



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✕ March 2022

Reverently Speaking

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

Be quiet and respectful of the people around you. Turn off your cell phone. Be aware that people are trying to read, do research, and study. No food or drink allowed. These are the rules for a library, right?

How about this: Cheer loudly for your team, stomp your feet, and clap your hands. Take selfies and post them on social media. After you see a great play, jump to your feet and high-five the people around you. Eat and drink all you want, but try not to spill on the person in front of you. These are the rules for the Ray Jay and Amalie Arena.

You would never confuse the two, would you? If you follow the rules for a stadium in a library, you'll be forcibly removed. If you apply the rules of a library to a stadium, people will wonder what's wrong with you. You'll get some dirty looks if you tell the sports fans around you to be quiet ... so that you can read a book.

Physical spaces have rules. Although none of us follows them perfectly, we know the expectations. Libraries, stadiums, churches, schools, medical offices, workplaces, and homes all have sets of unwritten rules. When the rules are not understood and followed, life becomes chaotic.

Unfortunately, we are now spending more and more time online in spaces called digital platforms. You know them well: Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Reddit, Twitter, and others. Because these digital spaces do not have clear rules, they are chaotic. An author and entrepreneur named Eli Pariser says that Twitter is like a "vast, cavernous expanse where there are people talking about sports, arguing about politics, yelling at each other, flirting, trying to get a job all in the same place with no walls, no divisions. ... No wonder it's a mess." He's right. Twitter is a mash-up of a library, a sports stadium, a political rally, and a singles bar. Total chaos.

The problem with social media is that people don't want to follow rules. And the result is the creation of digital spaces that are not welcoming or safe. The online world has become a dangerous place to visit, with rampant cyberbullying, invasion of privacy, identity theft, and offensive images and messages. So, what can be done?

Pariser believes that there are certain qualities of public spaces that can be used in a helpful way on digital platforms:

- Welcome
- Connect
- Understand
- Act

(continued)

If such qualities became the rule in the online world, we would all be much safer and more comfortable. A poll was done with people in 20 countries, and they agreed that they wanted these qualities in their digital spaces. The same is true for the church. The key is to *welcome, connect, understand, and act*.

As we create safe spaces, the first step is always **welcome**. Members of a church need to be more than friendly — they need to be truly welcoming. Unfortunately, we often go to church with the attitude of a guest, not a host. Consider this mindset: As guests, we are focused primarily on having a good time. We enter the church and look for our friends. We sit where we want to sit, with little regard to making room for others. As guests, we are basically consumers, concerned about our personal comfort. The experience is all about us.

How different it is to be a host. In this role, we are focused primarily on serving others. We greet our guests at the door and look to connect them with people they would enjoy. We sit in places that will leave room for others and help them feel comfortable. As hosts, we are concerned about the comfort of others. The experience is all about them. Church members are continually challenged to act like hosts.

Then we **connect**. After the service, instead of heading for the parking lot, we greet folks in the church and continue to connect afterward in the courtyard and at coffee hour in the parish hall. We are reminded that we are part of something bigger than ourselves.

Next, we **understand**. The stories of the Bible help us to make meaning together. They teach us who we are, as well as *whose* we are. Whether the passage is the story of God liberating the Israelites or Jesus calling the first disciples, we begin to understand that we are part of God's sacred story. Then the sermon deepens our understanding of how God wants to free us from any kind of captivity, and how Jesus wants us to follow him in faith. The story of God's saving work began in the distant past, but it continues today — and we are part of it.

Finally, we **act**. When we gain an understanding that we *are* God's people, we naturally want to *behave* like God's people. This means that we act in new and different ways. Instead of destroying our enemies, we try to love them. Rather than cursing those who hate us, we pray for them. Instead of plotting revenge, we work on forgiveness. And instead of hoarding our resources, we share them.

We do this not because we are suddenly good and noble people. Instead, it is because our actions are shaped by Jesus, the one who loves, prays, forgives, and generously shares.

Because we live in a world of chaos, we need calming places to gather and deepen our relationships with God and with each other. Eli Pariser challenges us to create spaces that are a "beautiful place to live ... a place we get to know each other. A place you'd actually want not just to visit, but to bring your kids."

So let's do it. Let's create a comfortable place at St. Andrew's for people to know one another. A place you'd actually want to bring your family. The church will be such a place, as long as we *welcome, connect, understand, and act*.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John +". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small cross-like mark at the end.

The Rev. John Reese

LENTEN & EASTER SCHEDULE

Fridays in Lent
Stations of the Cross 12:10pm

Tuesdays: March 8 • 15 • 22 • 29
April 5
5:30pm **Eucharist in Children's Chapel**
6:00pm **Tuesday evening Pot Luck Supper**
6:45-7:30pm **Lenten Program**

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

April 11 • 12 • 13
**Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
of Holy Week**
Holy Eucharist 12:10pm

April 14
Maundy Thursday
12:10pm Holy Eucharist
7:00pm Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

April 15
Good Friday
12:10pm Stations of the Cross
7:00pm Good Friday Liturgy

April 17
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: April 10 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 9:30

Seven Words: Listening to Christ From the Cross

Examine the last seven words of Christ on the cross this Lent.

The most difficult part of Lent is, of course, contemplating our Savior on the cross: the physical pain, the humiliation, and the undeniable injustice. Our hearts break. It's natural to try and avoid the reality of how Jesus died, but it is from the cross that Jesus shows his deepest love for us. As Jesus draws his final breath and utters his last words, it is then that his deep trust in the Father and his divine glory are revealed.

In *Seven Words*, we will look at Christ's final words from a biblical and historical perspective, seeing how we can find life and hope in them. The six-session DVD features The Rev. Susan Robb, Senior Associate Pastor at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas.

Here is the line-up:

3/6 – Father, Forgive Them
3/13 – Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise
3/20 – My God, My God
3/27 – Woman, Here Is Your Son
4/3 – I Am Thirsty
4/10 – Into Your Hands

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

Tuesday Evening Lenten Series

Our annual Lenten Series continues weekly through April 5th.

Each evening begins at 5:30PM with Holy Eucharist in the Children's Chapel. A potluck supper follows in the parish hall at 6PM and the program begins at 6:45PM.

The presenter this year is The Rev. Ed Rich. Fr. Rich is the retired Rector of St. Catherine's in Temple Terrace and former assisting priest here at St. Andrew's. His topic will be Paul's Letter to the Galatians. The Epistle to the Galatians is a revolutionary document, both when St. Paul wrote it in 54AD and today. He taught that we no longer need to appease an angry God, but rather trust in a God who made us as His children and citizens of His Kingdom.

Here is the host line-up:

3/08 – Daughters of the King
3/15 – Outreach Committee
3/22 – The Choir
3/29 – Altar Guild
4/05 – Parish Life Committee

VESTRY MEMBER ASSIGNMENTS 2022

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Senior Warden – Richard Ferlita
Junior Warden – Richard Chapman
Treasurer – Lori Taplow
Clerk – Lynn Dorman

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Christian Education – Jennifer Richardson (chair)
Foundation Liaison – Richard Ferlita (ex-officio)
Helping Hands – Barbara Brotherton (chair), Kathy Lawless
Outreach – Chris Capsambelis (chair), Derrick Brown
Homeless Ministry – Sue McIsaac (chair), Kathy Lawless
Parish Life – Pam Curry (chair), Loueita Hargens, Derrick Brown
Buildings & Grounds – Richard Chapman
Stewardship & Evangelism – Gary Cotter
Welcoming – Brad Hall (chair), Lori Taplow
Media – Paul Scheuer
Diocesan Convention Delegates – Brad Hall, Loueita Hargens, Lori Taplow (Derrick Brown, alternate)

New Benches

Many thanks to Ashley Thomas for donating three fine new concrete benches. One is located in the south garden of the church on Madison Street. The other two are located in our columbarium area next to the Children's Chapel. We are also grateful for Nancy Turner's gift of new shrubbery in the columbarium.



January 2022 Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT – Fr. Reese

As of 1/18/22, there was \$195,255 in ops account and \$83,507 in the parish reserve account.

As of 12/31/21, there was \$24,383 in the Foundation's checking acct – 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.

Total available funds from principal for years 2018 thru 2021: \$238,667.

There was \$3,218,925 in the Foundation principal as of 12/31/21, as opposed to \$2,929,677 on 12/31/20 (an increase of \$289,248 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.

Columbarium Project – Benches (two for columbarium area and one for south garden next to church) are on order.

Hanging of the Greens – was Sunday, 12/19, 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 – was on Sunday, 12/19 at 5PM in the church. Attendance was a solid 130. Great music and a lovely party afterward. Thanks to Choir & Parish Life!

Christmas Eve services were 12/24 at 5:30PM & 11PM, Christmas Day service 12/25 at 10AM. Overall attendance was much better than 2020, but nowhere near our usual Christmas attendance.

Annual Employee Performance Evaluations – have been completed and distributed.

Vestry Nominations – we have seven nominees for five slots (Irene Baker, Barbara Brotherton, Derrick Brown, Chris Capsambelis, Richard Chapman, Brad Hall, and Victoria Klug).

Annual Meeting – Sunday, 2/6 after 10:30 service – includes vestry election. Mail-in ballots have been sent to all eligible electors in case people wish to vote by mail. One has the option to vote in-person at the annual meeting. All votes will be tallied during the meeting & new vestry members an-

January 2022 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$52,907	\$50,564	\$52,907	\$50,564
Expenses	\$62,035	\$50,564	\$62,035	\$50,564
Net	(\$9,128)	(\$0)	(\$9,128)	(\$0)

nounced before close of the meeting. Pam Frost will bring the mail-in ballots with her to the annual meeting & participate in the vote count. Tellers will be Pam Curry, Lynn Dorman, & Kathy Lawless.

Annual Stewardship Campaign – launched on 10/14. Many thanks to Gary, Richard, Jennifer S., and Lynn for speaking at Sunday services. First mailer (with a letter from Gary) went out on 10/14. Second mailer (with a letter from Gray) was sent out on 11/10. Third mailer (with a letter from Richard) was sent out on 12/9. Fourth mailer (with a letter from the Rector) was sent out on 1/6. As of 1/20, we have 147 pledges for 410K (compared to 144 pledges for 382K as of this time last year). *See Pam's pledge update.*

There are still 31 pledgers who pledged 64K in 2021 whom we have not heard from for 2022. 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 Pam's email. The proposed 2022 budget shows a deficit of 14K. But keep in mind that we have yet to hear from those 31 pledgers who pledged in 2021 but have not weighed in for 2022. If we get just half of the outstanding 64K in pledges, we will easily balance the budget for 2022.

Many thanks to our outgoing vestry members for their leadership and ministry: George Levy, Ingrid Peterson, Jennifer Smith, Anita Ramirez, and Gray Sanders. *Well done, good and faithful servants!*

Next vestry meeting: **Sunday, February 6th, immediately after the Annual Meeting.** This is a short organizational meeting to appoint/elect executive committee members (Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Clerk.)

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Gray Sanders- Gray explained voting procedure for the vestry election at annual meeting.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – George Levy – Recapping for the year, the persistent leak is back. He will put in a recommendation to his successor to replace the section of flat roof. He went over the details of work done over time as remedies over the past year, and none have totally resolved the issues. The main issues with the roof seem to revolve around the membrane, and therefore he recommends replacing the roof in the future. Richard asked if it would be feasible to add an additional drain to the area to help with drainage. George agreed and suggested the roof also have an angle/pitch added to it to help as well.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Richard Ferlita

Richard delivered an updated financial report. He feels we ended 2021 in very good shape. Pending is receipt of a check for the Ferguson Choir. We received a good check from 717 Parking. He feels the budget is in great shape. Despite COVID, St. Andrew's is doing very well.

Kathy moved to accept the Budget, with a second from Jennifer R. It passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

HOMELESS MINISTRY: Sue MacIsaac: The homeless feeding program is doing very well, with a good deal of money in the kitty. They received a great donation of clothing from Sacred Heart, which was very much appreciated. They have had an increase in lunches given out. Richard brought up the issue of the homeless defecating on church property. It was discussed that we would reach out to the city regarding installing public restrooms, or whom to approach regarding the issue. Gray and Richard agreed to exchange names for contacts at City Hall. It was suggested that as the choir and acolytes leave the Parish Hall for the church on Sundays (around 10:27AM), the ushers come across and let the homeless people know that the service is starting and the Parish Hall will be closed. It was agreed that the Rector would let the ushers know what was discussed and we would try this for a period of time.

OUTREACH: Lori Taplow: Lori opened up discussion regarding Lenten Series, and whether to have food. Alicia does want to do Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper with the Youth. She also wants to restore the Easter Egg Hunt.

OLD BUSINESS: Kathy Lawless brought up that during the homeless feeding, they have noticed that the doors/locks are wearing out and asked they be repaired or replace them. And it was requested that a very bright light be mounted outside the door area. The Rector will have Anguel work on that.

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:

509 E. Twiggs St.

Tampa, FL 33602

Phone: (813) 221-2035

Fax: 224-0945

Web: saintandrewstampa.org

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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.