar story of John the Baptist a bit messy.

John's followers continued even after his death. His bones were gathered, became relics, and are still found in several different shrines around the world. While Jesus is recognized as the foundation of the Christian faith, John is the greatest prophet in the religious community called the Mandaeans. According to another current tradition, in 1829 John returned to meet with a group in Pennsylvania.

While Matthew clearly presented John as the preparer, and even had John saying that the one coming after him was more powerful, when we listen to what the others say the whole story is a bit messier.

We have to recognize how difficult it sometimes is to be number two. I don't know if John actually did end up competing with Jesus or had a hard time giving up his high-profile role, but I can certainly understand it if he did. I understand how difficult it can sometimes be in relationships, like marriage. What happens when one or both people forget that their role is to support and care for the other and not to simply demand to be respected as the top dog? I understand how easy it can be for parents to forget that their role as mother or father is in first place for a time, and it will be a while before their world becomes their own again.

Being number two is difficult. Perhaps John struggled with it.

(continued)

I fully understand. And, if John did struggle with it, then maybe I'm not so bad when I do the same thing. There's hope.

Faith is messy. We sometimes get the idea that if we have enough faith, or the correct faith, then everything gets a little easier, smoother, and more comfortable. I have heard preachers say that. I have heard people say that if you have faith, problems will go away, money will come in, and life will be easier. If I have faith, the messes will go away.

Jesus never said that.

Faith is messy. Faith doesn't provide easy answers. Faith doesn't clean everything up. What faith does, for me, is remind me that no matter how messy things get, no matter how confused, how difficult things become, I am doing what I can do. We can leave the debating about the messes to the theologians, and just focus on living our lives. We just do our best.

You see, it really doesn't matter if John had trouble giving up his position. It doesn't really matter if John and Jesus had problems or not. The reality is that God was still able to use them to get done what needed to get done. God doesn't seem to be all that concerned about messes.

We are now in the midst of Advent. Christmas is coming. Some of us have spent a lot of time and energy to make sure this Christmas goes smoothly. Meals, visitors, programs, travels, relatives... we are spending a lot of time and energy to make sure things don't get messy this year. We will spend so much time and energy that we're not going to relax again until it's all over, presents are unwrapped and everyone has gone back home.

Just keep in mind, messes are a part of this journey. Messes are a part of our faith. Messes don't have to ruin anything. No matter the mess, it's Christmas. Relax a bit. Do your best, but expect a mess or two. And when they happen, smile. Love God. Love those around you. And leave all the rest to God.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese

Gift to Rector

Many thanks to the people of St. Andrew's for the lovely Tiffany silver bowl given to me upon the occasion of the 25th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood (December 13, 1997). It reads:

In Recognition of The Silver Jubilee
in The Episcopal Church
The Reverend John Reese
1997-2022

I am so very grateful for the opportunity to minister at St. Andrew's for the past 18 years. Your continued kindness and generosity are so very much appreciated. It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to serve as your Rector.

-The Rev. John Reese





SAINT ANDREW'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Friday, December 16 - 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Rectory Christmas Party

*159 W. Davis Boulevard
(NE corner of W. Davis and Barbados,
on Davis Islands)*

*

Sunday, December 18— 10:30 a.m. service

Christmas Pageant

*

Sunday, December 18
right after the 10:30 Service

The Greening of the Church

*Volunteers ages 8 to 80 needed! With many
hands this task can be accomplished quickly!*

*

Sunday, December 18 — 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Lessons & Carols

followed by Parish Christmas Party
(child care provided)

*

Saturday, 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.

*

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day service

10:30 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 2023

Dear Friends,

If you're receiving this letter you are probably a procrastinator like me. You love and support St. Andrew's, but you haven't gotten around to sending in your pledge card.



In addition to being a procrastinator, I am also a big fan of St. Andrew's. The infatuation began for my family when my husband, Doug, and I became aware of the active, hands-on outreach program. From the Cinco de Mayo fundraiser to the turkey pack and weekday lunches, St. Andrew's gives back, not just to downtown Tampa but to children at underserved schools. There is always an activity to participate in throughout the year. I hear it over and over again, "You get more than you give" when you engage.

The Gabriel Tree Christmas Party is a great example. I don't know whose smiles are bigger at this event, the children's, or the St. Andrew's volunteers.

But let's talk about the real reason we love our church. The worship service is so uplifting, the music program is superb, and I feel the strength of the fellowship of our members. It is no wonder that parishioners come from far and wide to get our cup filled.

A parishioner once told me that, when they shared that they didn't have time for both friends and church on the weekends, their mother, a well-loved member of St. Andrew's, had the answer. She told them the easiest way to solve that problem was to make friends at church. So, we have taken that advice and have made many life-long friendships.

Join me in helping us sustain the work of this beautiful church.

Yours in His love,

Lori Taplow



Make a Pledge for 2023

Please return your pledge card for 2023 as soon as possible. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail, cards are available at the back of the church, in the Parish Hall, or through the parish office (813-221-2035). Make a commitment and support St. Andrew's in the coming year.



From the Parish Register



Transfers In

William DeBrine



Donations to Saint Andrew's Foundation



*In Loving Memory of
Jane Collins
Patricia Moore*

*In Loving Memory of
William McGowan Jr.
Pat Wolfe
M. Mallory Lykes*



Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30

The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of The Grinch

We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this four-session DVD study, Matt Rawle, Pastor of Asbury United Methodist Church in Bossier City, LA, explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, including: How did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.

Here is the rest of the line-up:

12/11- When Light Shines

Rawle explores the role of light and darkness, and how so much of our Christmas celebrations involve light. When light shines, it reveals our need for spiritual growth and understanding.

12/18 - When Joy Is Our Song

Rawle explores the Whos' singing, which transformed even the Grinch's heart. Music is bound up with the joy we find at Christmas. And in the end, the Whos and the Grinch feasting together points to the Christian hope of forgiveness and reconciliation.

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

Youth News

Our annual Christmas pageant, put on by children and youth, will take place **Sunday, December 18th at the 10:30 service**. Rehearsals will be held the following weeks:

Sunday, December 11th at 9:30am

Final Dress Rehearsal Saturday, December 17th at 10am

Pageant Sunday, December 18th at 10:30am (FULL CAST meets in the Children's chapel at 9:15am)

*We will meet in the Children's chapel for all rehearsals and move to the sanctuary for the final dress rehearsal

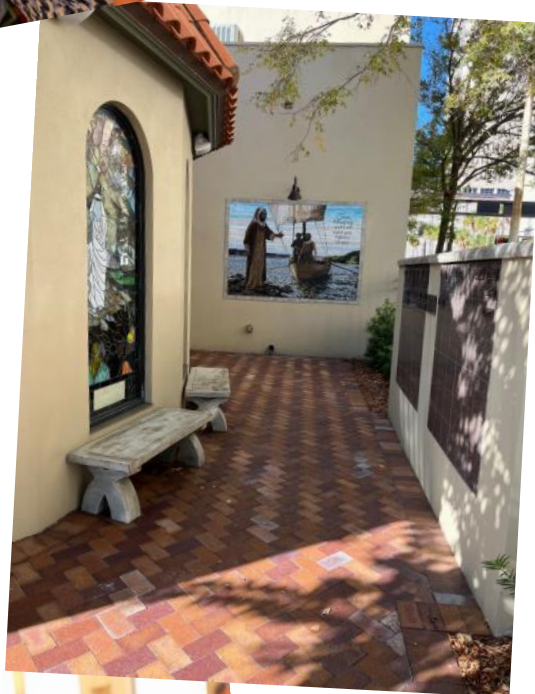
We need children and youth of all ages!

Please contact Alicia Schmid today at aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com to find a part for your child or teen!

Columbarium Mosaic Dedication & 150th Celebration



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October Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 10/11/22, there was \$147,939 in ops account and \$86,283 in the parish reserve account. (We deposited \$10,000 into the parish reserve account on 9/13/22. This was a bequest from the estate of Nell Rorebeck.)

Moved by Loueita Hargens to keep the \$10,000 from the estate of Nell Rorebeck in the parish reserve account; Brad Hall seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote to approve the motion.

As of 10/11/22, there was \$30,026 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry.

Total available funds from principal for years 2018 through 2022: \$308,011.

There was \$2,725,845 in the Foundation principal as of 6/30/22, as opposed to \$3,218,925 on 12/31/21 (a decrease of \$493,080 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. 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.

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 by the end of year.

Columbarium Mosaic Project – As of 10/13, 67 donors have given \$18,561 for this project. The price quote from the artist is \$10,120 for the mural and \$1,840 for travel and installation (for a total of \$11,960). The mural was installed the weekend of September 16-18. Dedication will take place after the 10:30 service on Sunday, 11/20, along with a catered luncheon. Sixty-nine people have indicated they will attend the luncheon. A plaque (to be installed next to mosaic) has been ordered.

Leaks – Chapel Lobby leak is no more. However, we have a few new leaks in the church. (You may have noticed buckets in a couple of places there.)

Bishop Co-adjutor Situation – The Rt. Rev. Doug Scharf began work with the Diocese on 7/1. He was consecrated/ordained as a bishop on Saturday, 9/24 at 11AM at the Van Wezel in Sarasota. Bishop Smith will retire at the end of this calendar year. Thus, the Diocese will be paying two salaries for a six-month time period. Diocesan clergy met with the Presiding Bishop on Friday, 9/23 at 11AM at St. Boniface on Siesta Key. Father R noted that 25 churches were damaged during Hurricane Ian. Father R shared that there may be some money available from the government to compensate St. Andrew's for the government-imposed COVID shutdown in 2020. The program is called the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) program.

Blessing of the Animals – was on Saturday, 10/1 at 10AM in the courtyard. Best attendance ever – mostly dogs, but one tiny cat and one large tortoise.

Diocesan Convention – originally scheduled for Saturday, 10/15 at the Punta Gorda Convention Center (with optional workshops on Friday, 10/14) but postponed due to Hurricane Ian. Convention has now been re-scheduled for 9:30AM on Saturday, 12/10, at the Cathedral in St. Petersburg. Our delegates are Lori, Loueita, Brad, and yours truly. However, Derrick, our alternate, will take the place of Lori, who is unable to attend.

Oktoberfest – Sunday, 10/16 in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 service, hosted by the Outreach Committee. Father R thanked the Outreach Committee and shared that there was a full house in the parish hall.

Choir Concert – for All Saints' Sunday, 11/6 at 5PM, with reception hosted by Parish Life afterward in Parish Hall.

Mosaic Dedication & Parish Luncheon – Sunday, 11/20, after the 10:30 service.

(continued)

October 2022 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$47,852	\$50,564	\$410,876	\$505,640
Expenses	\$37,790	\$50,564	\$495,095	\$505,640
Net	(\$10,062)	\$0	(\$84,182)	\$0

Thanksgiving Eve Service – on Wednesday, 11/23 at 7PM. In an effort to increase attendance, thought we might try the service the night before Thanksgiving, rather than Thanksgiving Day.

Planned Giving – The Foundation Board would like 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.

2023 Stewardship Campaign – launched the first week of October (pledge cards were mailed out on 10/5.) Thanks, Gary, for heading this up! Gary has already lined up eight speakers to advocate for stewardship at Sunday services this autumn. We have a few open slots left (11/27, 12/11, 12/18). Gary wrote the letter for the first pledge card mailing, which will be followed by Senior Warden (end of October), Treasurer (end of November), and Rector (early January). Currently, we have 32 pledges for 132K according to Father Reese.

Rectory Christmas party will be on Friday, 12/16. Christmas Pageant will be during the 10:30 service on Sunday, 12/18, followed by the Hanging of the Greens. Lessons & Carols will be at 5PM on Sunday, 12/18, followed by a reception in parish hall hosted by Parish Life Committee.

Daughters of the King –The DOK is making a \$5,000 request of Foundation funds. **Sue MacIsaac made a motion to request \$5,000 from the foundation and it was seconded by Richard Ferlita. The motion was accepted by a unanimous vote of the vestry. It was presented that there will be a 2nd Edition of the cook-book.**

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT: Richard Ferlita. He shared that the Oktoberfest was incredible and that Chris C. and his wife did a great job. Richard F reported that there was a possible donation of a 1926 Chickering piano to the church. However, St. Andrew's would have to fund the cost of the move (\$1,000) and the piano has been in storage for many years. Thus, the church is going to politely decline the gift.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT: Richard Chapman. The mosaic has been paid for. He shared that the two benches in the columbarium were sealed, so as to present a clean surface. Richard C shared a business proposal from Tampa Growth LLC. The proposal is to buy our parking lot for \$5,280,000. The executive committee has advised that we not sell the parking lot. Discussion followed. The vestry collectively decided that we should decline the offer. Richard C shared an estimate for renovations to the first and second floor restrooms. The plan would involve replacing floor tile and toilet partitions and painting the walls. The estimate is \$30,854 for the 1st floor and \$22,176 for the second floor. Discussion followed. It was recommended that we also add new countertops to the first-floor restrooms. Richard C will research this and bring a new quote to next month's vestry meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Lori Taplow stated that our pledge revenue is down compared to this time last year, but Pam Frost expects many year-end, single payment pledges to occur in December. Expenses were up for September due to the 4th quarter property insurance payment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

HOMELESS MINISTRY: Kathy Lawless and Sue MacIsaac. The ministry is going well, and the number of people served has increased. Sue shared that we receive 100 sandwiches from Metro Min on a daily basis (with 118 on Fridays). She noted that the Daughters of the King (DOK) are donating the water for the homeless ministry for next year. She shared that there is a steady flow of contributions, and they are now collecting blankets for the winter months.

PARISH LIFE. Pam Curry. They will be hosting the reception after the 5PM Choir Concert for All Saints' Sunday on 11/6. We expect about 60-70 guests in the parish hall. We have received 92 RSVPs for the mosaic dedication luncheon on 11/20. The deadline is 10/31. The caterer needs the headcount by the end of October. The committee is planning for 125 guests.

OUTREACH: Chris Capsambelis. Oktoberfest made \$955.00 for the day and all of the money will go to Metropolitan Ministries. Eighty tickets were printed and 62 were sold prior to yesterday. The Thanksgiving Boxes of Hope drive has begun, and he noted that on Saturday, 11/19, everything will be packaged and taken to Metropolitan Ministries. The St. Andrew's Fish Fry will be on Sunday, 12/4 after the 10:30 service. Planning will begin in November. The funds raised at this event will go to the Gabriel's Giving Tree program. The Giving Tree party will be on Saturday, 12/10, in the parish hall. It will support the kids at Kimbell and Cleveland elementary schools.

STEWARDSHIP. Gary Cotter. Gary shared he still has 11/27, 12/11, 12/18 available for anyone who would like to share their stewardship stories with parishioners during the announcement time during the Sunday morning services.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

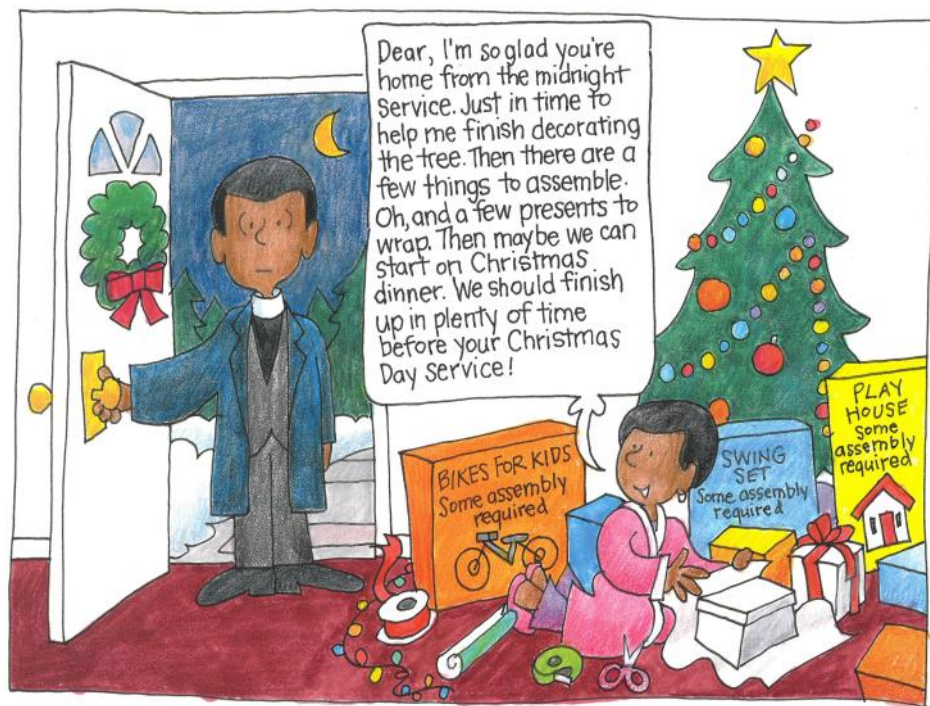
Tampa, Florida 33602

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

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.