



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✕ March 2021

Reverently Speaking

Happy are those who ... delight ... in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. ... In all that they do, they prosper.

Psalm 1:1-3

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

My favorite ice cream is Publix' Chocolate Trinity. Perhaps it's because I like to think that it's a holy ice cream and that Trinity refers to the three persons of the Godhead (and not just chocolate ice cream, Mackinac fudge, and mini fudge cups). But it probably has more to do with the flavor (chocolate being the nectar of the gods and all that).

Speaking of ice cream, Halo Top Creamery, a light ice cream company out of Los Angeles, ran some TV spots last spring when the pandemic frenzy was peaking. The ad shows a girl eating ice cream while a voice-over explains why. Essentially, the message says that for too long we've been burdened by all the things we *should* do — but ultimately *fail* to do: I “should” lose weight. I “should” work out. I “should” eat more salads. I “should” skip desserts.

The tag line — as the girl grabs a pint of ice cream is: “Stop ‘shoulding’ yourself.” Yes, there certainly are many ‘shoulds’ in our lives. We should be kind to one another. We should be patient. We should share with each other. We should put others ahead of ourselves. We should pray. We should love God. We should love our neighbors as ourselves. We should be compassionate. We should be humble and resist pride. We should obey municipal, state and federal laws. We should wear seat belts. We should wear masks. We should practice social distancing. We should pay our taxes.

But perhaps Halo Top *has* touched on something important. Is it possible that there are some things we should stop ‘shoulding’ about? After all, when you add up all the federal, state and municipal commandments we're required to obey (at the risk of fines or jail time), and add to that the religious, ethical and moral commandments we're supposed to follow, there's no point adding to our “should” burden unnecessarily, is there?

For example: Perhaps many of us have become slaves to cultural perceptions of beauty and fashion. Is it possible we should stop ‘shoulding’ ourselves about the need for an hourglass figure or six-pack abs?

Maybe we have been burdened by the need to be perfect: perfect parents, perfect super-moms or cool moms, perfect super-dads. Or the perfect husband, the perfect wife, the perfect employee. News flash: Thou are not perfect and thou shalt not strive to be, Jesus' comment in Matthew 5:48 notwithstanding.

It's also possible that we are oppressed by the need to keep up with everyone else. We feel that we must match the achievement of our peers, that our lifestyle should be similar to those in our income bracket. We're slightly embarrassed when we lag behind others — our friends, family or colleagues — in terms of professional advancement or material and financial status.

(continued)

We also might suffer in a general way from the ‘shoulds’ and ‘oughts’ of expectations. In the effort to meet the expectations of others, we might bring calamity down upon ourselves physically, psychologically, and spiritually. Striving to meet anyone’s expectations except God’s and those reasonable demands we place on ourselves can have serious negative outcomes.

When to obey the ‘oughts’ and the ‘shoulds’ of the world is a call only we can make. The counsel of friends and family is important, but, ultimately, we alone must decide what we should and should not do.

But when God’s talking, there’s no ambiguity. There’s no argument about whether to be obedient. We should – but not out of a feeling of sheer obligation.

“Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than any human authority...’” (Acts 5:29).

Jesus said, “You are my friends if you do what I command you” (John 15:14).

“Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it” (Psalm 119:35). The psalmist is on to something. He “delights” in obeying the Lord. Think about it: Do we chafe under a spirit of obligation when we do something that brings joy to our spouses or our children? No! In fact, it gives us joy, too!

When we can delight in obeying God’s laws, the ‘should’ factor has been removed. It is no longer an obligation; it is a joy — even as it is a joy for us to serve those we love on this earthly plane.

“Happy are those who ... delight ... in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. ... In all that they do, they prosper” (Psalm 1:1-3). No ‘shoulds’ necessary.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese

Stations of the Cross: Fridays in Lent 12:10pm



Come and join us for this 30-minute devotional, observed on Fridays in Lent at 12:10pm running through Good Friday on April 2. Our Stations of the Cross, a gift from Nathan & Jane Simpson, are a series of pictures representing certain scenes in the Passion of Christ, each corresponding to a particular incident. Formerly the number of stations varied considerably in different places but fourteen are now generally acknowledged. The object of the Stations is to help the faithful to make in spirit, as it were, a pilgrimage to the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. It is carried out by passing from Station to Station, with certain prayers at each and devout meditation on the various incidents in turn. It is very usual, when the devotion is performed publicly, to sing a stanza of the "Stabat Mater" while passing from one Station to the next.

LENTEN & EASTER SCHEDULE

Fridays in Lent
Stations of the Cross 12:10pm

Sunday,
March 28
Palm Sunday
Holy Eucharist and Blessing of Palms
8:00am and 10:30am (with incense)

March 29 *30 * 31
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week
Holy Eucharist 12:10pm

April 1
Maundy Thursday
12:10pm Holy Eucharist
7:00pm Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

April 2
Good Friday
12:10pm Stations of the Cross
7:00pm Good Friday Liturgy

April 4
Easter Day
8:00am Holy Eucharist
9:30am Choral Eucharist & Flowering of the Cross
11:30am Choral Eucharist (with incense)

***Please note that there are
three services on Easter Day;
We hope your family will join us!***

Easter Flowers and Music



Flowers:

Donation made by:

In honor of:

In memory of:

Music:

Donation made by:

In honor of:

In memory of:

Deadline: March 28 for inclusion in Easter Program.
Proceeds beyond Easter expenses for flowers will be
used to help fund altar flowers and other special
flower needs throughout the year. The proceeds
from music donations will fund special music for
Christmas Eve services this year.

Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30am

The Passion Play: Living the Story of Christ's Last Days

Recognize your own place in the story and Passion of Jesus.

Jesus' Passion story is presented each Lent in countless churches every year. But one play presented by the inhabitants of the village of Oberammergau, in Bavaria, Germany, may be one of the longest-running performances of all. Staged every ten years since 1634, the play makes an impact not only on the villagers who portray the characters but on all who see it as well. In *The Passion Play* video series, Pastor Rob Fuquay follows the biblical story of the Passion and shows how this amazing play has been used both as a ritual of praise and later as a weapon through its anti-Semitic past. It was filmed on location in Germany and includes behind-the-scenes footage of the production.

Rob Fuquay is the senior pastor of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Here is the rest of the line-up:

- 3/7 – The Role of Ritual
- 3/14 – Living the Story
- 3/21 – Telling a Better Story
- 3/28 – The Power of the Cross

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

Outreach

Easter Boxes of Hope: We are in Full Lenten Season! A time of reflection and preparation. "Easter Boxes of Hope" is an Outreach initiative to assist Metropolitan Ministries during this Lenten Season. A donation of only \$25.00 can supply enough food to feed a family of four for 3 days. Hope starts with a meal and hope starts with you! We hope that you will contribute to this worthy cause. Please write "Easter Boxes of Hope" in the memo line of your check.



From the Parish Register

Baptisms

Crosby William Jacob Quinlan



Deaths

Ruth Ann Reynolds

Virginia Mullen

Roz Cole

Transfers Out

Marisa Norona
to St James Parish
Wilmington, NC



VESTRY MEMBER ASSIGNMENTS 2021

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Senior Warden – Gray Sanders
Treasurer – Richard Ferlita

Junior Warden – George Levy
Clerk – Ingrid Muellerleile

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Christian Education – Jim Morgan (chair), Jennifer Richardson
Foundation Liaison – Gray Sanders (ex-officio)
Hands – Lynn Dorman (chair), Kathy Lawless
Outreach – Lori Taplow (chair), Richard Ferlita
Homeless Ministry – Sue McIsaac (chair), Kathy Lawless
Parish Life – Pam Curry (chair), Jennifer Smith
Buildings & Grounds – George Levy
Stewardship & Evangelism – Gary Cotter
Welcoming – Jennifer Richardson
Media – Paul Scheuer
Diocesan Convention Delegates – Lynn Dorman, Kathy Lawless, Gray Sanders, (Paul Scheuer, alternate)

Youth News

We hope you will mark your calendars for our upcoming events and plan to attend. Join us as you are able, keeping in mind that we are taking all necessary precautions, and that these opportunities for fellowship can become some of our most meaningful and fun memories when we simply show up! Please email Alicia Schmid for questions, RSVPs, etc.

Upcoming Events & Activities:

Sundays at 9:30

ZOOM Sunday School for all ages

We've been having a blast in Sunday school at 9:30 AM from the comforts of our living rooms— please join us! Listen to a cool story, play fun games (yes-- even on Zoom!), build relationships, stay connected.

Meeting ID: 870 1375 1335

Passcode: 346sUq

If any adults or youth in grades 9 & up are interested in assisting with Sunday school, please reach out to Alicia Schmid anytime at aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com

Sunday, 3/7 at 10:30 a.m. there will be in-person *Children's Chapel in the Courtyard*. If it rains or gets too warm/cold we will move to the 6th floor and spread out. If any adults or youth in grades 9 & up are interested in assisting, please reach out to Alicia Schmid anytime at aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com

Now through Sunday 3/28: Help make our children's *2021 Easter on the Go* special by donating any of the following items:

- Pre-filled plastic eggs
- Individually wrapped candy items
- Fun small items such as toys, pencils, notepads, temporary tattoos and stickers
- Easter themed goody bags or sacks

*Drop off your donations in the **Easter on the Go** boxes, located in the church office on the 2nd floor, or outside the church sanctuary steps on Sunday mornings.*

January 2021 Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT – Fr. Reese

As of 1/19/21, there was \$221,896 in ops account and \$85,344 in the parish reserve account.

As of 1/19/21, there was \$22,280 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry. Foundation also just transferred \$7,000 from Foundation principal to the checking account (this \$7,000 is part of the 2017 allocation).

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.

And there was \$2,929,677 in the Foundation principal as of 12/31/20, as opposed to \$2,785,795 as of 12/31/19, an increase of \$143,882 for the year (a 5% uptick for 2020).

There is also approximately \$99,000 in the Dan Curtis fund fbo St. Andrew's within the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, with \$3,116 in grant money left available for 2020. This fund is designated for church maintenance purposes.

There is Adult Christian Education at 9:30AM in the third floor library. There is no nursery, children's Sunday School, Children's Chapel, or coffee hour. Victor launched a 9:30AM Zoom Sunday school class for youth that started on 10/4. We also have a Zoom SS class for younger kids as well, led by Donreece Brown.

Annual Stewardship Campaign – launched on 10/4. Many thanks to Gary, Sue, Jennifer R., Lynn, and Jennifer S. for speaking at Sunday services. First mailer (with a letter from Gary) went out on 10/5. Second mailer (with a letter from Gray) was sent out on 11/4. Third mailer (with a letter from Piers) went out 12/7. Fourth mailer (with a letter from the Rector) went out 1/4. As of 1/20, we have 144 pledges for 382K (compared to 156 pledges for 423K as of this time last year). See email attachment for current campaign results. There are still 21 pledgers who pledged 47K in 2020 whom we have not heard from for 2021. Many thanks to all the phone calls and contacts you have made with folks during this past month. Your valiant efforts are very much appreciated!

Preliminary Budget – see email attachment. It is a deficit budget, but the deficit will shrink when further pledges come in and as we continue to keep expenses down due to the Covid-19 situation.

Hanging of the Greens – Sunday, 12/20, after the 10:30 service. Excellent turnout. Church was decorated in just an hour or so and looked fabulous. Many thanks to all the decorating elves!

Christmas Lessons & Carols – Sunday, 12/20 at 5PM in the church. Great music, light attendance. Many thanks to the Choir!

Christmas Eve services on 12/24 at 5:30PM and 11PM, Christmas Day service on 12/25 at 10AM. Overall attendance was about 1/3 of the normal Christmas turnout.

Gasparilla Pirate Parade – postponed until at least April.

Vestry Nominations – we have seven nominees (Irene Baker, Pam Curry, Richard Ferlita, Loueita Hargens,

January 2021 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$23,621	\$46,754	\$23,621	\$46,754
Expenses	\$55,817	\$48,776	\$55,817	\$48,776
Net	(\$32,195)	(\$2,021)	(\$32,195)	(\$2,021)

Kathy Lawless, Paul Scheuer, and Lori Taplow). Mail-in ballots went out this week.

Annual Meeting – Sunday, 2/7/20 after 10:30 service. Mail-in ballots for vestry election will be tabulated later that week. Gray, Ingrid, and Lynn will be the counters.

Annual Meeting Reports – if you have yet to do so, please submit your report to Lauri.

Lenten Series – Cancelled

Parish & Foundation Audits – time to form two audit committees to conduct 2020 audits.

Sesquicentennial Celebration – St. Andrew's turns 150 this year. We will try and plan for a celebration beginning in the fall.

Many thanks to our outgoing vestry members for their leadership and ministry: Peter Baker, Ben Borsch, Donreece Brown, Don Crawford, and Piers Curry. *Well done, good and faithful servants!*

Next vestry meeting will be **Monday, February 22nd** at **5:30p.m.** (2/15 is Presidents' Day holiday) Executive Committee members will be appointed/elected at this meeting.

Father Reese opened up a discussion regarding the proposal of hiring Alicia Schmid as the interim Christian Ed Director. While there was no formal motion, the Vestry was unanimous in their support to hire Alicia.

Father also brought to the attention of the Vestry members that the City of Tampa will now be charging at all the meters for street parking north of Kennedy, including after hours and Sundays. Several churches are contacting the city to negotiate for a compromise of meters north of Kennedy to be free on Sundays until 1:00 pm.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Gray Sanders

Gray reported that his focus is on the Annual Meeting and the voting procedures. He confirmed that Lynn and Ingrid would join him in counting the ballots on the Wednesday following the Annual Meeting.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – George Levy

George is asking for funds totaling \$20,750. Firstly, of priority is repair to the fire alarm system power supply. This repair would be \$2,750. It is causing multiple false alarms daily.

Jennifer R made a motion to approve the \$2,750 to come from the Dan Curtis Fund. The motion was seconded by Donreece, and passed unanimously.

George then reported the presence of multiple roof leaks, for which he has 2 bids: \$11,500 and \$6,500. The Children's Chapel lobby roof leak was a quick fix repair and did not last, and George is proposing a more holistic repair. Flat roof areas need major repair, constituting the \$11,500 cost. This includes the breezeways, chapel entrance, etc.

Jim moved to approve the \$11,500 to come from the Foundation. Gary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

George explained the repair needed to the church tile roof in the north transept above the chapel, which is now 12 years old. The membrane and the batten is rotting. He proposed sealing the membrane as was done to the west side last year, which was very successful. Sealing the membrane and replacing the rotted wood would be at a cost of \$6,500.

Jim moved to approve the \$6,500 repair, with funds coming from the Foundation. Anita seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Piers Curry

Piers reported that pledges are down compared to the prior year. The Operating fund is in better shape this year than last year, with expenses down. He is taking a conservative approach towards 2021, considering the ongoing circumstances of COVID, and will present a deficit budget at the Annual Meeting, but feels confident that the budget will balance itself by the end of the year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OUTREACH:

Sue reported that the Homeless Program is now separate from Outreach. The lunch program continues with the help of Metropolitan Ministries and St. Vincent de Paul Society.

HELPING HANDS:

Lynn offered volunteers from Helping Hands to do the church inventory in the kitchen areas. Gray was very appreciative.

STEWARDSHIP: Gary thanked all for the help in encouraging pledges.

OLD BUSINESS: It was reported that the lapel microphones recently purchased are working very well.

NEW BUSINESS: Lynn proposed that the parish take a look at race relations in light of recent national events. There was a general consensus to pursue this topic and brain storming was encouraged

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Lenten & Easter Schedule

*See full Lent & Easter schedule inside
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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 adults

Church Location:

Marion & Madison Streets

Mailing Address:

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Tampa, FL 33602

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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.