



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ June 2025

Reverently Speaking

Jesus said, "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you."

John 14:26

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

Doom spending. People do it when they are concerned about the economy and foreign affairs. Feeling stressed by the state of the world, they soothe themselves with shopping sprees.

Here is how it works: A young man might feel that he can never afford to buy a house, so he splurges on a dream vacation. An older woman feels that she cannot do anything to bring peace to the Middle East, so she buys a new outfit. Enjoying luxuries like travel and designer clothing feels so much better than worrying about the future.

Attending a Taylor Swift concert in Paris is an amazing experience, no doubt about it. But is it worth the airfare, the expense of hotels and restaurants, and the cost of tickets that run from \$187 to \$11,603? Apparently so, since about 20% of Swift's Paris tickets were purchased by Americans in 2024.

According to *Psychology Today*, doom spending is when people shop to self-soothe because they feel pessimistic about the economy and their future. And because we often spend when we are sad, the reasons can be very personal. "One of my parents became really sick a few years ago," said Mykail James to *Today*, "and the first thing I did was buy a professional grade stand mixer and learn how to bake." She also bought a 25-pound flour bag and baking supplies that amounted to nearly \$2,000. "I couldn't really do anything about my parent's health, so I started baking," she says. "And I did all of that because I was sad."

Housing costs, global instability, climate change and family illnesses all can trigger stress, pessimism and sadness. All can become the cause of doom spending.

Such spending makes sense, emotionally, but it is problematic. Doom spending makes it harder to achieve financial goals such as buying a house or saving for retirement. Ylva Baeckström, a lecturer in finance and a former banker, told *CNBC* that doom spending is both "unhealthy and fatalistic." It is unhealthy because it puts a strain on personal finances, and it is fatalistic because it is based on the belief that doom is inevitable.

Baeckström thinks that young people are especially vulnerable because they are frequently online and constantly receiving bad news. She says, "It makes them feel like it's Armageddon." They have no control. Young people are then translating bad feelings into destructive spending habits.

(continued)

So, what is the solution? Dan Ariely, a professor of psychology and behavioral economics, believes that physical exercise can be a buffer against doom spending. “This seems simple,” he says to *Today*, “but next time you reach for your phone or computer to doom shop, put the device down and exercise instead.” Lift some weights, take a walk or go on a run. “Exercise is an excellent reminder, viscerally, that we have control.”

He also recommends that people do anything they can to reduce their stress. “Stress is a major component of impulsive behavior,” he says. And what can be done to reduce it? “Spending time with loved ones. Getting enough sleep. Laughter.”

Our Christian faith contains a powerful treatment for sadness and stress. The Holy Spirit arrived on the day of Pentecost, and it has been present in the life of the church ever since. The Spirit is God’s antidote to gloom and doom. We don’t have to feel like it’s Armageddon. We are being led by the Spirit into a better future.

God knew that the apostles were feeling gloom and doom, so God sent the Holy Spirit in a burst of Pentecost power. Suddenly, a new future was being created. The fire of God was in the room. The apostles were given the gift of other languages, so that they could speak to all kinds of people about “God’s deeds of power” (v. 11). The future was no longer dark. It was bright. Full of purpose and possibility. God’s antidote to sadness and stress continues to be given to us today.

In a world of doom and gloom, the Holy Spirit promises that God will give us new life. Since “all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God,” our lives have new purpose and possibility.

What saves us, as the family of faith, is a focus on the Holy Spirit. If we open ourselves to the power of the Spirit, we will discover a life of purpose and possibility, not a depressing Armageddon. If we follow the guidance of the Spirit, we will find that God has a bright and beautiful future in store for us — one that is grounded in our faith, not our finances.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese

Pentecost

This **Sunday, June 8th**, is the Feast of Pentecost. It is the 50th and final day of the great Fifty Days of Easter. On that first Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles as tongues of fire. So please make it a point to **wear something red** in color this Sunday!

Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30

What Happens Next

A Traveler's Guide through the End of This Age

Are we living in the end times? If so, what does that mean for us? In this video series, Max Lucado's optimistic, accessible, and non-sensational guide to what the Bible says about heaven's timeline will empower us to face the future with faith.

Seven years of chaos called the Tribulation. A cruel and cunning Antichrist. The dreaded battle of Armageddon. These images and ideas associated with prophecy can be stimulating but also unnecessarily scary. Max Lucado believes God wants us to be prepared, not scared.

Max explores four big ideas that will provide a solid foundation for understanding God's plans and will remind us that we are headed to a far better place than where we started. He explains that

- we were made to reign with Christ;
- God has made and will keep his promises;
- heaven has a timeline; and
- a golden era, the millennium, awaits God's children.

In a world filled with political tension, personal trials, and international turbulence, we find ourselves drawn to exploring what happens next on heaven's timeline. Whether you find yourself in the "I can't wait," "I'm almost ready," or "I'm not sure about all of this" camp, you will be encouraged to ponder God's plans and promises for the future. In Max's signature encouraging style, he reminds us, "It's all about hope. It's all about him."

Here is the line-up:

6/8 – Made to Reign

6/15 – God's Plan for the Ages

6/22 – The Rescue and the Rewards

6/29 – Destination Wedding

7/6 – God Will Have His Garden

7/13 – The Great Homecoming

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



On **Sunday, June 29**, we will celebrate the 249th 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", "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 & Jan Dees
From St. Anne's Crystal River

Transfers Out

Michael & Lisa Gari
to St. Mark's, Tampa



Homeless Ministry

St. Andrew's ministry to the homeless is in need of men's clothing. We need gently used men's shorts, pants, t-shirts, polos, underwear and socks. Most in demand are men's shorts size 32 - 34 waist. Clothes can be brought to church any Sunday. If you would like to help us source clothes in the future, please contact Paul Henley.



From the Parish Register

Marriages

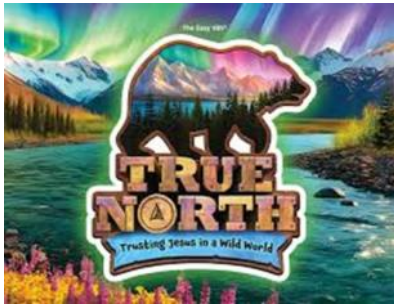
Duncan Hock &
Priscilla Martinez



Baptisms

Owen Dempsey Franz
Ella Grace Shirah

Youth News



Children's chapel at 10:30 continues through the summer. I am still searching for a few more shining star volunteers to serve during both hours on Sunday mornings. If you are still thinking about serving once a month, why not just come hang out with us on Sunday morning? The other Sunday School teachers and I would love to have your help, and make you feel welcome.

Also, please mark your calendars for VBS 2025:

Vacation Bible School 2025 will take place **August 4-8, 2025**. The VBS theme this year is True North: Point kids to Jesus, a faithful friend we can always trust. Guide kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North! Stay tuned for supply lists, but feel free to contact Alicia at aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com to volunteer for a week of faith, fun, and fellowship!

Please mark your calendars and get ready for the following summer / VBS planning meetings: -Our first youth & adults serving meeting for VBS will take place on **Sunday, June 8th** during coffee hour in the parish hall. -Building Sundays TBD.

Fr. Reese's 20th Anniversary Celebration



Visit our website at-
www.saintandrewstampa.org
for more pictures!



April Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 4/22/25, there was \$190,470 in the operating account and \$60,127 in the parish reserve account.

As of 2/28/25, there was \$27,374 in the Foundation's checking acct— monies available to the vestry.

Total available funds from principal for years 2021 thru 2025: \$421,218

There was \$3,765,766 in the Foundation principal as of 3/31/25 (as opposed to \$3,275,936 at the end of 2024), which reflects the \$500,000 gift from Jerry Divers.

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 available is \$5,731.

Planned Giving – The Foundation Board would like for the parish to begin a serious effort at promoting planned giving. They plan on putting out planned giving brochures to all parishioners and would like to have an estate attorney come and address the parish. A legacy society can then be established from the people who have named St. Andrew's in their wills.

2025 Annual Stewardship Campaign – is now concluded. As of 4/23/25, we have 141 pledges for 567K, which is 68K more than budgeted last year (and 78K more than actual pledge income for last year). There are still 18 pledgers who pledged 10K in 2024 whom we have not heard from for 2025.

Tuesday Evening Lenten Series – We averaged 20 folks at each service and 25-30 at the dinners. Many thanks to Ray Vince, this year's presenter.

Foundation Board – met on 4/2 and designated a 4% draw for this year (range is 2% to 4% of principal based on a three-year rolling average, as per Foundation by-laws).

Holy Week Services – Palm Sunday attendance was about the same as last year, other services that week were up 25% from 2024.

Easter Day – was fabulous. Attendance of 507 was up from 436 last year (a 16% increase) and the church was full for the 10:30 service (437 souls, to be exact). Parish Life/Vestry hosted a terrific coffee hour after the 10:30 service. Many thanks to those who helped! We had dozens of kiddos for the Easter Egg hunt in the courtyard.

Ryan Hebert Retiring – on 4/27. Coleman Flentge will conduct the choir during May and June. Choir is off for July, as usual. Lucas Glenn (a member of the choir) will play the organ on 5/4, 6/1, and 6/22. Linda Pointer (who has filled in as a sub many times in the past) will play on 5/11, 5/25, 6/8, 6/15, 6/29, 7/20 and 7/27. Ryan will play on 5/18, 7/6 and 7/13. Ideally, the new organist/choirmaster will start on 8/1.

Sexton Away – Anguel will be away in Bulgaria for his annual trip 4/28 through 7/7. We will pay him the vacation time due him but not pay him for the rest of the time away. Richard Connor will fill in during Anguel's absence, as he did last year.

Cinco de Mayo - luncheon will be on Cuatro de Mayo, Sunday, May 4th after the 10:30 service. Many thanks to the Outreach Committee for hosting this event.

Second Nursery Attendant – Judy Afoon started on 3/2. With Abby Lorren, we now have two attendants.

April 2025 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$40,736	\$59,451	\$193,480	\$237,805
Expenses	\$76,865	\$59,451	\$282,775	\$237,805
Net	(\$36,128)	0	(\$89,775)	0

Parish & Foundation Audits – Wallace and Paul will conduct the parish audit, Allison and George will handle the Foundation audit.

Youth Leader – At our March meeting, we approved the hiring of a part/time youth leader who can work alongside Alicia, starting with the program year in August. Martha and Alicia will help search for someone who would be a good fit.

Doug Taplow – is our handyman extraordinaire. He spent many, many hours during Holy Week renovating and repairing the playground equipment. He then spent many more hours during Easter Week repairing the canopy above the church door ramp entrance.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

- Had a good Foundation board meeting for the 4% allocation. We are going to step down the risk 5% with Northern Trust. We do not feel the need to do more at the moment. We have Jerry Divers \$500,000 gift sitting in cash. Will slowly invest it. Most of the diversification will be Bond ETFs for liquidity. We have plenty of cash if we need it. Do not plan to DCA it.
- We had a great Easter, yesterday was fantastic. Piers is sad to see Ryan go but is confident Fr. Reese will find the right person.
- Future Youth Leader - Martha said we need to outline the expectations/responsibilities for the role.
- Energy is great around the parish. Attendance is up, giving is up, engagement is up- everything is trending in the right direction.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

- Repairs on the Children's Boat and canopy- Doug Taplow did an amazing job. George had previously acquired quotes for \$800 and \$2400. Painting still needs to be completed.
- George is working on a security system for the entire perimeter of the church. He has met with a contractor. In addition, the system would be wi-fi based and not require a lot of wires. It would be monitored and accessible remotely on Fr Reese's phone in the event of an emergency. George thinks we are ready to make this investment as a church. Pam asked a safety question about the stairs. George will look into it.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Revenue exceeded expenses by \$3,900 last month. Primarily because operating expenses were 75% down. TECO was 50% down and we didn't have to pay quarterly insurance.
- It looks like the choir was double paid but they just turned in time sheets late.
- Revenue down 25% but parking is still higher than budgeted.
- Easter had approximately \$12,000 in deposits.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Helping Hands: Pam has taken over for Barbara. She's starting a notebook with a record of what is done and needs to be done.

Outreach Report : We have Cinco de Mayo on Sunday. Tickets still available. Martha said we made over \$600 in pre-sale tickets on Sunday.

Also, Eric said the first Dominican trip will be January or February.

Parish Life: Allison thanked everyone for throwing such a successful event for Ryan and also for Easter Day coffee hour.

Homeless Ministry : Currently feeding over 100 every day.

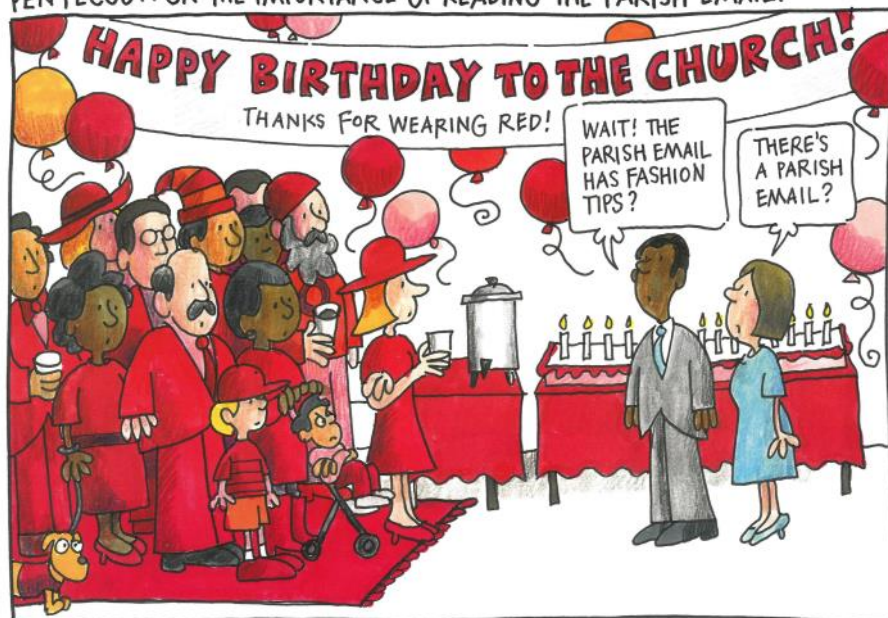
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PENTECOST: ON THE IMPORTANCE OF READING THE PARISH EMAIL.



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.