



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ June 2023

Reverently Speaking

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

The original telephone was a large wooden box, often in a walnut finish, that hung on the wall. When it rang, you had to get up, go to it, and speak into a microphone mounted on the box.

In 1919, the “candlestick” tabletop model was introduced. In the 1920s, the black desktop device with a round, numbered dial became common. Colors were introduced with the Princess and Trimline versions, and push-button keypads debuted in 1963. Rotary phones gradually disappeared – except in the Reese house, where the telephone was always a rotary dial thing hanging on the kitchen wall.

Car phones cut the cord in the 1980s, allowing users to make a call from a bulky, vehicle-mounted handset that transmitted their voice through a short, curly radio antenna mounted on the roof. Mobile versions that fit in your pocket soon followed.

The seismic change came in the early 2000s with the introduction of the smartphone. But is this tiny, pocket-sized device really a telephone in terms of its primary function or benefit?

Look at any teenager with a smartphone and you'll see they rarely use their “phones” to speak with anyone. They prefer to text. They also do most of their web surfing with their smartphones instead of using a laptop or computer.

In fact, people in the tech industry don't even call it a “phone.” Instead, it's known as a “user interface” or UI. It's a device that helps people connect and interact with computers, machines, and other objects.

Think of all the different ways you can use a phone that have nothing to do with talking to people:

- You're traveling and scan your boarding pass or ticket from the screen.
- You take pictures of your trip and share them with friends.
- You order restaurant food or groceries, then pay the bill with a quick finger swipe.
- You navigate through a strange city or find a faster route through rush-hour traffic.
- You scan QR codes while shopping at the local mall.
- You connect with your car for a reminder when it's time to change the oil.
- You turn on the lights in your home, lock the doors, and set an alarm.

(continued)

A good UI makes a function or process easy and enjoyable, i.e., it is intuitive and user-friendly.

Churches need to capture the importance of being “user-friendly.” Like the old walnut phone on the kitchen wall, the church was in a fixed location for centuries. You had to go to it. You had to stop what you were doing and go visit the church.

But this began to shift about 50 years ago. During the 1960s when so much was changing in the culture, the church — or at least parts of the church — got out into the streets, and suddenly the church was relevant again. Young, long-haired followers of Jesus, sometimes called “Jesus freaks,” left the walls of the church, and, anticipating the concept of “user interface,” got out there among the people.

The church went into the public square. It marched on Selma. It was no longer a stone box in a fixed location on a street corner, but now something entirely more mobile and engaged. The concept of “church” grew. We once thought that the purpose of the church was to “save souls,” but now realize that the church is about more than that.

The church in its 21st-century form is much more than a place where souls are saved — although one might argue that souls can be saved in many ways, and are. The local church as a UI interacts with its neighborhood, its city and citizens in a variety of formats. It links to city councils to provide affordable housing. It sponsors food banks to feed the people. It opens its doors to embrace community activists and groups endeavoring to lift the human spirit and better the lot of humankind. It supports the arts and artists.

It takes care of little children in daycare centers. It offers assistance to single moms. It provides counseling for the confused and discouraged.

The church of Jesus Christ is nothing if not a user interface. It is an institution that, like a smartphone UI, offers a myriad of meaningful, attractive, and even fun benefits to the user, not the least of which are interactions with other users, and opportunities for users to interface with the Maker.

Pastor Henry Brinton writes, “Every time people sit down to eat and drink together, there is the possibility that community will grow and people will be reconciled to one another. This is good news for a fractured and polarized world, and a strong sign of the importance of being a welcoming congregation that embraces all people with God’s love and grace.” He cites examples of churches large and small that have developed an “interfacing” ministry with the neighborhood in which they are planted.

As we consider the future, perhaps we can ponder this question: Is our church a walnut box hanging on the kitchen wall, or a cool UI that helps people connect and “interface” with each other — and with God?

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

Stellar VBS 2023 will take place July 31st - Aug 4th from 9am to Noon

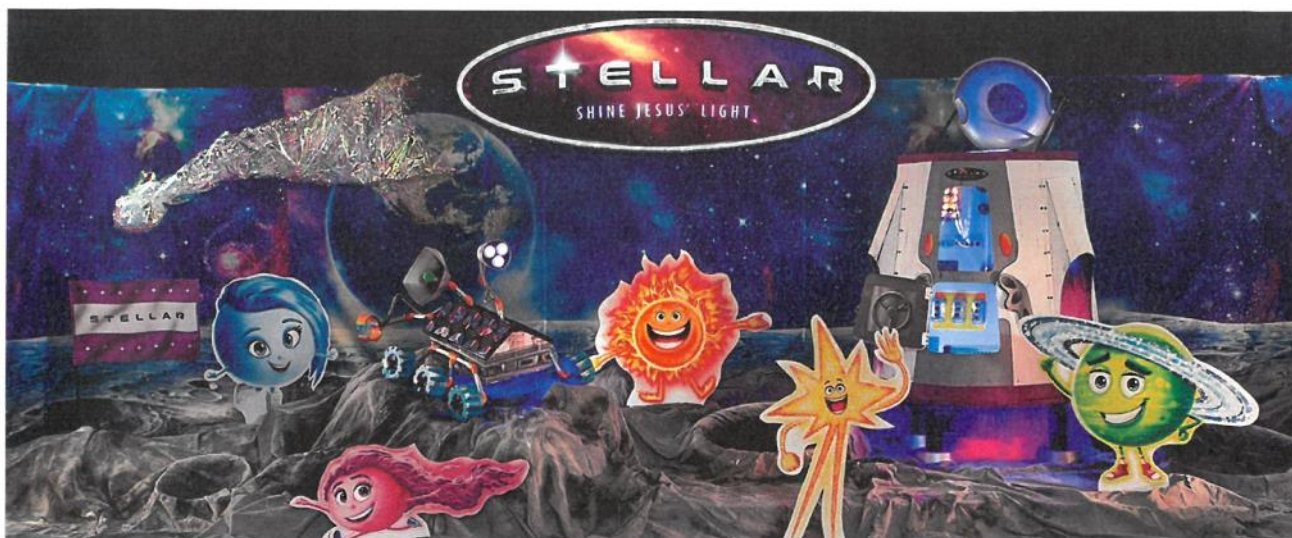


Please mark your calendars and get ready for the following planning meetings:

- Registration started Sunday, May 7th during coffee hour in the parish hall. Please complete and turn in your registration forms ASAP!
- Our first youth & adults serving meeting will take place on Sunday, June 11th during coffee hour in the parish hall.
- Building Sundays will take place on July 9th and July 30th! We need many helpers, so please attend.
- A supply list will be circulating starting June 11th at our planning meeting!
- A Pinterest page started by Alicia to give you an idea of sets / design and supply needs can be seen here: <https://pin.it/6ZRck60>
- We are waiting to hear back from our friends at Cornerstone, to see if they are able to attend VBS (Their programming budget currently only covers June and not the remainder of the summer), so please keep VBS 2023 in prayer!

Please contact Alicia Schmid for questions or to RSVP to serve this year! It's going to be an amazing VBS as we gather together as a community to shine God's light!

aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com



Stellar VBS 2023 “Shine Jesus’ Light”

July 31 – August 4th, 2023 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Youth Activities in grades 6 & up for youth volunteers
From Noon-3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Registration Fee: \$40.00 per participant (scholarships are available, please email Alicia Schmid)
 Mail/ drop off this form at: St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 509 E. Twiggs St. or email
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 8/4/2023 and potty trained OR a parent volunteer)*

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: _____

Are you Safeguarded? Y N Appx. Date: _____

Email: _____ DOB: _____

April Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 4/11/23, there was \$226,758 in ops account and \$86,283 in the parish reserve account.

As of 3/31/23, there was \$20,614 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry.

We have \$43,718 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. (On 11/8/22, \$20,000 of the \$63,718 allocated for 2019 was transferred from the principal to the checking account.)

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 2019 thru 2022: \$287,352.

There was \$2,757,202 in the Foundation principal as of 12/31/22, as opposed to \$3,218,925 on 12/31/21 (a decrease of \$461,723 for the year).

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 and Lauri in office are working on this, it will be an online directory that can be continuously updated and shared electronically with parishioners. Pam is currently learning to operate Realm (which is the update for ACS, our current software system). Her goal is to then have the directory up and running sometime this year.

Planned Giving – The Foundation Board would like for the parish to begin a serious effort at promoting planned giving. We could create a legacy society that would ask folks to include St. Andrew's in their estate planning.

Lenten Series – We averaged 18-20 for the service and 35-40 for the dinner. Many thanks to Ray Vince for insightful presentations.

Easter Day – was fabulous. Attendance of 380 was up from last year and the church was full for the 10:30 service. Parish Life/Vestry hosted a terrific coffee hour after the 10:30 service. We had dozens of kiddos for the Easter Egg hunt in the courtyard.

Parish Picnic – Sunday, 4/16 starting at 1PM at the home of Earl & Jan Smith. Parish Life will head this up. Many thanks to the Smiths for being willing to host once again!

Concert – with Amanda Cohen, soprano section leader, on Sunday, 4/23 at 4PM in the church.

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April 2023 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$49,284	\$52,525	\$198,329	\$210,102
Expenses	\$38,124	\$52,525	\$212,953	\$210,102
Net	\$11,160	0	(\$14,624)	0

Ryan Hebert will be conducting a concert on Friday, May 5th at 7:30PM which will include all of his UT choirs.

Cinco de Mayo - luncheon will be on Sunday, May 7th after the 10:30 service. Many thanks to the Outreach Committee for hosting this event.

Parking Lot Patrol – has launched. Chris Cobb is heading this up and is looking for volunteers to roam the parking lot from 10-10:30AM on Sundays, re-directing the poachers and pleading with them not to steal thy neighbor's parking space in the future.

Foundation Board – will meet on 5/3 and designate this year's allocation (range is 2% to 4% of principal based on a three year rolling average, as per Foundation by-laws).

Parish & Foundation Audits – Allison and Barbara are doing the Foundation audit, Wallace and Holly are handling the parish audit.

Senior Warden – Richard Ferlita has been looking into recycling bins for the Parish Hall. They will be on hand for Cinco de Mayo celebration on 5/7. We will surprise Fr. Stadel and celebrate his 80th birthday with a cake that day. Planned giving to Foundation will be promoted this year. Pam Frost is in need of a new office desk.

Richard Ferlita made a motion to purchase a new, much-needed desk for Pam Frost in the amount of \$1,135, to be taken from the parish reserve fund. The motion was seconded by Brad Hall and passed unanimously.

Junior Warden – Richard Chapman reported the A/C seems to be balanced and working appropriately in the 2nd floor church offices. New doors for the kitchen are on order. They will be substantial (fiberglass) and long-lasting. Richard solicited pricing and received two bids for parking lot overlay and repair in the amounts of \$30,528 and \$35,143. His recommendation is that we wait until we know what the Foundation allocation is before we move forward with these repairs. Richard is seeking a vendor to make a repair to one of our gutters.

Treasurer – Eric Hargens reviewed the March financials. What appears to be a deficit of \$23,000 is merely because our 717 payment did not make the numbers this month and we paid the 2nd quarter property insurance in March, rather than in the 2nd quarter, and we pre-paid the elevator maintenance contract.

Committee Reports

Outreach - Chris Capsambelis reports that a meeting will be held after services on Sunday to plan our Cinco de Mayo event for 5/7. We have begun to sell tickets after the Sunday services.

Parish Life – Thanks to all who contributed at the Easter coffee hour. The Parish Picnic was a smaller turnout than expected but it was a successful event. We may consider holding the picnic earlier next year during cooler weather (as in March).

Welcoming Committee – Wallace Dixon is proposing that the committee will fill in during weeks when no one has signed up. Martha Cobb is suggesting that she and Linda McGhee include their phone numbers in the Sunday bulletin to allow folks to call if they have questions about hosting Sunday coffee hour. Wallace is working to finalize the process and procedures manual for the welcoming committee.

Outreach Homeless Ministries – Kathy Lawless is in contact with a company, Mr. Bubblz, which provides portable showers for the homeless, about the possibility of providing the showers on a Saturday morning in our parking lot. Metropolitan Ministries will print flyers. Kathy will find out how many showers they can provide at a given visit, along with how much water they use (which will be at church expense).

Old Business – none to report

New Business – none to report

The meeting was concluded at 6:10pm.

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.