



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ July 2021

Reverently Speaking

Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.'

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

Weaknesses. We all have them. It doesn't matter what image we present to the world. It doesn't matter how much money we have in our bank account. It doesn't matter what degree or title we have at work. We all have weaknesses. The problem is that we live in a prosperous, image-driven society. Nobody puts their weaknesses on Facebook or Instagram or Snapchat. We only put our best, most airbrushed image out there. The last thing we want our friends to see is our flaws.

Some of our weaknesses are physical, some are mental, some are moral. Some of those weaknesses have to do with our work, some with our family life, some with our relationship with Christ. Some of us, for example, have short tempers, others of us struggle with depression or anxiety. Some of us are too proud, others of us lack back-bone—we give in too quickly. But all of us are weak in some area of our life.

Saint Paul had his weaknesses. One in particular caused him much heartache. We don't know for certain what it was. He called it his "thorn in the flesh." Some have suggested that St. Paul suffered from epileptic seizures. If so, he was in good company. Two of the most powerful men who ever lived—Julius Caesar and Napoleon—were epileptics, as have been many other great individuals through history. In St. Paul's day there was no Dilantin or Keppra to control seizures. If that was his thorn, he was stuck with it.

St. Paul prayed that God would deliver him from his affliction. Three times he beseeched God about this matter, but God's answer to him was, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Notice those final words: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." In other words, God seemed to be saying to Paul, "Trust me, Paul. I will take care of you. And I can use your weakness to demonstrate my power."

We can learn from Paul's experience. Paul not only learned to accept his thorn in the flesh, he even began to boast about his weakness in order to show the power of Christ. There's a wonderful lesson there. Our weakness, whatever it may be, can become our strength if we will commit it to God.

(continued)

Since last Sunday was Independence Day, it is fitting to relate a story about one of the best-known figures in the struggle for Independence. He was a man who needed to begin again. His name was Patrick Henry.

Even though Patrick Henry has been revered for most of our history as a patriot and an orator, for years of his life, Patrick Henry was a miserable failure. He and his brother opened a store, but it failed. Next Patrick's father-in-law set him up in farming. Patrick was given 300 acres, a house, and 6 slaves. That's interesting, don't you think? Patrick Henry was a slave owner. He is best known for his "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech, but somehow, he did not think that the men and women who worked his farm might have the same sentiments. Some of our ancestors had this same blind spot—and we are still paying for their sins today.

In spite of his father-in-law's generosity, however, Patrick Henry also failed as a farmer. Finally, on the advice of some friends, Patrick turned to law. He was a natural persuader and a captivating orator. As a lawyer, Patrick was an instant success. Further, his was exactly the voice that was needed to launch the colonies toward a break with England. "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death." It was the perfect sentiment for the time. Though he shared a glaring and regrettable weakness with many of our ancestors, Patrick Henry was not a failure. He was simply in the wrong field for much of his life.

Our weaknesses may become strengths if they remind us of our dependence on God. I can just hear St. Paul boasting, can't you? "Look at me," he would say, "I once persecuted the church. Look at me, a man who has to battle this humiliating affliction—this thorn in the flesh. Yet Christ has used me to plant churches all over the known world." Paul was a man of tremendous intellect. He was also a man of unquestionable persuasive powers. Perhaps if it had not been for his thorn in the flesh, he would have leaned upon his own ability rather than the power of God working through him. And you and I would never have heard the name of Paul. His weakness became his strength. His scar became a star. His hurt became a halo. And the same thing can happen to us—if our weakness helps us to grow, if our weakness makes us more determined to succeed, if our weakness causes us to try new things, and if our weakness causes us to rely on God.

God has the power, authority and mercy to answer our every prayer and take away our every weakness. He could make our life as smooth and comfy as a velvet blanket. Why doesn't He? Because our life is meant to be a reflection of God's love and power. And God's power is made perfect in weakness. May we have the faith to say with the apostle Paul, "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Reese".

The Rev. John Reese

Save the Date

As part of St. Andrew's 150th Anniversary celebration, we plan to have a dinner banquet at Palma Ceia Golf & Country Club on the evening of **Saturday, September 25th**. More details will follow as plans progress. This event will be a great opportunity to enjoy some time with parishioners you know, and also give you the chance to meet some parishioners that you do not yet know.

Name Tags

Wearing name tags is nothing new. Here at St. Andrew's we have tried it a few times. And, we are going to try again. The Vestry members will all start wearing name tags and we would like for anyone who wants to join them, please let us know, and we will have a printed name tag made - No Cost. You can either call the office (813-221-2035) or fill out your name on the sheet in back of the church.

New Mask Protocol

In light of the recent changes in CDC guidelines, Bishop Smith has issued the following directive:

- For fully vaccinated people, mask wearing and social distancing are optional
- For non-vaccinated individuals, mask wearing and social distancing are highly recommended
- For the time being, guidelines for Holy Communion will remain the same

Thus, you no longer have to wear a mask during worship if you are fully vaccinated. However, distribution of communion will remain the same, meaning that only the bread will be given to communicants while standing at the rail.



From the Parish Register

Weddings

Jared Cox & Alissa Morris
William Peterson &
Ingrid Muellerliele



Deaths

Joanne Moore Baldy

Donations to Saint Andrew's Foundation

In Loving Memory of Luis Medel

Kevin & Rosalyn Franklin
Grace Riera
Martha Medel

In Loving Memory of Al Getz

Kay & Tom Rankin

In Loving Memory of John Wolfe

Don & Campbell Burton

Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30am

The Wired Word, facilitated by the Rector, examines a current event from the previous week and analyzes it through the use of Biblical references. Come and see how Scripture can help us make sense of what's happening in the world today.

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

Youth News

Upcoming Children & Youth Activities:

Sundays

We have Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. on zoom

It's just 40 minutes, you can wear your jammies, and bring your bed head (no judgment whatsoever!). We pack every minute full of faith, fun, and fellowship. Games, fun, & connection for all ages.

Meeting ID: 870 1375 1335 Passcode: 346sUq

If any adults or youth in grades 9 & up are interested in assisting with Sunday school, or want to join us, just show up with the meeting ID & passcode, or reach out to Alicia Schmid anytime at aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com I would LOVE to have your presence and help!

Sundays

Nursery care in the nursery from 9:30 a.m. - Noon

Nursery staff, who are fully vaccinated, will be taking all necessary precautions. Please call the church office with questions.

Sundays

Children's Chapel at 10:30 a.m.

Join us for chapel time just for kids! We would also love youth helpers— kids look up to our teens, and this is a great way for them to serve. Sing songs in worship, hear cool Bible stories, and much more! Our time in chapel lasts for about 40 minutes, and kids are brought in to their parents during the service at the passing of the peace.

Wednesday, August 4th through Friday, August 6th from 9 a.m. to Noon, followed by youth activities for students in grades 6 (rising middle school) & up from Noon-3pm WEIRD ANIMALS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!

We need youth and adult volunteers, participants, and YOU. Areas like music, arts/crafts, storytelling, snack making, group leaders, and more— where do you feel called to serve? This year is extraordinarily special as we return to “real life” and being able to be together, now in safer, healthier ways. Please, please, please join us. You won't regret it.

I have done this particular VBS theme back in 2014, and it was my very favorite VBS theme of all time. We will condense things some since we have 3 days (instead of 5, which we hopefully will resume next year), but also get all the info packed into those three amazing days, and have an awesome time sharing God's love with our children and one another.

Join us for set construction and station leader prep days on Sunday, July 25th & Sunday August 1st from Noon to 3pm (lunch will be included for all who RSVP)

Here is what Group's website has to say about Weird Animals: *Where Jesus' Love is One-of-a-Kind! God filled the world with a lot of crazy creatures...including you! When kids feel weird, different, or even lost in a crowd—nothing compares to the extraordinary love of Jesus.*

I can't wait to see all that God has in store for us at St. Andrew's as we head into the summer of 2021. Things are looking up, and I look forward to “doing church life” with all of you so much in the weeks ahead. God is faithful, and each of you are a wonderful blessing. May God's grace be with you in all you say and do this week.

aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com Mobile: 703-470-4447



Weird Animals VBS 2021
"Where Jesus' Love Is One-Of-A-Kind"

August 4-6, 2021 9:00 a.m. to Noon, Youth Activities in grades 6 & up from Noon-3 p.m.

Registration Fee: \$30.00 per participant (scholarships are available as needed, please email Alicia Schmid)

Mail or drop off this form at: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 509 E. Twiggs St. Tampa, FL 33602

Or Email Alicia Schmid at aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com

First Participant's name: _____ Parent/Guardian name: _____

Address: _____

Home telephone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Child's age/ last grade completed: _____ (must be 4 years old by 8/4/2021 and potty trained OR have a parent volunteering at VBS)

Pronouns: He/Him She/Her They/Them

Date of Birth: _____ Home Parish: _____

Second Participant's name: _____ Last grade completed: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Pronouns: He/Him She/Her They/Them

Third Participant's name: _____ Last grade completed: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Pronouns: He/Him She/Her They/Them

In case of emergency (when the parent/guardian cannot be reached) please contact: Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Relationship to child (ren): _____

Please list all allergies/medical needs the VBS staff should be aware of for EACH participant: _____

Person responsible for picking up child(ren) at the end of each VBS day: Name: _____

Telephone number: _____ Signature of parent/guardian: _____

Please, indicate below if you or any family member would like to volunteer:

Preschool Group Leader or Assistant _____

Grade K-2 Group Leader or Assistant _____

Grade 3-6 Group Leader or Assistant _____

Make & Serve Snacks _____

Help with Crafts/ Imagination Station _____

Game Leader/Helper _____

Bible Storyteller/ Actor/ Assistant _____

Help the first day with Registration _____

Other: _____

May Vestry Meeting Highlights

As of 5/10/21, there was \$223,459 in ops account and \$84,294 in the parish reserve account.

As of 5/10/21, there was \$21,652 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry.

We have another \$26,473 available from the Foundation principal as a result of the 3% spending allocation designated by the Foundation Board for 2017 at their meeting on 2/21/17. (NB: \$27,000 has already been transferred to the Foundation checking account from the 2017 allocation, which totaled \$53,473).

We have another \$75,659 available from the Foundation principal as a result of the 4% spending allocation designated by the Foundation Board for 2018 at their meeting on 2/21/18.

We have another \$63,718 available from the Foundation principal as a result of the 3% spending allocation designated by the Foundation Board for 2019 at their meeting on 2/27/19.

We have another \$72,918 available from the Foundation principal as a result of the 3% spending allocation designated by the Foundation Board for 2020 at their meeting on 2/4/20.

We have another \$81,371 available from the Foundation principal as a result of the 3% spending allocation designated by the Foundation Board for 2021 at their meeting on 3/3/21.

And there was \$3,002,934 in the Foundation principal as of 3/31/21, as opposed to \$2,929,677 on 12/31/20 (an increase of \$73,257 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, with \$4,371 in grant money available for 2021. This fund is designated for church maintenance purposes.

On Sundays, there is Adult Christian Education at 9:30AM in the third floor library. There is nursery care from 9:30AM until noon. Both our attendants are fully vaccinated and full precautions are taken. Alicia has a 9:30AM Zoom Sunday school class for the kids and in-person Children's Chapel at 10:30AM. She is also doing a monthly youth activity off-site. There is no coffee hour.

Sesquicentennial Celebration – St. Andrew's has turned 150 in 2021. Planning meeting is on Saturday, 5/15 at 10AM in the Parish Hall.

Celebratory Choral Concert – is on Pentecost Sunday, 5/23 at 3PM in the church. This event will also be livestreamed.

Parish & Foundation Audits – Lynn is chairing the parish audit, Piers is chairing the Foundation audit.

Fence Painting – began on 4/14. Fence repair has been completed. Painting is just about done.

(continued)

May 2021 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$36,309	\$46,754	\$203,781	\$233,774
Expenses	\$42,196	\$48,776	\$241,234	\$243,884
Net	(\$5,887)	(\$2,021)	(\$37,453)	(\$10,109)

Plaque Installment/Refurbishing Project – is complete. Foundation made payment of \$8,590 to Mahindra Jhoda at Metal Refinishing (same firm that did prayer desk and pulpit last year). This included refinishing 9 plaques in the church and one plaque on the exterior (under the tower), 4 flower vases, and two large candlesticks (the ones that hold the Advent wreath and the Paschal candle). It also included moving the 'In Memoriam' letters above the courtyard plaques to a higher position (thereby creating 32 spaces for new plaques), re-locating two of the current plaques to other locations on the wall, and installing 10 new plaques. For an additional \$675 (paid from reserve account), Jhoda refurbished the two sanctus bells (located at each altar in the church) and repaired the paschal candle holder (which was cracked at the bottom). Jhoda will also come and install any future plaques down the line.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Gray Sanders

Same as previous – working with George Bedell and Don Crawford regarding guidelines for future mail-in voting for vestry elections, and feels confident he will have something for the next meeting.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – George Levy

Absent.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Richard Ferlita

Quarterly property insurance payment due this month. Financials in good shape.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HOMELESS MINISTRY: Sue reported that lunches are going well, however, the cost of the water has gone up. She stated that Loueita has magnetized name tags. Sue is proposing that we wear name tags on Sunday mornings when coffee hour starts back up. It was suggested that at the very least the Vestry members should wear nametags. Sue will move forward with this.

EDUCATION: Jim reported that Confirmation Class has been scheduled, will start in August.

STEWARDSHIP: Gary discussed growing the membership of the church. It was suggested that there be outreach to MacDill Air Force Base, and University of Tampa. Lynn offered to help connect with MacDill.

MEDIA: Paul worked on the issue of the audio feedback with regards to the organ. Paul is looking to replace two choir microphones and will get estimates.

Next Vestry Meeting will be **Monday, June 21st at 5:30 pm.**



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**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.