



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✱ February 2023

Reverently Speaking

Jesus said, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful, but inside they are full of the bones of the dead and of all kinds of filth. So you also on the outside look righteous to others, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

Matthew 23:27-28

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

Jon Stewart once said, “If you don't stick to your values when they're being tested, they're not values. They're hobbies.”

Many of us live lives filled with “Compartmentalization.” We allow various aspects of our lives to have their own principles of behavior — principles that sometimes conflict with our values in other areas of our lives. A classic example is a person who openly supports high moral behavior but is cheating on their spouse. Another is the mobster who never misses Mass.

Many of us tend to compartmentalize, often without thinking about it. There are people who work for world peace but allow their broker to invest their funds in armaments companies. There are people who sing hymns on Sunday but are ruthless in business dealings on Monday. There are environmentalists who drive gas-guzzlers. There are parents who preach healthy living to their children but practice unhealthy habits themselves. There are Christians who say, “God loves everybody” but they still harbor deep prejudice against people of a different color.

Compartmentalization is a spiritual problem, but it is also a term used in psychiatry. It's defined as taking things that are properly related and putting them in separate compartments in our minds, so they don't have to rub up against each other and cause us pain, stress, or tension.

In psychiatry, the opposite of compartmentalization is “integration,” which means pulling the various aspects of our lives together so that we are working from the whole picture.

The word integration comes from the noun “integer,” which is a mathematical term for whole numbers (as opposed to fractions). “Integrity” comes from the same word. The same words can apply to Christianity, too. Recall that Jesus said the great commandment is to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” In other words, don't compartmentalize God.

We generally don't set out to isolate our faith from other facets of our lives. Some of it happens because compartmentalization is a psychological defense mechanism that helps isolate conflicting thoughts and feelings, and thus spares us some emotional pain.

Integration is not nearly as comfortable as compartmentalization. There's always the chance that something won't pass muster when we run our behavior at work and play past our spiritual and moral values. That cre-

ates internal stress — at least until we resolve the issue by letting Christ fully into the formerly walled-off places.

On the other hand, compartmentalization causes its own kind of discomfort. Some compartments in our lives develop as a result of wrongdoing or because of some issue we do not want to face. We put those matters in a separate room, but we lock it up and put a “no admittance” sign on the door. If wrongdoing is inside, it may be there because we really don’t want to admit that it is wrong. But the secrecy of the room yields guilt, and guilt can spawn symptoms that can upset our lives.

On balance, whether speaking of our mental, emotional, or spiritual health, we are better to tear down the compartment walls.

A public figure was making a speech about conservation and the environment. Then he said, “I now call upon the Christian part of myself. ...”

Really? Is Christianity just for a part of ourselves? Perhaps the speaker meant that statement as a transition to acknowledge that some of his views on the environment were shaped by his faith. But taken at face value, it sounds like an awareness of internal compartmentalization. Committing ourselves to Jesus means that we *don’t* divide ourselves into Christian and non-Christian parts. Yes, we operate in a culture that is not expressly Christian, and some of us work in jobs that require honoring the rules of church-state separation, but Christ belongs in each part of us.

In the end, this can be a subject of our prayers, and in that regard, the words of the devotional hymn, “Dear Jesus, in whose life I see,” will serve us well:

Dear Jesus, in whose life I see
All that I would, but fail to be,
Let Thy clear light forever shine,
To shame and guide this life of mine.

Though what I dream and what I do
In my weak days are always two,
Help me, oppressed by things undone,
O Thou whose deeds and dreams were one!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John +", written in dark ink.

The Rev. John Reese

Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, February 5, Noon
following the 10:30am service

VESTRY CLASS OF 2026 NOMINEES

Five new vestry members to be elected

Allison Besselieu



Allison Besselieu was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, at age seven. While growing up in Charlottesville, she attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where she sang in the children's choir, participated in the handbell choir, and served as an acolyte. She attended college at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, to study viola performance, and completed this degree in 2005. Shortly thereafter, she shifted her focus to nursing, and attended the University of Virginia to obtain a nursing degree. She then moved to Tampa to work as an RN at University Community Hospital and as a research coordinator at the Rothman Center at USF, and raise her daughter, Maren, now 17 years old. She went on to obtain a pediatric nurse practitioner degree from University of South Florida, and a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner degree at Florida State University.

She met her husband, Bill, in 2013, and they were married in 2014. They have had four children, Ben, age six, Brynn, age five, Jack, age three, and Maggie, age six months. They joined Saint Andrew's in early 2018 and have been active members since. Bill serves as an usher, and Allison serves as verger, and assists with the youth ministry as needed. She continues to play with various music ensembles in the area, with her quartet, serving as principal viola of the Tampa Bay Symphony from 2008-2018, and as a substitute violist for the Florida Orchestra. She is working part time as a psychiatric nurse practitioner with Dr. Megan Toufexis, and in her free time, enjoys spending time with her family, traveling to the beach and the mountains, and playing music. Saint Andrew's has provided Allison and her family with a spiritual home, and she is eager to give back to a community that has so enriched her life.

Holly Clemmons



Holly is a native Floridian, born in Sarasota and raised in Tampa from the age of one. Holly attended the University of South Florida in Tampa, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. During her 32 year career as an educator, she served as a substitute teacher, taught adult basic education courses, served as a choral director for 12 years, and as an Assistant Principal in 4 different high schools (her most recent tenure at George M. Steinbrenner High School for over 10 years!). Holly retired on October 1, 2022 from the Hillsborough County Public School system.

Holly has attended Saint Andrew's since 2014. She was confirmed in April 2015, alongside Katie Pastorius, her spouse and life-partner of 30 years. Holly served on the vestry from 2016-2018, co-chairing the Outreach Committee all three years. She has enjoyed organizing and participating in all of the Outreach initiatives throughout the year, including "*Klean Kits*," "Easter Boxes of Hope," the "Cinco de Mayo" and "Oktoberfest" luncheons, Operation "*Smart Start*," collections for "Thanksgiving Boxes of Hope," the Saint Andrew's Fish Fry, and the "Gabriel's Giving Tree" parties for elementary school children and their families in need.

In addition to continuing her service on the Outreach committee, Holly looks forward to serving St. Andrew's in new capacities, including our Homeless Lunch ministry and singing with our amazing choir whenever possible! Holly and Katie are grateful to God for leading them to such a welcoming church home and Holly would be honored to serve again as a member of our vestry.

VESTRY CLASS OF 2026 NOMINEES

Five new vestry members to be elected

Martha Cobb



I have been a member of St Andrew's for more than twenty five years. I have previously served on the Vestry and supported Outreach, Youth Programs, Parish Life, and Altar Guild. I remain involved with the church where ever there is a need. If given the opportunity, I would enjoy supporting the church in any capacity.

Wallace Dixon



Wallace A. Dixon, a native of Liberia, West Africa, was born August 12. He attended Lincoln University of Missouri, from which he graduated with a BS Degree in Accounting and Economics. He obtained his MBA Degree from Nova Southeastern University with a major in Financial Management. He is blessed with one daughter, Wanneh Dixon, from a previous marriage.

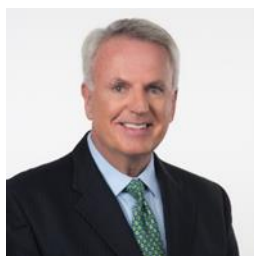
Currently, he is President and CEO of Atram Financial Group, LLC, a financial consultant firm. In addition, he serves as Treasurer on the Home Owner Association Board of Directors of Naussau Pointe, in New Tampa, where he resides.

Wallace retired 8 years ago after 45 years of professional experience in the areas of finance and accounting. Wallace enjoys interior design & decorating, as well as sports, reading, writing and keeping up with politics.

He has been an active member of St. Andrew's for more than 15 years, serving on the Outreach Committee and Parish Life Committee, respectively. Additionally, he currently serves as a Lay Eucharistic Minister. Prior to attending St. Andrew's, he was an active member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Carrollwood, where he served as Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. Prior to St. Mark's, he worshipped at St. James' Episcopal Church, where he served on the Vestry as Treasurer.

Wallace looks forward to being elected to St. Andrew's Vestry, where he hopes to utilize his Management experience and financial skills for crafting strategic plans to assist St. Andrew's in achieving its mission.

Eric Hargens



My wife and I first came to St. Andrew's almost ten years ago. I was very impressed with the beautifully lit marble altar area and the many stained-glass windows. I thought it all looked so majestic. That first day we wandered over to coffee hour and were pleasantly surprised to see many old friends there, including one friend we made while serving on Dominican Republic mission trips. Loueita and I became members of St. Andrew's soon thereafter and have very much enjoyed being part of our church. I recently retired after spending more than forty years advising analysts on investment portfolio construction at brokerage firms, labor unions, insurance companies, and registered investment advisories. I earned a B.S. in Finance with an Economics minor from Purdue University and an MBA from the University of Miami. Now that I am retired, I will be happy to devote my time and skills to St. Andrew's.

Birthday Concert Celebration Fundraiser

On **Sunday, February 5 at 4p.m.** you're invited to Ryan Hebert's Birthday Concert! St. Andrew's organist and music director turns almost 50 (48 actually), and to celebrate his 50-ish birthday, we're celebrating two years early with a fun concert. Dr. Hebert and his best friend and fellow organist from Charlotte, NC will play some organ music on the Fisk, and members of the choir will sing "surprise" solos - pieces from operas, musicals, or who knows what else? We're going to put the fun in fundraising. The event will raise money for new recording microphones for St. Andrew's livestream, and the suggested donation is \$48, or however old you think he should be! Please plan to join us for an afternoon of celebration for Dr. Hebert's 50-ish birthday! Birthday cake will follow in the parish hall.

St Andrew's Wine Lovers: "Vive la Difference"

Enjoy a parish social, for church members and friends, with wine, snacks and Valentine's fun. Taste red and white wines from France and California so you can tell Cabernet from Burgundy. How are they the same or different? Which do you like best? Where do all those crazy names come from?

Your hosts are food critic Chris Sherman and globe trotter Chris Cobb.

Saturday Feb 11, 5 to 7pm. \$10 per person. Advance ticket sales are available after church services on Sunday, February 5th.

Ash Wednesday, February 22nd Service times at St. Andrew's

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite One) in the Chapel

12:10pm Holy Eucharist (Rite Two)

7:00pm Holy Eucharist (Rite Two with choir)

All services include imposition of ashes.



Stations of the Cross: Fridays in Lent 12:10pm

Come and join us for this 30-minute devotional, observed on Fridays in Lent at 12:10pm running through Good Friday on April 7. Our Stations of the Cross, a gift from Nathan & Jane Simpson, are a series of pictures representing certain scenes in the Passion of Christ, each corresponding to a particular incident. Formerly the number of stations varied considerably in different places but fourteen are now generally acknowledged. The object of the Stations is to help the faithful to make in spirit, as it were, a pilgrimage to the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. It is carried out by passing from Station to Station, with certain prayers at each and devout meditation on the various incidents in turn. It is very usual, when the devotion is performed publicly, to sing a stanza of the "Stabat Mater" while passing from one Station to the next.

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! We have currently received **151 pledges for \$433,664**

Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30

Why? Making Sense of God's Will

Where is God when tragedy and suffering strike?

When the ground shakes, and a poor nation's economy is destroyed; when the waters rise, washing away a community's hopes and dreams; when a child suffers neglect and abuse; when violence tears apart nations, where is God? If God is all powerful, and if each one of us is a beloved child of God, then how can God allow tragedy and suffering to mar his creation?

In the DVD series *Why?*, Pastor Adam Hamilton brings fresh insight to the age-old question of how to understand the will of God. Rejecting simplistic answers and unexamined assumptions, he lays out core ideas for comprehending God's plan for the world, including:

God will not take away our free will, even when we use it to grieve him.

God will never abandon us, especially in the midst of our suffering.

While God is not the author of suffering, God will bring blessing out of tragedy.

Here is the rest of the line-up:

2/5 – Why Do My Prayers Go Unanswered?

2/12 – Why Can't I See God's Will for My Life?

2/19 – Why God's Love Prevails

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

Tuesday Evening Lenten Series

Our annual Lenten series will begin this year on **Shrove Tuesday, February 21st**, and continue weekly through **March 28th**.

Each evening begins at **5:30pm** with **Holy Eucharist** in the Children's Chapel.

A **potluck supper** follows at **6pm** in the Parish Hall and the **program** begins at **6:30pm**.

The presenter this year is our own Dr. Ray Vince, who teaches English at Hillsborough Community College.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Tampa, FL

Light in the Darkness / Lent Series 2023

Raymond M. Vince

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.” (Isaiah 9:2 NRSV)

In six sessions, we shall study seven biblical characters that haunt & disturb us, looking at the biblical context, references in literature, art, & science, and the hard questions they raise for us today. How do these characters contribute to our faith, helping us to find light in the darkness?

Adam & Eve / Are we created in God's Image?
Shrove Tuesday, 21st February 2023

Cain / Are we dwelling “East of Eden?”
Tuesday, 28th February 2023

Isaiah / Can we reconcile Prophecy & Contemporary Politics?
Tuesday, 7th March 2023

Mary Magdalene / The “apostle to the apostles”—or framed by the Church?
Tuesday, 14th March 2023

Judas Iscariot / Is he really the paradigm of betrayal?
Tuesday, 21st March 2023

Simon Peter / Does he personify the struggle to believe?
Tuesday, 28th March 2023

Parishioner Recognized

Our own Donreece Brown was a finalist as Instructional Support Employee of the Year, one of the Excellence in Education Awards as judged by the Hillsborough Education Foundation and Hillsborough County Public Schools. Donreece is an Exceptional Student Education Paraprofessional at the Lopez Exceptional Student Center in Seffner. *Congratulations, Donreece!*

December 2022 Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 12/12/22, there was \$157,363 in ops account and \$86,283 in the parish reserve account.

As of 12/14/22, there was \$32,755 in the Foundation's checking acct – monies available to the vestry.

Total available funds from principal for years 2019 thru 2022: \$287,352.

There was \$2,816,005 in the Foundation principal as of 11/25/22, as opposed to \$3,218,925 on 12/31/21 (a decrease of \$402,920 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 sometime in the new year.

Planned Giving – The Foundation Board would like the parish to begin a considerable 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 lined up eight speakers to advocate for stewardship at Sunday services this autumn. Gary wrote the letter for the first pledge card mailing, which was followed by Senior Warden letter (mailed out first week of November), then Treasurer (early December), and Rector (early January).

As of 12/14, we have 112 pledges for 349K (compared to 111 pledges for 324K as of this time last year). We are about 80% to where we want to be.

There are still 49 pledgers who pledged 90K in 2022 whom we have not heard from for 2023. With that in mind, you will receive names and phone numbers of such people at the vestry meeting on Monday. I will send sample copies of how to make your phone calls. Each one of the vestry members was asked to commit to calling approximately 4 members who had given in the past. Another pledge mailing will go out in early January.

Columbarium Mosaic Project and Dedication – Overall cost for mosaic & luncheon was 22K. Richard F will have a full report. Costs were covered by the 23K in donations to the project. Over 150 people attended the luncheon following the service on 11/20. A plaque has been installed next to the mosaic. Many thanks to Richard F, Pam C, & Nancy Turner for all the work they did for this grand event!

Thanksgiving Eve Service – was on Wednesday, 11/23 at 7PM. Attendance was 26% higher than last year's Thanksgiving Day service (58 as opposed to 46).

Foundation Meeting – 11/30 at 5PM. No changes made in investment strategy with Northern Trust.

St. Andrew's Fish Fry – was Sunday, 12/4 after the 10:30 service. Proceeds from this outreach event went to support the Giving Tree Party on Saturday, 12/10. A special thanks to Bobby Pastorius for donating (and frying) the grouper!

Gabriel's Giving Tree – Many thanks to all those who participated in this great outreach effort, especially Martha Cobb and Linda Busby.

December 2022 Operating Summary

| | <u>MTD Actual</u> | <u>MTD Budgeted</u> | <u>YTD Actual</u> | <u>YTD Budgeted</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Revenues | \$147,374 | \$50,564 | \$617,575 | \$606,768 |
| Expenses | \$54,464 | \$50,564 | \$596,989 | \$606,768 |
| Net | \$92,910 | \$0 | \$20,585 | \$0 |

Diocesan Convention – was on Saturday, 12/10, at the Cathedral in St. Petersburg. Our delegates were Derrick, Loueita, Brad, and yours truly. Various elections were held, the 2023 diocesan budget was approved, and Bishop Scharf became the ordinary, meaning he is now the VI Bishop of Southwest Florida and Bishop Smith has entered retirement.

Rectory Christmas Party – on Friday, 12/16, beginning at 6PM. Was very well-attended.

Vestry Nominations – Currently there are 5 people who are ready to run for vestry.

Annual Meeting – Sunday, 2/5/23 after 10:30 service – includes vestry election.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT: Richard Ferlita. Richard F distributed the numbers from the mosaic. He shared that at the last minute we got a really nice pledge from a member taking us to \$22,931.00. Richard presented a spread sheet that described all of the associated costs; in the final report the church was ahead financially by \$1,025. There are no other bills coming in. Richard noted that the Foundation wants the Vestry to establish a committee—starting in the beginning of the year—to solicit members to consider St. Andrew's in their estate planning. This is important for the church and for our growth. This would enable us to do more programs and perhaps expand the staff. Discussion on how to give to the church ensued. Richard shared some ideas for the Legacy Fund.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT: Richard Chapman. Richard reported that we finally got our irrigation contractor back; he noted that if this one is not responsive, he has another option. He is waiting for the finished selections (floor tile colors, toilet partition colors, and countertops) for the first and second floor restrooms. Pam asked Richard for information on the availability of items. Richard recommended that Pam and Jennifer go to Floor and Décor. Kathy asked about kitchen door replacement. Richard shared that the door for the kitchen is a peculiar size and he has had a challenging time finding someone to take on this project. He has requested a price on an all-aluminum door.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Lori Taplow stated that she did not see anything unusual in the numbers. She noted “the ops account is at \$179,000 which is headed in the right direction.” Pam Frost believes we will end the year in a strong position.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

HOMELESS MINISTRY: Sue MacIsaac. The ministry is going very well, and she shared a story with the Vestry regarding an unplanned donation. Love TONIC, a Virginia organization, connected with Darius Stallworth (a Tampa city employee who helps coordinate services for the homeless population), who directed them to bring their U-Haul filled with new tennis shoes, gloves, and beanies to St. Andrew's on a weekday morning. These items were then given to our lunch program participants. Sue shared that it is good that the city of Tampa knows about the homeless ministry that we are doing. Sue noted that she has thanked those who have given donations. Kathy shared that a parishioner gave a significant donation the past Sunday that was earmarked for the purchase of blankets.

PARISH LIFE. Pam Curry and Loueita Hargens. Pam noted that there have been two parties in 30 days. For Lessons and Carols, Pam estimated that we had 100 guests for the reception. We have new silverware, and Pam noted that it was good to have things matching. Pam purchased new linens for the tables. Pam thanked everyone, especially Linda McGhee, James Carmichael, and Richard Ferlita. It is important to remember how much they do for us.

OUTREACH: Chris Capsambelis. He reported that the fish fry was not as well attended as Octoberfest; we raised \$650, which helped pay for the Gabriel's Giving Tree party. Gabriel's Giving Tree supported 30 families, but it was a disappointing number of families that attended the party. Members of the vestry noted that lack of transportation and parents working additional hours due to the holidays may have affected the number of participants. Richard F notes that the craft table was “jammed,” and children had fun. It was noted that the families were very complimentary of our efforts.

YOUTH MINISTRY: Jen reported that yesterday was a great Christmas pageant; the youth party was on the 6th floor. Regarding Rock the Universe Christian music festival at Universal Studios in Orlando, there would be 12 youth and 3 adult chaperones. Parking is \$27 per vehicle. Jen also wants a small food budget for each youth. It is on Saturday, January 28th. In terms of money, it is \$140 per person for tickets. She noted that we should spend about \$2,500 for tickets, parking, and food for the kids. **The motion was made by Jen R to spend up to \$2,500 for participation in Rock the Universe to be taken from the Foundation from a line indicating youth spending; Pam Curry seconded the motion. The motion was accepted by a unanimous vote of the vestry. The clerk will make the request to the Foundation.**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Ash Wednesday

February 22nd

See page five for service times

VALENTINE CARDS THAT NOTICE HEART AWARENESS MONTH



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

The Rev. John Reese, Rector

Sunday Services

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

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.