



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

# THE CALL

*Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!*

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ June 2022

## *Reverently Speaking*

*O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.* Psalm 22:2

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

Chicago blues singer Chester Burnett (AKA Howlin' Wolf) once said, "When you ain't got no money, you've got the Blues. When you ain't got no money to pay your house rent, you've still got the Blues. A lot of people holler 'I don't like no Blues,' but when you ain't got no money, and you can't pay your house rent, and can't buy no food, you damn sure got the Blues!"

Many of us have the blues today. After two years, there's no end in sight for the Coronavirus. And now Monkeypox has arrived. Inflation is sky high, interest rates are up and the markets are down. Way down. There's a mass murder almost every day somewhere in the country. The war in Ukraine drags on. Yes, many of us (if not most of us) are feeling down.

But one of the positive byproducts of a melancholy time like the present is that people are motivated to pray.

And often, they're prompted to pray based on certain Scriptures (expressing trust or confidence in God) they know or have been taught. ...

Those *are* great patterns for prayer, no doubt about it.

However. But. Yet. Some folks often confess guilt for not "feeling" those prayers. They are lacking confidence or missing serenity and so feeling like failures in the valley of the virus.

But what if many of us need to remember that the Bible is a library, not a book, and as a library it speaks with multiple voices on as personal a topic as prayer? And what if understanding different and often overlooked biblical patterns for prayer in a crisis would not only ease the guilt, but accelerate our connection with God?

For instance, take a look at the "how long?" prayers of Psalm 13, 44 and 88. Read them. You'll be shocked at the nerve people have with God, as the psalm writers have the freedom not only to vent their anger at God but to question his job performance. What will that teach us about God? Well, as a church that believes the Bible really is the inspired word of God, we get the revelation that our God is so emotionally secure that he will inspire a Scripture

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that second guesses him. God can take it. And if you ask in the middle of this mess of Covid crud/mass murders/wicked wars/financial failings, “How long, O Lord?” he will not reject your emotion; he will honor your authenticity.

Then there’s the “lament” prayer of Psalm 22. The Bible is full of people who lament their loss; my goodness, there is even an entire book called Lamentations! As you check out Psalm 22, you’ll hear familiar language, and you’ll understand how Jesus saw his experience on the cross through the lens of these words penned hundreds of years earlier. If Jesus was free to lament to his Father, so are you.

I am so glad the biblical library contains material suitable for every emotion and every situation — including one, like now, that none of us have seen before.

The writer of Psalms 42 and 43 took note of the cyclical nature of our feelings, saying that he was cast down but adding: “Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.”

What this calls for is a certain amount of perseverance, waiting out the lows in the faith, hope and feelings cycle, believing that our outlook *will* change. Emotions can be like a yo-yo or a roller coaster. God calls us to faith, which not only is believing without seeing, but sometimes is also believing without feeling. The reward of that kind of faith is that we remain at the right place. And when the feelings return, we are still living in God’s household.

Yours in Christ,



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.*

## Youth News

**Mon, August 1st through Friday, August 5th from 9 a.m. to Noon, followed by youth activities for students in grades 6 (rising middle school) & up from 12-3pm**

### **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!

I have done this particular VBS theme back in 2014, and it was my very favorite VBS theme of all time. This week of VBS will be a packed week of fun where we will have an awesome time sharing God's love with our children and one another.

**Join us for set construction & station leader prep days on Sun, July 24th & Sun July 31st from Noon to 2/3pm (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.*

### **The Power of the Spirit**

Picture an apple tree. Apples never grow in isolation. Those that fall from the tree eventually rot.

Similarly, efforts to be good or gentle or patient on my own usually fail. I simply can't produce these qualities single-handedly. Although I might keep it up for a little while, sooner or later my pleasant veneer wears down. If I'm “generous to a fault” & others don't reciprocate — or at least notice & thank me — I become resentful. As I try to exercise self-control, the more I suppress my feelings, the louder they nag at me. I've even tried willing myself into patience.

When annoyed, I'd lecture myself. It never worked. “You've got to be patient,” I'd mutter to myself, all the while feeling like a cartoon character ready to shoot steam out my ears. Knowing what I should do — even if I want to — doesn't enable me to do it. Knowing and doing are two different things.

That's where the power of the Holy Spirit makes all the difference. After all, the disciples didn't manufacture the Holy Spirit, they received it.

- Barbara Hosbach, “Thanks to the Spirit, fruits of Pentecost grow in us,” *Catholic News Service*, May 18, 2018

## HELP NEEDED FOR THE HOMELESS

We are in full summer swing and our numbers of homeless are rising. People ask, "What can I do to help?" 1. Pray. Please pray for our ministry and the homeless. 2. Give a monetary gift to St. Andrew's and in the memo line put "Homeless Ministry". 3. When you're out shopping pick up BOGO items: Peanut Butter Crackers, individually wrapped Oreos, Chef Boyardee, Hunts Pudding Cups, Chewy Granola Bars, Vienna Sausages. 4. Volunteer to make PB&J's. 5. Volunteer your time to help serve the homeless.

If anyone has questions, please call Sue MacIsaac 813-382-8790 or email Sue at [suemmacisaac@gmail.com](mailto:suemmacisaac@gmail.com).

## THANKS!!!

Our sincere thanks and appreciation goes out to all the volunteers, donors and supporters of the St. Andrew's Homeless Ministry. We were recently recognized by Metropolitan Ministries at their 50 Year Celebration for being 1 of 13 churches and synagogues that have partnered with them to care for the at risk and homeless families and individuals in our community. Your unwavering commitment to serve and make a difference in the lives of others is truly a gift!

We couldn't exist without the support from so many members of our congregation and staff! Thanks to you all!!!

## Lunch Program

Sue MacIsaac has been running the homeless lunch program for the past 2 years with the most amazing volunteers that have been God's angels to this ministry. Without them, our homeless would not be fed.

After 2 years, she needs 1 or 2 people to help manage our daily lunch program. It is a servant's heart that she is looking for, someone who truly wants to do God's work. "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." Proverbs 19:17. This really is an opportunity. Every time you leave this ministry you will be filled with the Holy Spirit. It is amazing!

Please reach out to Sue if you would be interested in helping run this beautiful ministry. Sue MacIsaac – [suemmacisaac@gmail.com](mailto:suemmacisaac@gmail.com) or 813-382-8790.



# April Vestry Meeting Highlights

## RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 4/19/22, there was \$214,734 in ops account and \$83,507 in the parish reserve account. Today (4/25) the account is worth \$211,000.

As of 3/31/22, there was \$24,385 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry.

We have \$20,659 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. (On 1/27/21, \$20,000 of the \$75,659 allocated for 2018 was transferred from the principal to the checking account. On 7/21/21, another \$20,000 from the 2018 allocation was transferred from the principal to the checking account. On 10/5/21, another \$15,000 was transferred from the principal to the checking account.)

We have \$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 \$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 \$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.

We have \$89,343 available from the Foundation principal as a result of the 3% spending allocation designated by the Foundation Board for 2022 at their meeting on 3/23/22.

Total available funds from principal for years 2018 thru 2022: \$328,011.

There was \$3,095,327 in the Foundation principal as of 3/31/22, as opposed to \$3,218,925 on 12/31/21 (a decrease of \$123,598 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.

Columbarium Project – Mosaic is a work in progress (we recently paid \$2,500 from the Foundation to kick start the project). Richard F has more info about how we will advertise this giving opportunity parish-wide.

*(continued)*

## April 2022 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
<b>Revenues</b>	\$51,631	\$50,564	\$182,129	\$202,256
<b>Expenses</b>	\$48,453	\$50,564	\$205,379	\$202,256
<b>Net</b>	\$3,178	0	(\$23,249)	0

Tuesday Lenten Series – we averaged about twenty-three folks for each service and about thirty or so for the dinners/presentations. Many thanks to Fr. Rich for being this year’s presenter and to the following groups for hosting the dinners: Youth, Daughters of the King, Outreach, choir, Altar Guild, and Parish Life!

Foundation Board –met on Wednesday, 3/23 at 5PM. They voted a 3% allocation for 2022 (which translates to \$89,343 for this year).

Bishop Co-adjutor Election – was Saturday, 4/2 at the Cathedral. Our delegates were Lori, Loueita, Brad, and the Rector. The Diocese elected The Rev. Doug Scharf on the third ballot. He will begin work in the diocese in either June or July and will be consecrated/ordained a bishop on Saturday, 9/24 at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall in Sarasota. Bishop Smith said he plans (as of now) to retire (and remain in the diocese) sometime next year. Thus, we will have two bishops for a while. The thought is that Bishop Scharf will start no later than August and will be consecrated on Sept. 24.

Easter Day on 4/17 – Vestry hosted a festive coffee hour (our first in three years) after the 9:30 service. Great food! Easter Egg hunt for the kiddoes took place at the same time out in the courtyard. Attendance at the three services was about 350, as opposed to 230 last year and 12 in 2020. Still not back to our normal 520 for Easter morning but moving in the right direction.

Parish Picnic – Sunday, 5/1 at 1PM at the home of Earl & Jan Smith. Come on out!

University of Tampa Concert at St. Andrew’s – UT Chamber Singers (select mixed choir) and Camerata (select treble chorus) will perform a free concert in the church on Friday, 5/6 at 7 P.M. Ryan will direct.

**SENIOR WARDEN’S REPORT:** Richard Felita. Richard F stated that there was nothing to report from the Foundation meeting. Reference the Columbarium project, he has a rough draft of a trifold that can be mailed out to parishioners showing what the wall mosaic would look like. This mailer would solicit donations from parishioners. Richard F stated “Picnic is all done. Pam has it all organized. We will meet there on Saturday.” The church is purchasing hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks. Other parishioners are committed to bring side dishes, chips, and dips. He shared that he wants vestry members to please send him ideas on the trifold for the columbarium mosaic project.

**JUNIOR WARDEN’S REPORT:** Richard Chapman– Richard C shared that we are having a problem with the irrigation system at the church and that with the help of Tim Robinson (lawn maintenance firm employed by the parish), he was able to get five of the six irrigation sectors working, Since that time all have stopped working. Richard C states that Tim is the “right person for the job and that we will continue with using him for getting all of the zones working.” We have received a quote of \$1,650 to get the trees trimmed on Marion Street by [Independent Tree Service](#). Richard C states that given that they are fully licensed and insured that this is an effective “way to go”, and he asks that we approve the \$1,650 for the tree service. It was moved by Richard C to approve the use of Independent Tree Service to cut the trees and remove the debris; Brad made a second to the motion. Discussion ensued. The motion was carried unanimously.

Richard F shared that there was an estimate from Richard C for what it would cost to “do the second-floor restrooms with the third and sixth floor finishes.” He said that to repli-



cate the third and sixth floor restrooms would cost app. \$44,000 for the two second floor restrooms. He shared that this is a fairly conservative number. He wants us to determine if we want to move forward and consider the best times to move forward. We passed out some ideas and information about some possible looks for the future of the restrooms. Discussion followed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Richard F reported for Lori Taplow (who was absent). Easter Day offering was \$17,000 and yesterday's deposit was \$5,500. Richard F shared that "You will notice that the March numbers have two months of revenue from 717 which inflated our numbers but is due to the checks being late to us." Richard F stated that there are no problems with money; and we can pay our bills and we are not in debt. St. Andrew's also just received a March check of \$5,237 from 717.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**HOMELESS MINISTRY:** Kathy Lawless. "We have been really busy as usual and there are no issues of late." Kathy shared. Richard F took the liberty of ordering over four hundred pairs of socks. Kathy stated that, due to the health of participants who struggle with healthcare and hygiene, socks are needed. She reported that Pam Frost has taken over ordering some of the food items that are in the pantry and that the supplement of food items helps in the event we have those who cannot eat what is in the lunch. Pam taking this over is much appreciated.

Derrick stated that we have received a request from Love Inc., who have partnered with Meals on Wheels this year, that they are collecting hygiene items for homebound and are looking for three to ten bags from St. Andrew's, between now and May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Due to the time constraints of May 3, he is asking if the vestry could conduct a donation of \$5 each or if they have the travel size of hygiene items. Kathy states that we do have trial sized items that are in excess from the church that we can donate. Richard F states that in the past we did give clean kits out to homeless. Richard F asked if we could provide donations from the church's excess items. Kathy asked if she could have a list of items that Love Inc. requested. Kathy states that she can work on bags this weekend. Derrick states that this is a onetime request but may be requested again later.

**PARISH LIFE:** Pam Curry. She shared that at the picnic Alicia will bring games for the kids and Lori has the volunteers' getting things set up. Richard F states that we need grillers and Gary volunteered to grill.

**HELPING HANDS:** Barbara stated, "We have been busy with funerals and Kathy has handled one on her own and I have handled a few."

**MEDIA MINISTRY:** Paul noted that there were technical issues that happened yesterday that he has resolved, and that the issues were due to the internet being out.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Father R stated that the organ has been tuned up and the cost was of \$775.00 to be paid to Longmore and Associates. Loueita made a motion that we make the payment of the \$775 from the Foundation; the motion was seconded by Brad Hall and a unanimous vote was taken thus the motion passed.

A recommendation that we have the parish hall floor be cleaned, buffed, and waxed was made by Kathy. Richard C will send the name of a vendor to do that work to Pam Frost, who can call to make an appt to have the floors done. Derrick stated that some churches in the diocese have started using the chalice. Father John stated that Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> is the day that we will start. We now have "sip, dip or abstain".....the dip, intinction, will have to be done by the LEM or priest.

## **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:

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Tampa, FL 33602

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Fax: 224-0945

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**Deadline for articles for  
The Call:** 15th of each month

for the following month's  
newsletter. Submit articles to  
Lauri in the church office.