



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

# THE CALL

*Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!*

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ June 2021

## *Reverently Speaking*

*And Jesus replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”*

Mark 3:33-35

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

Today, nearly every person you know spends some time on social media. Most of you folks who are older probably lean toward Facebook. For some, it's pleasurable to connect with others, to learn about people, places, and things, to contribute to conversations, to join in groups with people who like what they like. But some also get a sense of longing, of sadness, feelings of deficiency or inadequacy that somehow their life isn't like those others they see. While social media sites can be a connective force, they can also remind us of what keeps us apart.

But there's a different kind of social media phenomenon breaking that pattern. The Tiktok phenomenon is changing social media in a way that is also changing people, and the way we look at and interact with others. Tiktok to some may seem like an odd conglomeration of videos based on everyday clips of unimportant things. They don't seem to carry deep meaning or teach lasting lessons. Most of them seem designed simply to make kids laugh.

Think Tiktok is meaningless? Look again. Tiktok has mastered the art of celebrating and honoring humanness in a world that feels to many kids increasingly intolerant, judgmental, untrustworthy, and alien.

Like a gratitude journal in video, Tiktok lets kids laugh at themselves and accept themselves for who they are when the world around them seems embroiled in a tit for tat fight to the death about every possible platform.

Tiktok is a cultural change-agent that not only reflects the mores of a new and, for us, foreign generation, but one that is changing the way culture views nearly everything. How? Analysts will tell you it's by way of a very special algorithm, one that “watches” what you watch and then tailors suggestions to uniquely “your” preferences. Tiktok is “made for you.” It's not simply about watching what other people like. But it's about what *you* like, and every time you watch, you build your own identity. You learn more about yourself.

Tiktok is a reactive media that celebrates a different kind of diversity —one that educates us in who we want to be. Tiktok creates connections that feed our sense of self and make us essentially feel good about who we are in a world that seems to criticize us at every turn.

Now *that's* catnip.

*(continued)*

Who doesn't come from a dysfunctional family? Who doesn't do stupid things sometimes? Who doesn't feel alone or want approval or feel criticized or lament life sometimes? For kids, this online connection to others lets us know that this is just part of being human. And as we watch others in their mundanity, we learn who we are, we mold ourselves. We come of age, even as we invent a new age.

Why is it so important to understand this as Christians? Because Jesus is the ultimate 1<sup>st</sup> century Tiktok star. Jesus would have understood Tiktok. In his own way in his own day, he created a Tiktok of his own in the alternative community he created, one in which community and bureaucratic rules did not apply but in which everyone could be exactly who they were, freed to be authentically human.

Jesus did unexpected things, acted in strange ways, made uncomfortable claims, dared to buck the systems, stood up to judgments and societal mores in ways no one had ever seen anyone do before.

When his family, ashamed, came to confront him, he called them out and chose to connect instead with his alternative community, those who followed him, those who supported him, those who were learning something about themselves through who he revealed himself to be.

The authorities around him saw him as out of control. Those who admired him felt seen and heard as human beings, accepted for who they were, taught they were okay, no matter how weird or unacceptable they seemed.

For Jesus, living close to God was never about following rules, but about being beautifully and authentically human. Jesus' ethics were not built on tradition but on love, identity, and daring to be different.

Jesus says, "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." So, what do Jesus' actions, his reactions, his choices, his boldness in the face of tradition tell us about the will of God?

I'm guessing more than we're willing to accept. And that's Jesus' point.

Jesus calls out every dysfunction in his society, even his own family, in the name of celebrating humanness. Jesus' message? It's okay to be who you are, as long as you don't judge who your neighbors are.

Jesus' message is simple. More simple than we'd like it to be. Love God. Follow Jesus. Be kind and accepting to your neighbors. Break your measuring sticks. Love even your enemies.

Your job, your true calling through this 21<sup>st</sup> century sea of habit and division and hatred, is to find the "real" Jesus. Not the one you invented to fit your own expectations and rules. But the one who challenges your expectations.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John +", with a stylized cross at the end.

The Rev. John Reese

## 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.*



### ST. ANDREW'S FOUNDATION

We are fortunate to have the St. Andrew's Foundation, where many families request gifts be made in memory of their loved ones. But there is also some confusion about these gifts. If you wish to make a memorial, the check must be made to **St. Andrew's Foundation**, and mailed to 509 E. Twiggs Street, Tampa, 33602. At this time we do not have the capacity to accept gifts to the Foundation electronically. Foundation monies are kept *completely separate* from the church operating account, so do not make your check to St. Andrew's Church if you wish for it to go to the Foundation! If you have any questions, please call Pam Frost, our Administrator, at 221-2035.



### From the Parish Register



#### Transfers Out

Richard Jordan  
to Cathedral Church of St. Peter  
St. Petersburg



#### Columbarium niches now available

The columbarium is located north of the Children's Chapel, 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.

### Hospital Admissions

If you or a loved one is hospitalized, please notify the church office so that you may be prayed for and visited.

# 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](mailto: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.

**Youth & Family Pool Day, Sunday June 27, 2021    2-4pm, location TBA**

Wear your swim suit and bring a towel and sunscreen!

Kids in 5th grade and under are welcome to attend with a parent or guardian. Please join us! We will get to hang out together and enjoy the sunshine and water. Invite a friend to this outdoor event and get ready for an afternoon of fun & fellowship!

**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 months of 2021. Each of you are a wonderful blessing, and I am thankful beyond measure to call you my church family and my friends. I am here if you ever feel led to reach out, or would like more info about St. Andrew's and our events & happenings. May God's grace be with you in all you do this week. Each and every one of you are so loved. [aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com](mailto:aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com)

## 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.

## Name Tags



Hello  
my name is

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.

## The Quality Inside

There is a story about an executive board of one of the leading producers of dog food. Sales of the company product were slumping and the chairman was angry: "I don't understand," he shouted as he pounded the table, "We have the best brains in the nutrition business advising us; our art department has designed award-winning labels; our advertising people have put together an aggressive marketing campaign, So, why are sales down? Can anybody tell me why our dog food isn't selling?" There was silence around the table as the various members of the board wilted under the chairman's stare. Finally, from the back of the room, a voice piped up with the answer: "The dogs don't like it."

This vignette from modern business applies also to the individual Christian and the church. In both cases, it is the quality inside - in the can or in the heart - that counts.

## What It Takes to Grow

James A. Garfield, prior to serving as President of the United States, was president of Hiram College in Ohio. One day a father asked Garfield if there were a short-cut whereby his son could get through college in less than the usual four years. He wanted his Son to get on with making money. The college president gave this reply, "Of course there is a way; it all depends on what you want your boy to do. When God wants to grow an oak tree, he takes 100 years. When he wants to make a squash, he only takes two months."



# April Vestry Meeting Highlights

## RECTOR'S REPORT – Fr. Reese

As of 4/12/21, there was \$238,618 in ops account and \$85,344 in the parish reserve account.

As of 4/12/21, 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 in the courtyard. 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. We will kick off our celebration with a choral concert on Pentecost Sunday, 5/23 at 3PM in the church. This event will also be livestreamed.

*(continued)*

## April 2021 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
<b>Revenues</b>	\$33,783	\$46,754	\$167,472	\$187,019
<b>Expenses</b>	\$54,002	\$48,776	\$198,667	\$195,107
<b>Net</b>	(\$20,219)	(\$2,021)	(\$31,195)	(\$8,087)

**It was discussed that the Sesquicentennial Committee should schedule a meeting soon. Richard will send out a meeting date. Discussion surrounded preparing a press release to use to reach out to TV stations for promotion.**

Easter Services – We had about 220 folks attend in person, as opposed to our usual 500-550. But we also had several hundred views on the livestream.

Vestry Retreat – Perhaps later in the year, when we can meet in person.

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.

Plaque Installment/Refurbishing Project – We have a quote of \$8,710 from Jhoda at Metal Refinishing (same firm that did prayer desk and pulpit last year). This includes 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 includes 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. Jhoda will also come and install any future plaques down the line. (The quote is attached to this mailing.)

**Jennifer R made a motion to accept the proposal from Jhoda at Metal Refinishing for the plaques, using funds from the Foundation. Richard seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

#### **SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Gray Sanders**

We have begun the inventory of the church.

Gray would like to pursue written procedures to adopt the vote by mail for vestry member elections as permanent going forward. He would like to form a committee of 3 people, including George Bedell and Don Crawford. Gray made a motion to appoint the committee, with a second from Jim, and it passed unanimously.

#### **JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – George Levy**

Fence refurbishment is well under way. He will have the painter address the leaking courtyard fountain, applying a roofing type of material to prevent the leaking. George is investigating the replacement of the incandescent light bulbs in the church with LED's. He will be gathering quotes. The movement of the courtyard wall plaques will leave behind holes in the wall. The painter will plug and paint the holes.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT – Richard Ferlita**

Richard is heartened and touched by the generous donations that are coming in from our parishioners who are not necessarily in church, but still sending in their pledges. We are in great shape financially. Year to date pledges are ahead of budget.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**OUTREACH:** Lori stated that Cinco de Mayo will need to be postponed to next year. She is planning to organize the collection of school supplies for Smart Start.

**HOMELESS MINISTRY:** Not much has changed, however, daily hot lunches are being served elsewhere, nearby.

**WELCOMING:** Jennifer R would like to set up the Welcoming Table again.

**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.

**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](http://saintandrewstampa.org)

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[saintandrewstampa.org](http://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.