



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

# THE CALL

*Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!*

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ June 2024

## *Reverently Speaking*

*“Jesus said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.”*

Mark 6:30

Dear People of St. Andrew’s,

It's been a while since we marked the celebration of Easter on the church's calendar. It's an even longer time until the seasons of Advent and Christmas return. It seems that the hot, humid days of summer are the time of year we set aside not only to get a break from school or take a vacation from our job, but also as a time when we take a little "time off" from God.

The fluidity of summertime schedules means that more families are out of town, and Sunday morning attendance drops. It's a bad time of year to schedule important meetings or to make any great future-shaping decisions. Everyone, it seems, is ready for a break, a change, a chance for a little well-deserved "personal time."

If we are perfectly honest with ourselves, however, we must admit that we have already segmented our lives into "God's time" vs. the "rest of our lives." So much of our days evaporates into grocery shopping, staff meetings, budget-crunching, commuter traffic snarls, refereeing sibling squabbles, "environmental science" (a.k.a. housecleaning and yard work), writing reports, keeping coworkers informed, keeping bosses informed, filing reports, preparing meals and preparing for tomorrow's onslaught, that we struggle to "find time" for God. At best, we schedule a few minutes of prayer here and there, and a scant hour of "worship" once a week.

The problem with this attitude is that we can't segment life into "God times" vs. "god-less times." Christians don't find time for God. We find God's time in all our time. If we are truly "in Christ," then Christ's Spirit fills us at every moment of our day. In everything we do, we must be finding God and serving God.

Christians don't take "time off" from being Christians any more than our hearts can take "time off" from beating. On a sticky summer day, we are as fully immersed in God's time as we are singing "Silent Night" on Christmas Eve or proclaiming "Christ is risen" on Easter morning.

In his book *Breakfast at the Victory*, James Carse writes, "The highest achievement of the spiritual life is within the full embrace of the ordinary. Our appetite for the big experience, sudden insight, dazzling vision, heart-stopping ecstasy is what hides the true way from us." It is the extraordinary in the ordinary that can become prayer. In the Buddhist tradition there is an expression, "Chop wood; carry water," which is a way of saying that spiritual meaning can be found in the smallest, most ordinary functions of the day.

What daily tasks of yours correspond to a "chop wood; carry water" mindset/spirit-set?

*(continued)*

Can you recognize God's time while participating in a tense, humorless confrontation between coworkers?

Can you recognize God's time while attempting to prepare dinner?

Can you recognize God's time while holding a meeting on the phone?

Can you recognize God's time while trying valiantly to find the bottom on your "In" box?

Can you recognize God's time while you are logged on?

Can you recognize God's time while stretching out in the hot summer sun?

It is clear that sometimes we do have to take care of the self, so that we can then continue to do God's work with renewed energy and improved vision. But allowing our engines to idle for a while is different from completely shutting down all our systems. If we are genuinely "not making time for God," but rather seeing all time as God's time, we should be prepared to be surprised by God even when we are at rest.

For Christians who live always fully immersed in "God's time," moments of rest and relaxation don't constitute "downtime." Rather this is "uptime," the time we take to refresh our spirits and breathe in more deeply the presence of the Divine.

Are you busy scheduling your vacation plans this summer? Don't find time for God. If you are living a life of discipleship and faith, God is already in all the time you have. Summer is not the time to "wind down." It is our special time to "rev-up" our engines for the challenges ahead.

"Downtime" is "uptime" if it's God's time!

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese



# Adult Christian Education

**Sunday mornings at 9:30**

## *A Bible Study on the C.S. Lewis Book **The Screwtape Letters***

*The Screwtape Letters* provides unique insight into the battles that are being waged in the spiritual world. The story is told through a collection of letters from Screwtape, an undersecretary in the lower hierarchy of Hell, to his incompetent nephew, Wormwood. Wormwood is a junior devil who has just been given his first human, a young man, to corrupt and secure for eternity. The story takes place in England during the tumultuous years of World War II with the man contemplating Christianity.

As we walk through each letter, we will hear questions that bring out turns and twists in the thoughts and emotions that we each experience and that Lewis wanted us to recognize. Each session is self-contained, so you need not worry if you cannot attend all the sessions! If you do not already have a copy of the book, it can be purchased on-line for under \$10.

Here is the rest of the line-up:

6/9 - Letter 6: Focus / Letter 7: Extremism

6/16 - Letter 8: Troughs and Peaks / Letter 9: Pleasure

6/23 - Letter 10: Bad Friends / Letter 11: Laughter

6/30 - Letter 12: Nothing / Letter 13: Personal Pleasure

7/7 - Letter 14: Humility / Letter 15: Past, Present, Future, and Eternity

7/14 - Letter 16: Churches / Letter 17: Gluttony, Delicacy Rather than Excess

7/21 - Letter 18: Love and Marriage / Letter 19: Using Love

7/28 - Letter 20: Sexual Taste / Letter 21: Entitlement

8/4 - Letter 22: The Christian Life / Letter 23: The Historical Jesus

8/11 - Letter 24: Ignorance and Arrogance / Letter 25: The Same Old Thing

8/18 - Letter 26: Unselfishness / Letter 27: Answers

8/25 - Letter 28: Perseverance / Letter 29: Cowardice

9/1 - Letter 30: Fatigue / Letter 31: The Other Side

*This class, facilitated by the Rector, meets in room 302 (the Library) on the third floor of the Parish Building*



On **Sunday, June 30**, we will celebrate the 248<sup>th</sup> birthday of America with a patriotic musical celebration at 5:00 p.m. "Let Freedom Ring", under the direction of Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church Organist/Choir Director Dale Williams, will feature six local vocalists and include renditions of "America, the Beautiful", "The Stars and Stripes Forever", "Lift Every Voice and Sing", favorites by George M. Cohan, and other stirring patriotic songs.

We hope you will join us and bring your friends!



**From the Parish Register**

**Transfers In**

David McLay  
*From St. John's, Tampa*

**Transfers Out**

Alice Jones  
*to St. Mary's, Dade City*

**Donations to  
Saint Andrew's**

✠

*In Loving Memory of  
A.G. Jerry Divers*

Tom L. Rankin  
Pat Wolfe  
Richard Ferlita and  
James Carmichael

✠



**From the Parish Register**

**Funerals**

Nancy Lowry Honeycutt  
A.G. "Jerry" Divers

✠

**Baptism**

Beau Studstill Overstreet

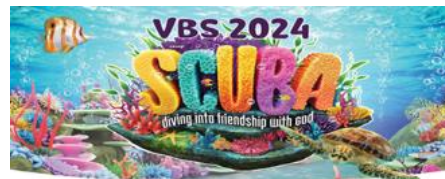
**Youth News**

**LEGO Lovers!**



Do you like building with miscellaneous LEGOs? Join in the fun with Mrs. Besselieu and Mrs. Reese on Sundays, **June 23 and June 30 from 12 pm - 1 pm** on the 6th floor.

(Parents welcome to stay or run an errand).



Scuba Vacation Bible School 2024 will take place **August 5-9, 2024 from 9am to Noon.**

You don't even need to be a scuba diver or instructor to serve or attend. Building Sundays will take place on July 21st and August 4th! We need many helpers, so please attend. A supply list started circulating starting June 2nd at our planning meeting! We are waiting to hear back from our friends at Cornerstone, to see if they are able to attend VBS, so please keep VBS 2024 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](mailto:aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com)



## St. Andrew's Episcopal VBS 2024 Registration Form

Fill out this form to register children, youth volunteers, and/or adult volunteers for VBS 2024, August 5-9!

Child/ Youth #1 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian/ Volunteer (please circle one) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your child a VBS PARTICIPANT or YOUTH VOLUNTEER (rising 7th grade & up)? (please circle one)

Child's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ (must be 4 years old by August 5, 2024)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Child/ Youth School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Grade Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Child/ Youth #2 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Is your child a VBS participant or Youth Volunteer (rising 7th grade & up)? (please circle one)

Child's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ (must be 4 years old by August 5, 2024)

Child/ Youth School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Grade Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or Special Needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Child/ Youth #3 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Is your child a VBS participant or Youth Volunteer (rising 7th grade & up)? (please circle one)

Child's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ (must be 4 years old by August 5, 2024)

Child/ Youth School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Grade Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or Special Needs? \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt size (please circle one per participant/ Volunteer and give a total #)

Child Sizes:                      YXS    YS    YM    YL    YXL                      # \_\_\_\_\_

Youth/ Adult Sizes:        AS    AM    AL    AXL    A2XL    A3XL                      # \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of T-shirts \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**CHURCH OFFICE USE ONLY**

\$40 per child/ \$80 max per family

Paid    Y        N        SCH                      Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (check # \_\_\_\_\_)    Check        MO        Cash

# April Vestry Meeting Highlights

## RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 4/8/24, there was \$235,611 in ops account and \$76,959 in the parish reserve account.

As of 3/31/24, there was \$26,814 in the Foundation's checking acct – monies available to the vestry.

We have \$32,918 remaining 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. (On 1/11/24, \$40,000 of the \$72,918 allocated for 2020 was transferred from the principal to the checking account.)

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.

We have \$89,058 available from the Foundation principal as a result of the 3% spending allocation designated by the Foundation Board for 2023 at their meeting on 5/3/23.

We have \$90,687 available from the Foundation principal as a result of the 3% spending allocation designated by the Foundation Board for 2024 at their meeting on 3/20/24.

Total available funds from principal for years 2020 thru 2024: \$383,377.

There was \$3,143,296 in the Foundation principal as of 3/15/24 (as opposed to \$3,092,638 at the end of 2022, an increase of \$50,658 for the year).

There is also \$119,139 in the Dan Curtis fund fbo St. Andrew's within the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay. This fund is designated for church maintenance purposes. Current amount is \$12,896.

Lenten Series – We averaged 18-20 for the service and 30-35 for the dinner. Many thanks to Ryan Hebert for insightful presentations.

Holy Week Services – Palm Sunday attendance (214) was up 10% from last year (194), other services that week were about the same as in the past.

Easter Day – was fabulous. Attendance of 436 was up from 380 last year (a 15% increase) 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.

Foundation Board – met on 3/20 at 5PM and designated this year's allocation as 3%, which amounts to \$90,687 (range is 2% to 4% of principal based on a three-year rolling average, as per Foundation by-laws).

Parish Picnic – Sunday, 4/28 starting at 12:30PM 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!

Cinco de Mayo - luncheon will be on Cinco de Mayo, Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 service. Many thanks to the Outreach Committee for hosting this event.

Vestry Retreat – is Saturday, 9/7 at DaySpring. Plan on meeting from 9AM until 3PM.

(continued)

<b>April 2024 Operating Summary</b>				
	<b>MTD Actual</b>	<b>MTD Budgeted</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budgeted</b>
<b>Revenues</b>	\$56,209	\$55,061	\$193,260	\$220,247
<b>Expenses</b>	\$82,806	\$55,061	\$241,310	\$220,247
<b>Net</b>	(\$26,596)	0	(\$48,049)	0



Parish & Foundation Audits – Barbara and Allison will conduct the parish audit, Victoria and Don will handle the Foundation audit.

New Nursery Attendant – Abby Lorren is our new attendant.

Overflow Parking – is no longer possible across the street. The law firm is under new management and the gate code has been changed.

Sunday morning security guard – SentiTech has been hired to provide a guard on Sundays from 7:30AM until 12:30PM at the cost of \$31 per hour. They began on 3/24. So far, so good.

Sexton Away – Anguel is away for his annual trip to Bulgaria from 4/3 through 6/10. We will pay him the vacation time due him, but not pay him for the rest of the time away. Richard Connar, our former sexton, is filling in three days per week while Anguel is gone.

**Senior Warden:** Piers Curry on a work trip to VI.

**Junior Warden:**

- Updated parking lot spreadsheet. Based on conversations he believes we should just pave the asphalt using Alto. More expensive, but will have thicker paving that will last longer.
- Will need to hear from Don Crawford about the number of spaces required by 717 in order to decide if we can make spaces wider.
- Fr. Reese brought up the hedges harboring rubbish from the unhoused population.
- Derrick asked about when it would start. It would be on a Monday thru Saturday.
- Brad Hall moved that we approve \$48,965 from foundation funds to have Alto repave the parking lot. Nicole seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Roof repairs were completed. Waiting for a photographic report and an invoice. Will be paid from the Dan Curtis fund. Also looking at LED exterior lights for the stained glass windows behind altar so those windows can be illuminated during evening services.

**Treasurer:**

Small surplus for the month. Pledge revenue is below budget but expenses are also below budget.

**Helping Hands Committee:**

Two funerals coming up.

**Parish Life:**

- Easter went well. Might add an extra platter because food went quickly.
- Picnic is coming up. Lots of helpers signed up. Martha and Richard are supplying food and extra supplies. Could use an extra pop-up tent.

**Outreach:**

Had a meeting yesterday. Looking at events for the rest of the year. Cinco De Mayo planning was the main focus. Also looked at upcoming Operation Smart Start (collecting various back-to-school supplies) and identified Dunbar as the school to focus on this summer.

**Homeless Ministry:**

Had a meeting yesterday with volunteers. Went really well. Received a large donation.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 pm.

The next regular vestry meeting will be on **Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30p.m.**

## 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)

E-mail: [secretary@](mailto:secretary@saintandrewstampa.org)

[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.