



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ March 2023

Reverently Speaking

Jesus answered (Nicodemus), "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the Kingdom of God without being born from above."

John 3:3

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

"Hoke, you are my best friend." It took Daisy Werthan almost twenty years to make that statement; it wasn't easy. The relationship between Daisy and Hoke was not mutual or cordial at the outset. Daisy had driven her beautiful new 1948 Packard into her neighbor's backyard. Boolie Werthan, Daisy's son, thought that such an incident was sufficient evidence to warrant that his mother stop driving; she needed a driver, a chauffeur. Hoke Coleburn, a middle-aged black man, was Boolie's choice for the job. Daisy, however, would not accept this restriction, this change in her life; she was not open to being transformed.

Boolie may have hired Hoke, but that did not mean that Miss Daisy had to use him. As Hoke stood idle, Miss Daisy took the streetcar wherever she went, to the hairdresser or the grocery store. Hoke Coleburn was being paid for doing nothing. And that is exactly how Miss Daisy wanted things.

As stubborn as she could be, Miss Daisy ultimately did change her attitude. One day she needed a few things from the store. She left the house and began to walk toward the streetcar. Hoke decided that Miss Daisy's refusal to use his services needed to end. As she walked down the sidewalk, Hoke slowly drove alongside in the new 1948 Hudson Boolie had purchased for his mother. "Where are you going?" scowled Daisy. Hoke replied, "I'm fixin' to take you to the store!" Although still not content with the arrangement, Daisy agreed to get into the car; her conversion had begun.

Daisy did not approve, but Hoke had become her chauffeur. Whether it was to the temple (Miss Daisy was Jewish), the store, or a trip to Mobile to visit relatives, Daisy and Hoke went together. As the years passed, their relationship as driver and passenger grew; they bonded together. Then one day Miss Daisy's conversion became complete. The process had been long and sometimes difficult, but now it was finished. She could finally say, "Hoke, you are my best friend."

Alfred Uhry's 1988 Pulitzer Prize winning play, *Driving Miss Daisy*, tells more than a story of the relationship between a black chauffeur and an elderly, rich, Jewish widow. It is a story of the challenge to be transformed in mind and heart to a sense of acceptance in one's life. Lent is a season when the church calls us to reflect upon our lives and see how we need to be transformed to a stronger relationship with God. Like Nicodemus, we need to be transformed to Christ.

Nicodemus represents the quintessence of Judaism in every way. He was a Pharisee, a member of the Sanhedrin (the governing body of the Jews that was recognized by the Romans), and a rabbi. It is this upstanding and completely legitimate member of the Jewish ruling elite who comes to Jesus, under the secrecy and cover of darkness, to speak with him. From the outset, it is clear that Nicodemus recognizes that Jesus is not simply one of the prophets of old, for he addresses him as rabbi, a title used by Jesus' disciples only after they recognize him as the Christ - the anointed one.

(continued)

In his conversation with Jesus, Nicodemus is confused on what is necessary to be transformed. Jesus, quite clearly, is speaking of the need to be transformed not in any physical way, but in heart and mind. For Nicodemus, the transformation is his understanding of the significance and truth of Jesus' message. In one of the most popular verses that many have memorized from scripture, Jesus succinctly states the basic message of the gospels, in truth the basic message of the New Testament: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but find eternal life" (3:16). For the new kingdom which Jesus inaugurates, there is a need for one to experience spiritual re-birth. If a person might fear seeking such a change or transformation in one's life, the individual needs only to realize that "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" (3:17).

Daisy Werthan needed to be converted - to be transformed. Her attitude toward the loss of her independence needed to be changed. But this did not happen overnight; rather the process she experienced was necessary for her to eventually be able to say, "Hoke, you are my best friend." Daisy's experience is one illustration of a reality for all - transformation takes time and shortcuts to its end product only lead to problems and disappointments.

Lent is a time to transform our personal habits. We need to heed the warnings and advice we have received with respect to personal health and have the courage to change to a more sane, healthier, and more productive lifestyle. We know what we need - to lose weight, stop smoking, cease certain activity - but we often balk. At times we are lazy or do not want to pay the price that the removal of a certain habit will cost.

All of us need to transform our faith practice; there is always more that can be done. We need to do a better job of eliminating sin and resisting temptation. Daily prayer can help. Conversation with God must be central to our lives, yet too often the busy lifestyle we lead causes us to find and make excuses for not taking time to pray. Transformation means we make prayer a priority and make no excuses for our failures.

Transformation takes courage. If we do it well, the personal discoveries may be revelatory. A man returning from a weekend retreat reported to his neighbor, "I died this weekend." Puzzled, the neighbor asked him what he meant. The man responded, "I went on a retreat not knowing what to expect. What I discovered is that I have been spending my whole life hiding from others behind a whole host of different masks.

"I realized that even my wife had not seen me as I truly am. I had been playing games with her, my children, and many others - never letting anyone know who I truly am. The worst thing I discovered, however, was that I really didn't know myself. I was not in touch with my feelings and who I really am. As this was being discovered this weekend, I died over and over again." He continued, "It was painful as a middle-aged man to discover that I did not know myself. I am convinced that one needs to go through the death experience in order to become the person God wishes us to be."

As our Lenten journey continues, let us look into our hearts, as Miss Daisy was forced to do, and ask the difficult question: "What needs to be transformed in my life?" Then, with the information we have secured, let us courageously go forth and seek new beginnings in attitude, personal conduct, and faith. Let us be transformed to Christ, the one who died to set us free and will one day bring us to eternal life.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John +", written in dark ink.

The Rev. John Reese

LENTEN & EASTER SCHEDULE

Fridays in Lent
Stations of the Cross 12:10pm

Tuesdays: March 7 • 14 • 21 • 28
5:30pm **Eucharist in Children's Chapel**
6:00pm **Tuesday evening Pot Luck Supper**
6:30-7:30pm **Lenten Program**

Sunday, April 2
Palm Sunday
Holy Eucharist and Blessing of Palms
8:00am and 10:30am (*with incense*)

April 3 • 4 • 5
**Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
of Holy Week**
Holy Eucharist 12:10pm

April 6
Maundy Thursday
12:10pm Holy Eucharist
7:00pm Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

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

April 9
Easter Day
8:00am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Choral Eucharist (*with incense*)
& Flowering of the Cross

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 2 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

Witness at the Cross: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday

Experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die: Mary his mother; the Beloved Disciple from the Gospel of John; Mary Magdalene and the other women from Galilee; the two men, usually identified as thieves, crucified with Jesus; the centurion and the soldiers; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Jews and Romans, friends and strangers, the powerful and the powerless, the hopeful and the despairing.

In this six-session DVD series titled *Witness at the Cross*, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, New Testament Professor at Vanderbilt Divinity School, shows how the people at the cross each have distinct roles to play. Each Evangelist presents a distinct picture of the death of Jesus. Each portrays different individuals and groups of people at the cross, each offers different images and dialogues, and so from each, we learn how those meanings and messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today.

Each Gospel has its own story to tell, all the witnesses have their own memories, and every reader comes away with a new insight. The witnesses at the Crucifixion watch Jesus die, and we watch with them, and we watch them. And we come away transformed.

Here is the rest of the line-up:

3/5 - The Other Victims

3/12 - The Soldiers

3/19 - The Beloved Disciple

3/26 - The Women

4/2 - Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus

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 began this year on Shrove Tuesday, February 21st, and continues weekly through March 28th. Each evening begins at 5:30pm with Holy Eucharist in the Children's Chapel. A potluck supper follows at 6pm in the Parish Hall and the program begins at 6:30pm. The presenter this year is our own Dr. Ray Vince, who teaches English at Hillsborough Community College.

In six sessions, we shall study seven biblical characters that haunt & disturb us, looking at the biblical context, references in literature, art, & science, and the hard questions they raise for us today. How do these characters contribute to our faith, helping us to find light in the darkness?

Here is the rest of the line up:

Isaiah / Can we reconcile Prophecy & Contemporary Politics?

Tuesday, 7th March 2023 – hosted by Daughters of the King

Mary Magdalene / The “apostle to the apostles”—or framed by the Church?

Tuesday, 14th March 2023 – hosted by the Choir

Judas Iscariot / Is he really the paradigm of betrayal?

Tuesday, 21st March 2023 – hosted by Altar Guild

Simon Peter / Does he personify the struggle to believe?

Tuesday, 28th March 2023 – hosted by the Outreach Committee

Youth News

We will have our annual **Lenten series** on Tuesday evenings from **February 21st** through **March 28th**, and will also have children's programming after dinner each week from 6:30-7:30pm. Please contact Alicia Schmid for questions or to RSVP.

Our annual **Lenten Retreat** at St. Leo Abbey (located at 33601 State Rd 52, St Leo, FL 33574) will take place this year on **Sunday, March 19th** from 2-4pm. All friends and members of St. Andrew's are welcome to join us for an afternoon of rest and fellowship, as we experience the peacefulness that permeates St. Leo Abbey and the area surrounding it. Please grab lunch beforehand and meet us at 2pm in the courtyard outside the church on the Abbey/ University grounds. We will explore the church, light a candle, take a leisurely nature walk, leave our prayers, and finish up our time together around 3:30/4pm.

Easter Sunday will be on April 9, 2023. This year, we will have the annual hunt after the 10:30 service. If you would like to donate goodies such as small toys, pencils, fidget spinners, individually wrapped candy, etc. please bring it to the entrance area of the children's chapel / nursery and place it in the white bin. Please contact Alicia Schmid today at aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com to RSVP, or sign up to volunteer for any of our upcoming events!

Sunday Morning Hospitality

Each Sunday after the 10:30 service, everyone is invited to the Parish Hall for coffee, tea, and a light assortment of nourishment. This is a wonderful time to make new friends and check in with old friends. Do you have the gift of hospitality? There are fifty-two Sundays that we gather together. Parishioners are welcome to sign up to provide refreshments with multiple people. Some enjoy baking while others provide simple store-bought items. Variety is wonderful! Thank you for signing up in the Parish Hall to help provide an opportunity to build community, encourage one another, and cultivate friendships.

Seize the Day!

Please come out for a fun musical evening with the Plant City Community Chorale's spring concert, *Seize the Day!* on **Saturday March 25 at 7:30 pm**. The group, a 501(c)(3) under the direction of Coleman Flentge, has around 45 members of all ages from the local community who gather together to share in the joy of music making. The concert will also feature the Concert Chorus from Dr. Kiran C. Patel High School and a live band. Together they will perform an exciting set of music of the stage and screen--from *The Sound of Music* through *Hamilton*. This is an event you won't want to miss! Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at <https://www.pccchorale.org/upcoming-concerts/>. The proceeds will support the PCCC, the music department at Patel High School, and the Friends of Music here at St. Andrew's. We hope you will come out and have fun with us :)

-Coleman Flentge

Outreach

The Outreach Committee will be meeting following the 10:30 service on Sunday, March 26 to plan this year's upcoming events. Please consider joining us in this important and rewarding mission at St. Andrew's. Contact Chris Capsambelis for info. ccapsambelis@gmail.com

Sunday Nursery Attendant

We are looking for a temporary nursery attendant for Sunday mornings 9:30 – 12:30. This position will last from April 2nd through June 4th. The pay is \$42.20 each week and you will be required to pass a background check and take an online safeguarding children course. If interested, please email adminis-trator@saintandrewstampa.org

VESTRY MEMBER ASSIGNMENTS 2023

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Senior Warden – Richard Ferlita
Junior Warden – Richard Chapman
Treasurer – Eric Hargens
Clerk – Lori Taplow

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Christian Education – Allison Besselieu (chair)
Foundation Liaison – Richard Ferlita (ex-officio)
Helping Hands – Barbara Brotherton (chair), Kathy Lawless
Outreach – Chris Capsambelis (chair), Derrick Brown, Holly Clemmons, Martha Cobb
Homeless Ministry – Kathy Lawless (co-chair), Holly Clemmons (co-chair)
Parish Life – Pam Curry (chair), Allison Besselieu, Derrick Brown, Martha Cobb
Buildings & Grounds – Richard Chapman (chair)
Stewardship & Evangelism – Brad Hall (chair)
Welcoming – Wallace Dixon (chair), Brad Hall, Lori Taplow
Media – Paul Scheuer (chair)
Diocesan Convention Delegates – Barbara Brotherton, Derrick Brown, Martha Cobb
Brad Hall (alternate)

Birthday Concert Celebration February 25th



January 2023 Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 1/17/23, there was \$236,419 in ops account and \$86,283 in the parish reserve account. (Compared to \$195,255 in ops account and \$83,507 in reserve account at this time last year.)

As of 12/31/22, there was \$33,938 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry. (Compared to \$24,383 at this time last year.)

Total available funds from principal for years 2019 thru 2022: \$287,352. (Compared to \$238,677 at this time last year.)

There was \$2,816,005 in the Foundation principal as of 11/25/22, as opposed to \$3,218,925 on 12/31/21 (a decrease of \$402,920 for the year to date, but much better than last summer).

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.

Hanging of the Greens – was Sunday, 12/18, 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, 12/18 at 5PM in the church. Attendance was terrific – 144 souls! Great music and a lovely party afterward. Thanks to the Choir & Parish Life!

Christmas Eve services were 12/24 at 5:30PM and 11PM, Christmas Day service 12/25 at 10:30AM. Overall attendance was 413, which was much better than the 328 in 2021, but still short of our pre-Covid Christmas attendance (which was about 550-600 each year). But we also had 152 Facebook views at the two Christmas Eve services last month.

Vestry Nominations – we have five nominees for five slots (Allison Besselieu, Holly Clemmons, Martha Cobb, Wallace Dixon, and Eric Hargens).

Annual Meeting – Sunday, 2/5 after 10:30 service – includes vestry election. No mail-in ballots were sent out, since we have five nominees for five slots. Election will be by acclamation during the annual meeting. We will also vote on the 2023 budget during the annual meeting.

Birthday Concert – for Ryan Hebert is on Sunday, 2/5 at 4PM. There will be organ and choral music, with the purpose of raising funds for new recording microphones in the chancel. Reception hosted by Parish Life follows in the parish hall.

Wine Tasting Event – with Chris Sherman and Chris Cobb is on Saturday, 2/11, from 5PM to 7PM. We have done a couple of these in the past, but it has been several years since the last one. Chris Sherman is a retired food critic for the St. Pete Times.

2023 Stewardship Campaign – As of 1/18, we have 140 pledges for 422K (compared to 147 pledges for 410K as of this time last year).

There are still 30 pledgers who pledged 39K in 2022 whom we have not heard from for 2023. 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!

January 2023 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$55,722	\$52,525	\$55,722	\$52,525
Expenses	\$67,590	\$52,525	\$66,590	\$52,525
Net	(\$11,876)	(\$0)	(\$11,876)	(\$0)

Preliminary Budget – The proposed 2023 budget shows a deficit of 12K. But keep in mind that we have yet to hear from those 30 pledgers who pledged 39K in 2022 but have not weighed in for 2023. If we get just half of the outstanding 39K in pledges, we will easily balance the budget for 2023. (Last year, we adopted a 14K deficit budget and finished the year with a 20K surplus). There is a proposed raise of 5% for all employees in 2023. Father Reese handed out a proposed budget to the vestry members. He shared that plate offerings should increase this year due to “trending up” in attendance. He shared that building use and parking revenues [717] will continue to be steady sources of revenue. Father Reese explained the line items listed on the budget in detail. **The budget was presented by Father Reese. The motion was made by Jen R to accept the budget with no edits and Brad H seconded the motion. The budget was accepted by a unanimous vote of the vestry.**

Many thanks to our outgoing vestry members for their leadership and ministry: Gary Cotter, Lynn Dorman, Loueita Hargens, Sue MacIsaac, and Jennifer Richardson. *Well done, good and faithful servants!*

SENIOR WARDEN’S REPORT: Richard Ferlita. No report to present.

JUNIOR WARDEN’S REPORT: Richard Chapman. Richard noted several items. 1. The fire alarm panel in the parish hall closet has started acting up. The panel needs to be replaced. Richard presented three proposals from SAI, Piper, and CINTAS. Richard recommended the SAI proposal. After discussion, **a motion was made by Kathy L to accept the SAI proposal for \$10,510, to be paid with Foundation funds; Paul S seconded the motion. The motion was accepted by a unanimous vote of the vestry.** 2. There are 6 items that CINTAS does for us, including fire alarm monitoring, emergency light inspections, fire extinguisher inspections, fire alarm annual inspections, fire sprinkler annual inspections, and fire pump annual inspections. There has been a new proposal to switch those functions from CINTAS to Piper. Piper is a company that does this type of work regularly within the Tampa area and has a strong reputation. Richard believes that the annual maintenance contract with Piper will cost less than continuing with CINTAS, resulting in a reduction in spending on this particular budget item. **Jen R. moved that we change the vendor from CINTAS to Piper, which will in turn monitor the six systems for St. Andrew’s and that we continue to pay for that service using operating funds as indicated in the budget. The motion was seconded by Barbara B. The motion was accepted by a unanimous vote of the vestry.** 3. There are two proposals for the parish hall kitchen door replacement. One is for a wood door (\$4,200) and one for store front doors (\$12,080). There was concern about the replacement doors being impact rated. Richard C. will do further research and report back at next vestry meeting. 4. The office suite has poorly distributed AC. While the reception area and some offices are very cool, the Rector’s office is quite warm. There is a need to upgrade the diffusers in the offices. For \$1,500 we can make the adequate changes to more evenly distribute the AC in the office suite. **Kathy L made a motion to accept the proposal of \$1,500 to provide new sidewall air supply at Rector’s office, relocate the thermostat to help cooling, balance available air to increase flow to Rector’s office and decrease flow to interior spaces of the office suite, with cost to be paid from the Foundation funds. The motion was seconded by Loueita H. The motion was accepted by a unanimous vote of the vestry.**

TREASURER’S REPORT: Rector reported, as Lori was absent. Operating account finished 2022 with a 20K surplus.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HOMELESS MINISTRY: Sue MacIsaac. The ministry is going very well. Sue reported that the numbers are going up due to weather. Our homeless volunteer numbers have dropped. Sue shared that Lori T has offered to help. Sue shared that she has asked Metro Ministries to help her pick up the sandwiches. Kathy shared that there is a need to pick up sandwiches on Mondays & Fridays. Sandwiches need to be picked up at 8:30AM from MM on Florida Ave. Lynn has volunteered to pick up on 2/6 and 2/13, Richard F will pick up sandwiches on 2/20 and 2/27, and Paul will be available on Fridays and is considering working Thursdays on the hand-out line. The recommendation was made to make an announcement on Sunday services to recruit volunteers.

PARISH LIFE. Pam Curry and Loueita Hargens. Pam spoke about the upcoming event for Ryan’s birthday on Sunday, 2/5. She shared that we are planning for about 70-90 guests. The concert is at 4 pm and the reception will start at 5 pm. Pam shared that there is a need for food. Father Reese shared that 2/21 is Shrove Tuesday and that the Pancake Supper will be provided by the youth; other groups that will sponsor dinners are DOK, Altar Guild, Choir, Parish Life/Vestry and Outreach. Each dinner will start at 6 pm on a Tuesday and tentative hosts are as follows: Vestry/Parish life 2/28, DOK 3/7, Choir 3/14, Altar Guild 3/21, and Outreach 3/28.

YOUTH MINISTRY: Jen reported that the youth are going this Saturday to Rock the Universe in Orlando; a total of 16 youth and adults are attending. Tickets were purchased today.

OLD BUSINESS: Pam and Jen are looking at tiles for the restroom renovations.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

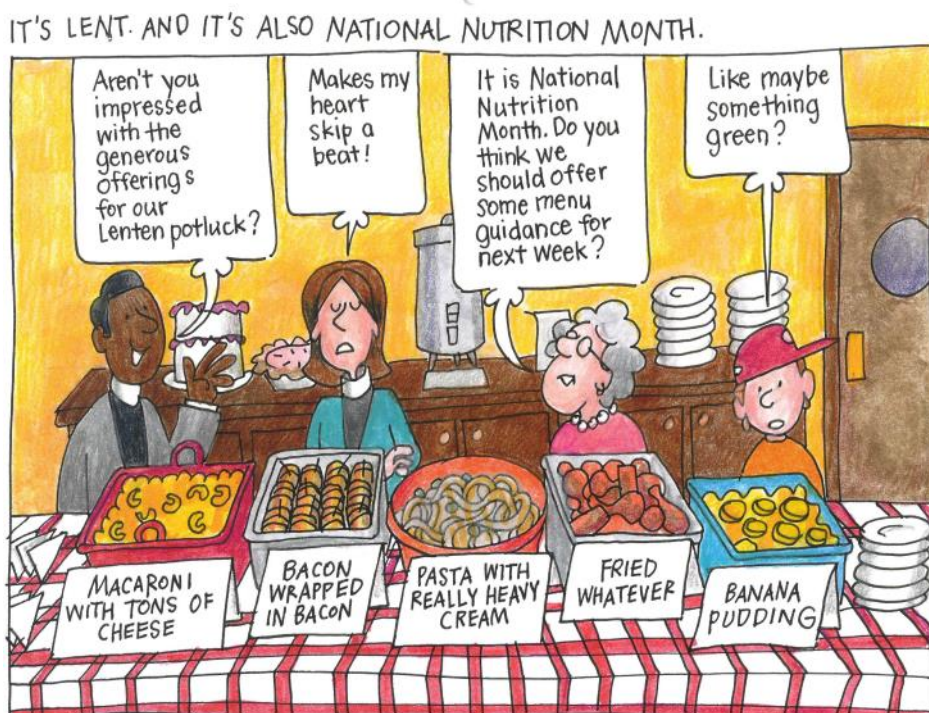
509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Lenten & Easter Schedule

*See full Lent & Easter schedule inside
page 3*



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

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.