



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ January 2024

Reverently Speaking

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

A cartoon in *The New Yorker* magazine said it all. In the middle of the floor is a dried up, withered, Christmas tree. The calendar on the wall reads December 26. Dad is sitting in his chair with an ice pack on his head. Mom is in a bathrobe and her hair in rollers. The floor is a virtual mountain of torn wrappings, boxes, and bows. Junior is reaching in his stocking to be sure that there is no more candy. In the background we see a table with a thoroughly picked turkey still sitting there. The caption on the cartoon reads simply: The morning after.

Well, perhaps we feel a little that way. Perhaps we felt somewhat let down. If you feel that way it is quite understandable. Over the past weeks our emotions have been wound tighter than a toy doll. Our festivities have led up to near fever pitch. And then, suddenly, it is all over. Is it any wonder that it is somewhat of a letdown? Psychiatrists even have a word for it. They call it Christmas-slump.

A number of years ago, when Lou Holtz was head football coach at the University of Arkansas, he was taking his team to play a bowl game in Tempe, Arizona. The game was to be played on Christmas Day. He was asked how he felt about playing a game on Christmas, rather than being with his family. The coach answered candidly: "I would rather be in Tempe. After all, once you have been to church, had Christmas dinner, and opened the presents, Christmas is the most boring day of the year."

Is it possible to lose the spirit of Christmas that quickly? Let us be candid that as we take down the decorations for another year, there is a sinking emptiness and an emotional let-down. Some of us try to keep the Christmas tree alive as long as possible. We put aspirin in the water, then try some sugar, but regardless of the solutions the tree always withers. Why? because it has been cut off from its roots.

Perhaps that is our problem. Maybe we have trouble making Christmas last because we have become cut off from our roots. Or, to put it another way, maybe our celebration of Christmas is not deeply rooted enough.

(continued)

From time to time in the Christmas season we hear someone say, “Wouldn’t it be great if it could be Christmas all year long?” Surprise! That’s God’s intent. That is why God invaded our planet and gave us the gift of His Son. There is only one thing that stands in the way of our celebrating Christmas all year long.

It’s you and me. If you and I lived the way Christ intends for us to live—if we lived out on a daily basis the love, compassion and charity that are part and parcel of this special season—the world would be changed. The world is waiting for the people of God to live out what we say we believe: That Jesus Christ is the hope of the world. That living the Christ life—the life of love and sacrifice and self-giving is ultimately the only way that humanity can be saved. When Christmas lives in our hearts, then we will have at least made a beginning of spreading the spirit of Christmas to the entire world. And not just at one time of the year but all year, every year. Could it happen? Could it really happen?

Does the Spirit of God’s Son live within your heart? Do you have his love for all people? Do you have his joy, his patience, his faithfulness, his peace, his compassion? Then you are part of the solution rather than part of the problem for turning this world around.

There is an odd little carol which begins like this:

There's snow on the mountain and ice on the pond,
The Wise Men are home now in the back of beyond.
The Shepherds have left us; the heavens are dumb;
There's no one to tell us why Jesus has come.

It ends like this:

But God's in His heaven, and Jesus has come
To show every sinner he's welcome back home,
To be this world's Saviour from hunger and fear,
And give us new courage to face the New Year.

We have courage to face this New Year because of Jesus. He is Immanuel—God with us and for us. All the best in 2024!

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese

Un-Greening of the Church

Come and help take down the Christmas decorations at the church after the 10:30 service this Sunday, January 7th. Many hands will make for light work!

Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30

The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught

Most Christians know the Lord's Prayer by heart. We pray it often, at different times and in different settings. We remember it as the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. But do we really understand and appreciate the meaning and power of its words, what we ask of God each time we pray it?

When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, Jesus gave them this prayer. He likely taught it to his followers often, not just one time. He never intended the Lord's Prayer to be a museum piece, framed and placed on a mantel or in a display case. It was Jesus teaching God's people, through his disciples, how to pray.

In the video series *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught*, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton guides us to really know—and really pray—the Lord's Prayer. He explores each of its rich lines and their meaning in the Bible, illuminating what we ask of God and what we ask of ourselves through its words. And he teaches us how to use it as a pattern for our own prayer life. Hamilton is senior pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas.

Here is the line-up:

January 7 - Our Father, Who Art in Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name

January 14 - Whose Will Be Done?

January 21 - Our Daily Bread

January 28 - Forgive...As We Forgive

February 4- And Lead Us, Not into Temptation

February 11 - For Thine Is the Kingdom, Power, and Glory

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

OUTREACH - GABRIEL TREE



A special Thank You!! The Gabriel Tree Project was an AMAZING success, once again, because of all the wonderful people at St Andrew's! We could not have done it without the gracious people who planned, wrapped, shopped, donated, and participated at the Gabriel Tree Party. Thank you for your gift of time and treasure that brought so much joy to many families this Christmas. Wishing you many blessings in 2024!

Adult Inquirers' Class

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. If you plan to attend, please contact the Rector so he can order the correct number of books. The cost is \$15. 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 line-up:

January 11 – Introduction to the Episcopal Church (*this session meets in the church*)

January 18 – The Worship of the Church

January 25 – History of the Church

February 1 – The Holy Scriptures and Creeds

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.

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 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 118 pledges for \$419,208.00

2024 Pledge Report

<i>Pledges received</i>	<i>Total Amount Pledged for 2024</i>	<i>Total Amount Pledged for 2023</i>
118	\$419,208.00	\$441,321.00
11 New pledges for 2024		
43 Increased their pledge for 2024		
14 Decreased their pledge for 2024		
<u>50 Made the same pledge in 2024 as in 2023</u>		
118 Total number of pledges received for 2024		

Donations to Saint Andrew's Foundation



In Loving Memory of Kay Rankin

Stella Ferguson Thayer
Ann Livingston
Kimmins Foundation
Kevin & Kathleen Kelly
Ray & Nedra McCraw



Columbarium niches available

The new columbarium, located north of the Children's Chapel, is complete and arrangements can be made for eternal rest at St. Andrew's.

Each niche can hold two urns, and the cost per niche is \$2000. For more information contact the Rector.



Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, February 4th

after the 10:30 service
The meeting will be live-streamed

November 2023 Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTORS REPORT

As of 11/6/23, there was \$144,276 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 \$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 & NW corner of church are being addressed by a water intrusion co.

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

2024 Stewardship Campaign – launched on 10/1. Thanks, Brad, for heading this up! We are looking for folks willing to stand up and give a 2-3 minute stewardship oration/plug at Sunday services in October and November. 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 11/16, we have 94 pledges for 312K (compared to 97 pledges for 300K as of this time last year).

All Saints' Evensong – was on Sunday, 11/5 at 5PM, followed by a reception in parish hall hosted by Parish Life. Good attendance and fine music.

Annual St. Andrew's Fish Fry – was on Sunday, 11/12, following the 10:30 service. We filled the parish hall and enjoyed some excellent fish!

Thanksgiving Eve Service – is on Wednesday, 11/22 at 7PM.

Anchor Ball – is Saturday, 12/2 at the Pepin Center. Proceeds benefit Seafarers' Ministry at the Port of Tampa.

Rectory Christmas Party – on Friday, 12/15, beginning at 6PM and lasting until the police shut us down.

Christmas Pageant – on Sun, 12/17, during the 10:30 service. Dress rehearsal is on Sat, 12/16 at 10AM.

Hanging of the Greens – will be on Sun, 12/17, after the 10:30 service. Help decorate the church!

November 2023 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$41,892	\$52,525	\$473,758	\$630,307
Expenses	\$48,307	\$52,525	\$561,252	\$630,307
Net	(\$6,415)	0	(\$87,494)	0

Christmas Lessons & Carols – is on Sun, 12/17 at 5PM. 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 12/25 at 10:30AM. Sunday services as usual on 12/31.

Vestry Nominations – time to start recruiting folks to stand for election in February.

Episcopal Visitation – Bishop Scharf will visit St. Andrew's on Sunday, 2/25/24 (the Second Sunday in Lent). Confirmation class for youth started on 11/5 (during Sunday school hour) and class for adults will be in January and February.

Senior Warden: Richard Ferlita was pleased to share that the piano in the Parish Hall has been tuned. It was donated by the daughter of Judge Brooker and his wife. They were dedicated members of St. Andrew's in the early part of the last century. Their daughter, Anne James, will be introduced to the church on Sunday. Choir member, Lucas Glenn, will play in the Parish Hall during the reception during coffee hour. This will provide us with the opportunity to thank her for her donation.

Junior Warden: Richard Chapman reported that the source of the leak in the church has been identified and a vendor is being sought to repair the leak. The restroom demolition on the second floor is underway. The job should be complete by Christmas. Richard has been informed that the timer on the Columbarium is not working properly. He will take a look at it. The church gutter will be repaired on Wednesday. The cost will be \$975 and could be paid from the Dan Curtis Fund.

A motion was made by Richard Ferlita to approve the expense of \$975 to be paid from the Dan Curtis Fund. Kathy Lawless seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer: Eric Hargens stated that pledge and plate offerings are up. Parking revenue has also increased. The outlier in the numbers this month has to do with choir staffing and it's due to a timing issue. The electric bill is being well monitored despite rate increases by TECO.

Committee Reports:

Parish Life – Pam Curry reports that the Evensong reception on 11/5 went very well. It was well attended and enjoyable. Lessons and Carols, followed by the Christmas party, are next. Ham and potatoes will be provided and side dishes will be requested. Help with clean up after the Christmas party is being sought. We are preparing for approximately 100 people. Setup will be on Saturday morning. The Taplows will provide pizza in the courtyard for coffee hour during The Hanging of the Greens. Parish Life will be available to assist with the rectory party on December 15th.

Chris Sherman would like to host another wine tasting in February, around Valentine's Day, with support from Parish Life. Allison Besselieu will provide cello music accompanied by her violinist friend.

Outreach Homeless Program: Kathy Lawless stated that the Portico Cafe will provide lunch on Thanksgiving. The number of participants in the lunch program continues to climb. A check came in today in the amount of \$250. A bag of items arrived for the clothes closet, including shoes, clothes, towels, and other needed items. Bombas socks have arrived from Metropolitan Ministries in addition to other toiletry items. They have been a great support.

Outreach: Derrick Brown reported that the fish fry went well. Holly Clemmons reported that the new process worked well using aluminum baskets for the fish. We did not receive any complaints this year. The salt and vinegar chips, substituted for French fries, worked well. We don't have an exact head count on the number of participants in the blood drive.

Martha Cobb reported on the Gabriel Tree program. We have increased the number of children participating this year so, with the increase in the volume of gifts, the additional space has been extremely helpful in organizing. Volunteers are needed to wrap gifts. Setup starts on Friday prior to the party. Having the earlier start this year has worked very well. We have increased the number of children we are providing for to 130.

Holly Clemmons reported that 582 lbs of food were donated to Thanksgiving Boxes of Hope this year. Also, \$1,640 in total was donated to this ministry at Metropolitan Ministries

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, February 4th

at noon



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.