



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ February 2024

Reverently Speaking

In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.

Mark 1:35

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

Even if you are not a “senior,” whether you're in prepubescence, adolescence, middlecence, elderescence, or senescence all of us experience “senior moments.”

You intentionally set out on a mission to get something — forgotten car keys, replacement printer paper, a fresh cup of coffee — and suddenly you get waylaid by some wayward distraction. Someone texts you, while another someone arrives at your desk, and simultaneously the phone rings, all in the same moment.

After dealing with these interruptions, you find yourself standing in a room with no idea why you are there.

What were you after? What was your agenda? In the hallowed ivy-league tradition of absent-mindedness, you just had a “senior moment.” You pointedly and purposefully search your mind and reassemble your thoughts in order to figure out why you are standing where you are and what you were intending to do.

“Senior moments” are reset moments. And busy, bustling lives require reset, reassessment moments. We need to take the time to reconfigure and reconsider just exactly what it is we are pursuing and why we are pursuing it.

One of the most famous of the U2 songs is “I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For.” Sometimes, when we are looking for Jesus, we are not sure what it is that we are looking for. Are we searching for meaning, or a new mortgage? Are we searching for redemption, or a new and better relationship? Are we searching for forgiveness, or a way out of a bad relationship? When we address Jesus, are we addressing God or are we dressing our ego?

The ego is the part of our psyche that takes care of our personal lives. Our ego is important, it must be healthy, just as our blood pressure must be at a good rate, and our blood sugar must be within normal bounds. But unlike those medically measurable variables like blood pressure and blood sugar, our ego rates are not so easily accounted for.

Our ego can give us confidence and the power to move through the obstacles that life sends us. But our ego can also block us from the greatest power we might possibly access. Kenneth Blanchard, a CEO/leadership guru is known for his moral disqualification of the CEO EGO. As a Christian, Blanchard has also proclaimed that the greatest ego faux pas is to “Edge God Out:” “E-G-O”.

Prayer time is essential for Christians. For Jesus, and for all his disciples, prayer is not a time to “hide out.” Instead, it is a time where our own ego gets jettisoned and instead of “Edging God Out” we “Engage God Only.” Our select, singular, “senior” time with God is the time we get rid of our ego — our “edging-God-

out” tendencies and temptations — and instead open ourselves to “Exalting God Only.”

This is a new kind of ego, a Jesus ego, a God-concentrated and committed ego that “exalts God only.” A bad ego edges God out. A good ego exalts God only. God has exalted Jesus to God’s right hand. Or as the Apostle’s Creed puts it, he is “seated at the right hand of the Father.” An “ego” that “exalts God only” is an ego that is constantly pointing to Christ, not to itself; an ego that boasts and brags about Jesus only, not about oneself; an ego that turns the eye of the camera on others, not just takes selfies; an ego that lives the power of the risen Christ, not tries to live out of its own strength; an ego that lives these exalted words “Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world” and “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

A New York business executive had a good collection of paintings in his office, one of them being the Leaning Tower of Pisa, which hung over his writing desk. For a long time he noticed that it persisted in hanging crooked despite the fact that he straightened it every morning.

At last, he asked the night office-cleaner if she was responsible for its lopsided position each morning that he came to his office. "Why, yes," she said. "I have to hang it crooked to make the tower hang straight."

“God writes straight with crooked lines,” goes an old Portuguese proverb. My crooked lines, the crooked lines of your life, God can turn into a narrative that leads straight to goodness, beauty and truth. The story of the Bible is the story of God writing straight with some very crooked lines: “you meant it for evil, but God turned it to good” (Gen.50:20). The story of St. Andrew’s is the story of God writing straight with some very crooked lines. The story of your life is the story of God writing straight with some very crooked lines: God can make all things, even the crooked things, “work together for good for those who love God” (Romans 8:28).

But first you have to turn your crooked lines over to Him. Have you had that “senior moment” when you’ve reset your life and reassessed who’s in charge of your life? Has that “senior moment” led you to trust your life to a power greater than anything you can grasp or think? Turn over to God your crooked ego that “edges God out” with scribbles and watch God scribe something straight and true and beautiful with an ego that “exalts God only.”

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese

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 March 29. 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.

Congratulations to our new vestry members:

Nicole Carr, Don Crawford, Piers Curry, Wayne Daley, Paul Henley

2024 Executive Committee:

Piers Curry, *Senior Warden*
Richard Chapman, *Junior Warden*
Eric Hargens, *Treasurer*
Nicole Carr, *Clerk of the Vestry*



Shrove Tuesday, February 13th

5:30pm Holy Eucharist in the Children's Chapel
6:00pm Pancake Supper in the Parish Hall
(hosted by St. Andrew's Youth)
6:30pm Lenten Series begins

Ash Wednesday, February 14th **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.



Save the date to taste new wine and enjoy music

Save the date: **February 17th from 6-8 pm**, in Saint Andrew's Parish Hall. This year St. Andrew's wine lovers will meet for a special midwinter program of new harmony in wine and music provided by Parish Life. You will enjoy music performed by violist (and verger) Allison Besselieu and her colleague Julie Tollen. You will also sample wines beyond your usual favorites presented by Chris Sherman. Tickets are \$10 and will be available after church services on 4 and 11 Feb, as well as on the day. Please note: Child care will be available at the church, if needed.

New Flower Chart

The 2024 Flower Sign-Up Chart is in the parish hall. Please help 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. To sponsor both Altars, the cost is \$250. If you have questions, please contact Charlotte Churchill 813-352-0162 cmchurchi18@gmail.com

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. **We have currently 142 pledges for \$493,684.00**

Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30

Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess

Often we make a mess of our lives and wonder if there is any redemption. In this six-week video series, pastor and author Tom Berlin helps us see our mess through the eyes of Christ to find redemption and restoration. Using Scripture, devotional tools, and the writings of Ignatius of Loyola, John of the Cross, St. Augustine, John Wesley, Evelyn Underhill, and others, Berlin encourages reflection and meditation through our own brokenness. Only then can we focus on the cross as the place where we truly surrender control, leave our mess, and find redemption.

Tom Berlin is currently the Bishop of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Here is the line-up:

February 18 - This Is a Real Mess

February 25 - Who Left This Mess?

March 3 - Bless This Mess

March 10 - No Messing Around

March 17 - Address This Mess

March 24 - The Message in the Mess

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

Thursday evenings at 7:00pm

Adult Inquirers' Class

New to St. Andrew's and the Episcopal Church? Or just trying to brush up on the faith? Then join us for this seven week series exploring the Episcopal Church. We will use *Looking at the Episcopal Church*, a book by The Rev. William Sydnor. We will comprehensively cover the church's symbols, customs, practices, history, creeds, sacraments, and mission. This class is required if you wish to be confirmed or received into the church during Bishop Scharf's visitation on **Sunday, February 25th** at the 10:30 service.

Here is the rest of the line-up:

February 8 – The Church Year and Sacraments

February 15 – The Ordained Ministry and the Mission of the Church

February 22 – Ministry of the Laity

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

Youth News

We will have the confirmation retreat **Sunday after the 10:30am service until 2:30pm.** Once coffee hour is over, we will walk three blocks as a group to Curtis Hixon Park. We will visit the park (the "Bark in the Park" event will also be going on during this time) and walk some of the Riverwalk. We will get lunch and make our way back to St. Andrew's at 2:30pm. Ben and I want this to be an open time for questions, sharing thoughts or comments about faith and/or confirmation, having fun in a laid-back environment getting to know one another better as people, etc. The Confirmation Retreat is open to all confirmands, youth, and parents. Please RSVP so we know how many lunch spots to reserve by Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

Two days after the Confirmation Retreat, Confirmands and Youth at St. Andrew's will host the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on **Tuesday, February 13, 2024.** We ask that all confirmands, youth and any parents who would like to help arrive in the parish hall from 4:30-5pm. This is a simple event that just involves lots of hands. Pancake flavors will be blueberry, chocolate chip, and plain, we will have a toppings bar, sausage links, and more. Supper is served at 6 and all are welcome to attend and share a meal with us.

Youth in grades 6 & up are also invited to assist in Easter preparations on Palm Sunday during coffee hour (***Sunday, March 24th***) as we pack Easter goody bags and eggs for the big hunt! Look for Alicia in the parish hall and come lend us a quick hand! We will also be taking Easter donations for items to pack in our wonderful goody bags starting on Sunday, March 3rd-- items like individually wrapped candy, pencils, erasers, small toys and trinkets are much appreciated! ***A marked bin will be placed at the children's chapel entrance of the parish building for all Easter goody bag donations. We will pack goody bags on Sunday, March 24th during coffee hour.***

All Children are invited to participate in our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, which falls on Sunday, March 31st after the 10:30 service in the courtyard! Bring a basket or bag and join in the fun, making beautiful family memories on this blessed Easter Sunday! All children and youth (this means middle & high school too!) will receive an awesome goody bag following the hunt, but due to space, we will have an official egg hunt for kids who are toddler age through 5th grade in the courtyard. We will also have golden coins inside some of the hidden eggs for additional special prizes!

Please contact Alicia Schmid for questions, or to volunteer with our amazing kids & youth at aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com. ***We currently need volunteers one or two Sundays per month during the 9:30am Sunday School hour in the preschool and elementary classrooms!***

Tuesday Evening Lenten Series

Our annual Lenten series will begin this year on Shrove Tuesday, February 13th, and continue weekly through March 19th. 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. Ryan Hebert.

Music Notes Unscripted: *What Music Teaches us about God* **By Ryan Hebert**

- 2/13 In the beginning was the word (John 1:1) - Hosted by the Youth
Inspiration, Motivation, Intention, and the Creative Process Unfolding
- 2/20 Let everything that has breath praise THE LORD (Psalm 150:6) - Hosted by Parish Life
Breadth and Breath: Singing and the allure of the pipe organ
- 2/27 Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10) - Hosted by the Choir
Sound and Silence: Musical expression and the art of listening
- 3/5 Become like children (Matthew 18:3) - Hosted by Daughters of the King
Playing music and creation's playfulness
- 3/12 Forget the former things (Isaiah 43:18) - Hosted by Outreach
The illusion of perfectionism and the perfect performance
- 3/19 The truth will set you free (John 8:32) - Hosted by the Altar Guild
*Organ Voluntary? Or Involuntary? Playing with Abandon
(organ recital demo)*



From the Parish Register

Weddings
Stephen Dickmann
& Michelle Radd



From the Parish Register

Deaths
Joseph John Daurril

Baptisms
Victoria Elizabeth
Malone

December 2023 Vestry Meeting Highlights

A warm welcome was extended to Victoria Klug, who has agreed to serve Chris Capsambelis' unexpired term on the vestry. Chris has moved to Madeira Beach.

RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 12/11/23, there was \$140,919 in ops account and \$86,283 in the parish reserve account.

As of 11/14/23, there was \$32,000 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 \$2,819,012 in the Foundation principal as of 10/18/23.

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 about 8K

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.

Second floor restroom renovation – is a work in progress. Richard C. will update us on it. Ditto for repairing roof leaks in church.

2024 Stewardship Campaign – launched on 10/1. Many thanks to Brad, Allison, and Derrick for speaking. Brad wrote the letter for the first pledge card mailing (end of September), followed by Senior Warden (end of October), Treasurer (end of November), and Rector (early January).

As of 12/14, we have 105 pledges for 344K (compared to 112 pledges for 349K as of this time last year). *See attached pledge update.*

There are still 62 pledgers who pledged 163K in 2023 whom we have not heard from for 2024. 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. *Please make every effort to attend Monday's meeting!* Another pledge mailing will go out in early January.

Vestry members selected the names of 2023 pledgers who we haven't heard from to call and inquire as to their plans for 2024.

Tree trimming – The crepe myrtles at the courtyard entrance are in desperate need of a haircut. We have a proposal from LS Gardens to do just that.

Anchor Ball – was Saturday, 12/2 at the Pepin Center. Barbara will report on this. Proceeds benefited Seafarers' Ministry at the Port of Tampa.

Barbara Brotherton, who was in attendance at the Anchor Ball, reported that the event was fun and successful in its fundraising.

December 2023 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$163,234	\$52,525	\$636,993	\$630,307
Expenses	\$54,976	\$52,525	\$616,570	\$630,307
Net	\$108,257	\$0	\$20,423	\$0

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

Christmas Lessons & Carols – is on 12/17 at 5PM in the church. Reception afterward hosted by Parish Life. Christmas Eve services will be on Sunday, **12/24 at 5:30PM and 9PM**, with pre-service music beginning 30 minutes prior to each service.

Christmas Day service will be on Monday, **12/25 at 10:30AM**.

Sunday morning services as usual on 12/31.

Annual Meeting Reports – please start working on those reports. Lauri can send you last year's report to use as a guideline. Just give her a buzz at the office.

Annual Meeting – Sunday, 2/4/24 after 10:30 service – includes vestry election.

Episcopal Visitation – Bishop Scharf will visit St. Andrew's on Sunday, 2/25/24 (the Second Sunday in Lent). Confirmation class for youth picks back up on 1/7 in preparation for Bishop's visitation.

Adult Inquirers' Class – will be Thursday evenings at 7PM, 1/11 through 2/22 (seven sessions), also in preparation for Bishop's visitation.

Senior Warden: Richard Ferlita explained that we have a proposal from LS Gardens to trim the 5 crepe Myrtle Trees at the entrance to the courtyard, in the amount of \$2,500. It was determined that we need to trim a sixth tree as well. Richard thanked the Reeses for a great Rectory Christmas party.

Richard Ferlita made the motion to include an additional \$500 to trim a sixth tree and allocate \$3,000 to trim the six crepe myrtles, to be paid out of the maintenance/reserve fund. The motion was seconded by Barbara Brotherton and was approved unanimously.

Junior Warden: Richard Chapman reported that the timer on the columbarium light has been replaced. The gutter repair has been done. The demolition on the 2nd floor restrooms is complete. The drywall had to be replaced, which was an unforeseen expense but should not impact the budget. Installation of the counter-tops is underway and should be finished tomorrow. The plumber has started his work. The partitions are on back order. Richard is still seeking the right vendor for the church roof repair.

Treasurer: Eric Hargens reported that any anomalies in the numbers were strictly timing issues. Folks are catching up on their pledges and we were pleased to receive an unexpected donation.

Committee Reports:

Visual Committee: Paul Scheuer informed that the new microphones have arrived at the vendor. He is unsure of when they will be installed but likely after Christmas. Issues with the supply chain held them up. We will live-stream the 5:30PM Christmas service only if there are no video folks available to provide coverage for the 9:00PM service.

Parish Life: Richard Ferlita reported in Pam Curry's absence that feedback on the Christmas Party, following Lessons and Carols, was that the food, attendance, and reviews were all very favorable.

Outreach Homeless Program: Kathy Lawless explained that we will not serve on Christmas Day. Portico will serve a hot meal. Tampa Family Health Center is working with us now to provide medical attention to lower income families. Their first visit was a successful one. Vaccines and medical prescriptions were arranged for several clients. They will schedule dental visits as well. The Tampa Bay Times newspaper is going to cover our lunch ministry this week. A plan is underway to get the closet under control. Another church has approached Kathy. They don't have a permanent location but they have a hot dog truck to provide meals. They drive around looking for homeless. They have asked if we would allow them to park in our parking lot on Tuesday evenings. We might consider replacing our lunches one day a week with the hot dog truck instead.

Outreach: Derrick reported that this has been a successful year for fundraising and Outreach events. The number of children served by the Gabriel Tree project stretched the volunteers quite a bit this year. In order to ensure success, it was determined that 100 children will be our limit next Christmas.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Ash Wednesday

February 14th

See page three for service times



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.