



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✕ December 2023

Reverently Speaking



“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.”

Mark 13:26-27

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

Renewal, change, the dream of a fresh start. Perhaps the dream of a more stress-free, burden-free life. A happier life. A healthier life. A less lonely life. How many of us wish for that in the coming year?

December tends to be the most stressful, difficult, financially burdensome, grief-ridden month of the entire year. Never mind that Advent is supposed to be a time of peace, of prayer, of patient waiting. Ever try to shop on Black Friday? Or get into a shopping line anytime from now until Christmas? People are anything but still and calm. Forget about “silent nights” or “heavenly peace” in the public realm. In many cases, December seems to make a lot of people more ornery, less tolerant, more in a rush, and more anxious than all the other months combined!

People are financially strapped and feeling the anxiety and expectations upon them to serve up Christmas cheer, gifts, and all the trappings of a sufficient, commercialized Christmas experience. They feel time-crunched with shopping, preparations, and too many responsibilities, while keeping up the ones they've had all year round. They feel pulled in several different directions. They grieve those they've lost. In fact, more people suffer from depression and anxiety at the holidays than any other time.

Fresh start? Relief? Renewal? Something to take away the pain? Yes, please.

At first glance, Jesus' message to his disciples in Mark 13 looks very dark indeed (pun intended). But like the visioner of Revelation and other apocalyptic prophets, Jesus means to offer hope for a new beginning, a new dawn, when things will change, and God's reign will come. Be ready, he says. Keep awake and alert, he warns. Something big is going to happen and things are going to change.

Just as Jesus recently told a story of bridesmaids who need to keep their lamps filled, because they don't know the hour that the bridegroom will come, in Mark Jesus delivers a similar message. His comforting warning is the same: Don't despair. Don't give up. Don't lose faith. Know that a time is coming when God's plan will come to fruition and Jesus will return in the glory of God's divine power and might to bring to light God's final victory.

What a relief that must have been to those who only saw darkness and worry ahead. Things may look askew. But God was still in charge. That's a comforting message.

In this holiday season, when things start to look bleak, dark, and feel overwhelming, when anxiety kicks in and the bills seem all-consuming, when loss of loved ones makes Christmas feel like the blackest day of the year, when loss of relationships or too much stress seems to far overtake any feelings of good cheer during the holiday season, have faith.

God is still in charge. God, the master of change, King of the universe, Prince of Light and fresh starts, is still in charge of *your* life. Keep the faith.

This holiday season needs to start with faith.

That's what Advent truly is about: faith. Faith that with the birth of a tiny baby, God appeared one beautiful day long ago in human form and proceeded to change the world as God made it, to teach us about God's love for us, God's promises of life, and to lead us into a place in which we could experience true joy, peace, love, and assurance.

Today, as you contemplate the start of Advent, and as you forge out into the perils of our December culture, remember your faith. Your faith will remind you each and every day that God is still in charge. And God will make change in your life - if only you let him.

May you and your family be blessed this holiay season with the peace and joy of the Holy Spirit, with joy and renewal, and above all, with faith and hope.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese



New Flower Chart

The 2024 Flower Sign-Up Chart is in the parish hall. Don't delay in choosing important commemorative dates. Please help with this wonderful ministry to adorn the altar during worship by sponsoring flowers. High Altar flowers are \$150 for florist choice, personal choices can be arranged at an additional cost. Chapel Altar flowers are optional. If you'd like to sponsor both altars, the cost is \$250. If you have questions, please contact Charlotte Churchill 813-352-0162 cmchurch-i18@gmail.com



SAINT ANDREW'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Friday, December 15 - 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 17— 10:30 a.m. service

Christmas Pageant

*

Sunday, December 17

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 17 — 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Lessons & Carols

followed by Parish Christmas Party

(child care provided)

*

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve services

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

9:00 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 8:30 p.m.

*

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day service

10:30 a.m. — Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

Gifts for Christmas Flowers & Music

Please return this form by
December 10 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 2024

To My Fellow Parishioners:

I've always enjoyed dealing with numbers. They've provided certainty, clarity, and a basis for comparison that came in handy during my career and in communicating with others.

We see numerical references in many of our daily expressions. Phrases such as The 12 Days of Christmas, 7th inning stretch, and a baker's dozen leave absolutely no doubt about the conversation at hand.

However, nothing is perfect in this world and there are occasions when numbers are unable to quantify a specific situation. When I think about the expression, "Count your blessings", I realize that no number exists that accurately records the number of God's blessings bestowed upon me. Moreover, none of these blessings have been deserved nor is there any way that I could repay them.

Thanking God by committing my time, talent, and treasures to His service is the only option available and is one for which I am grateful to have. During this stewardship season, please join our St. Andrew's family in offering your gratitude by pledging your service and support for God's work. Pledge cards are available at church and any committee or vestry member can help you connect with your chosen ministries.

Thank you!

Eric Hargens

Eric Hargens

Treasurer



Donations to Saint Andrew's Foundation



In Loving Memory of

Jenette Kerr

Nathan Simpson

In Loving Memory of

Kay Rankin

Pat Wolfe

Christopher Lykes

Ginger Watkins

A.G. Divers

Richard Ferlita &

James Carmichael

Thomas Touchton

Nathan Simpson

Betsy & Steve Chambers

Betty Wood

Fran Kerr



Make a Pledge for 2024

Please return your pledge card for 2024 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.

Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30

The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent

This four-week Advent study by Pastor Susan Robb explores the four angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. In this series, we will explore the visits and dive deep into the history of the angel Gabriel – and other angels – in the Old Testament. *The Angels of Christmas* uses these four angelic appearances to discuss God's presence in history and our lives today.

The messages of the angels hold meaning for listeners both then and now. Susan Robb recently retired as the Senior Associate Minister at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas, where she was part of the church staff for twenty years.

Here is the line-up:

12/3 – Standing in the Presence of God: Gabriel and Zechariah

12/10 – Let It Be: Gabriel and Mary

12/17 – Acting on the Unbelievable: An Angel of the Lord and Joseph

12/24 – Hark the Herald Angels Sing: The Angels and the Shepherds

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

Youth News

Confirmation classes started November 5th. We'll break after Thanksgiving and **pick back up every Sunday** in the new year **at 9:30am starting January 7, 2024**, with the date of confirmation being **Sunday, February 25, 2024 during the 10:30 service.**

Our annual Christmas pageant, put on by children and youth, will take place **Sunday, December 17th at the 10:30 service.** Rehearsals will be held the following weeks:

Sunday, December 3rd at 9:30am

Sunday, December 10th at 9:30am

Final Dress Rehearsal Saturday, December 16th at 10am

Pageant Sunday, December 17th 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 alici-aschmid@rocketmail.com to find a part for your child or teen!

Fish Fry ~ November 12th



Fish Fry ~ November 12th



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October Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 10/10/23, there was \$138,897 in ops account and \$86,283 in the parish reserve account.

As of 10/10/23, there was \$33,961 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry.

Total available funds from principal for years 2020 thru 2023: \$332,690.

There was \$2,987,179 in the Foundation principal as of 8/4/23, as opposed to \$2,757,202 on 12/31/22 (an increase of \$229,979 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 is adding names to the new directory, which will be up and running very soon.

Planned Giving – The Foundation Board would like for the parish to begin a serious effort at promoting planned giving. The Board met on 8/9 and plans to personally ask some folks to put St. Andrew's in their wills. They plan on putting out planned giving brochures to all parishioners and would like to have an estate attorney come and address the parish in the fall. A legacy society can then be established from the people who have named St. Andrew's in their wills.

Church roof leaks – in north transept and NW corner of church are being addressed by a water intrusion company. We also now have a slight streak of a leak on west wall of church, just south of the baptismal font.

Columbarium Lighting – Timer for that light does not work and needs to be replaced. Currently, the light is on 24 hours a day.

New Acolytes – We have 7 new tiny torchbearers entering service, with 3 more in the pipeline during the next few months!

Oktoberfest – was on Sunday, 9/17, after the 10:30 service. It was wunderbar! Good crowd and good food.

Newcomers' Dinner – was Thursday, 9/28 at 6:30PM (hosted by the vestry at the rectory). Great turnout, filled up the house.

Blessing of the Pets – was Saturday, 9/30 at 10AM in the church courtyard. Plenty of dogs.

Diocesan Convention – was Saturday, 10/7 at the Punta Gorda Convention Center (with optional workshops on Friday, 10/6). Our delegates were Barbara, Derrick, Brad, and yours truly. Not much happened, since there were no resolutions introduced. We passed the diocesan budget and elected folks to various diocesan entities.

2024 Stewardship Campaign – launched on 10/1. Thanks, Brad, for heading this up! 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

October 2023 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$61,452	\$52,525	\$431,866	\$525,255
Expenses	\$47,868	\$52,525	\$512,945	\$525,255
Net	\$13,584	\$0	(\$81,078)	\$0

Sunday services in October and November. Many thanks to Brad and Allison for speaking on 10/1 and 10/8, respectively. Brad wrote the letter for the first pledge card mailing (end of September), to be followed by Senior Warden (end of October), Treasurer (end of November), and Rector (early January).

Roma Plimmer Service – was at the columbarium on Tuesday, 10/10, where Roma's remains were interred.

Libby Dickinson Memorial Service – is on Saturday, 10/14 at 11AM at St. Andrew's.

The Rectory Christmas Party will be held on 12/15 this year and the Hanging of the Greens is scheduled for 12/17.

The annual Anchor Ball is coming up on Saturday, 12/2. Six tickets will be available to parishioners. This event benefits the Seafarer's Ministry.

Episcopal Visitation – Bishop Scharf will visit St. Andrew's on Sunday, 2/25/24 (the Second Sunday in Lent). Confirmation class for youth will start in November (during Sunday school hour) and for adults in January and February (on Tuesday evenings).

Senior Warden: Richard Ferlita informed us of 7 new acolytes currently in training. The children all are excited to be taking part.

Junior Warden: Richard Chapman reported that the water testing on the church is complete. We await the formal report, which is on its way along with the invoice. Richard met with the gutter repair person and is waiting for that invoice. The restroom on the second floor needs someone to oversee the work, which should commence soon.

Treasurer: Eric Hargens stated that finances are fine though the numbers are overstated by \$11,000 due to timing. Our electricity expense has increased over last year as rates have gone up. Revenue should see an increase as IRA distributions are coming due shortly and we typically experience an increase at that time.

Committee Reports:

Helping Hands – Barbara Brotherton reports that there will be a funeral held on 10/25.

Stewardship – Brad Hall is requesting speakers to address the congregation on upcoming Sundays.

Outreach: Chris Capsambelis reported that our annual Fish Fry is coming up on November 12th. Tickets will be sold on Sunday. Fries will be replaced this year with thick-cut, Cape Cod Salt & Vinegar flavored chips, along with regular flavored chips. A blood drive will be held during the Fish Fry from 7:30am until 1:00pm on Sunday. Thanksgiving Boxes of Hope is the next project and advertising will begin for that. Gabriel Giving Tree project will commence soon.

Parish Life – Pam Curry reports that the Evensong reception on 11/5 will be hosted by Parish Life. They will be organizing the Gabriel Tree party as well. Newcomers' Dinner went well. Wallace Dixon provided wine and desserts to add to the catered affair.

Outreach Homeless Program: Kathy Lawless stated that the ministry needed to purchase socks and hand washcloths but did not have the funds to do so. A request for funds will be made to the congregation. The program has been averaging 135 bagged lunches on Fridays and approximately 120 per day Mondays through Thursdays and occasionally they run out. Kathy will request that Metropolitan Ministries add an additional item to their provisions.

New Business: The gate to the courtyard will now be locked to prevent people from wandering in. Wiring the gate with camera and buzzer was found to be cost prohibitive.

Father Reese announced that the late service this Christmas Eve will be at 9:00 PM instead of 11 PM. There is no change to the 5:30PM service.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



ST. ANDREW'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

see page three

WHY THE (VOLUNTEER) CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DIRECTOR SUDDENLY RESIGNED.



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.