



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ March 2024

Reverently Speaking

Jesus said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Mark 8:34

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

There's a lot of talk in the business world these days about "elevator speeches." If we run into someone in an elevator, and they ask about our cause, our start-up business, or our church, we should be able to give a quick summary, short enough to fit the elevator ride. When people ask about my church, I say something like: "St. Andrew's is a beautiful, historic church in downtown Tampa that's been around for over 150 years. Our worship style is traditional and we have great music. We also have a heart for outreach and do a lot in that area, including a daily lunch program for the homeless."

As Jesus begins to make his way toward Jerusalem, he asks his friends, "What are people saying about me?" (Mark 8:29) They offer up various answers, no doubt leaving out the negative ones. And then he asks who they think he is. Peter steps up with the answer he must have been wondering and weighing and thinking about - the Messiah. And he's got it half right.

We get it half right, too. A lot of the popular religion we find in the media and in Christian bookstores means well. The TV preachers talk about a life of deeper faith, but it looks a lot like the American success story. Shiny, well-fed people with seemingly perfect lives try to convince us that if we're true Christians, we'll never struggle again. Money will pile up so fast we don't know what to do, struggles with alcohol or drugs will be gone with no effort... calories won't exist... our aches and pains will vanish... and bad bosses will turn into pussycats. Certainly, we'll never swear at other drivers in traffic or lose our tempers at home.

It all sounds so good that we want to believe it, and yet part of us knows it's too good to be true.

As author Brennan Manning says, "Most of the descriptions of the victorious life do not match the reality of my own. [Things you read and hear] create the impression that once Jesus is acknowledged as Lord, the Christian life becomes a picnic on a green lawn — marriage blossoms into connubial bliss, physical health flourishes, acne disappears, and sinking careers suddenly soar. The victorious life is proclaimed to mean that everyone is a winner. An attractive twenty-year-old accepts Jesus and becomes Miss America, a floundering lawyer conquers alcoholism and whips F. Lee Bailey in court, a tenth-round draft choice for the Green Bay Packers goes to the Pro Bowl. Miracles occur, conversions abound, church attendance skyrockets, ruptured relationships get healed, shy people become gregarious and the [insert your team here] win the World Series."

If we don't get this kind of perfection, we feel like we missed out on the life of faith.

But Jesus is saying, no, you have it all wrong. It's the struggles, the taking up your burdens and the burdens of the world, that give life to faith.

Peter has this happy vision of faith, too — and he can't imagine a messiah who will suffer and die. For him, that's a failure. Peter tries to rebuke Jesus — the same word the gospel uses for casting out demons. And Jesus comes right back at him. He has to understand this to get it. Jesus rebukes Peter — again, the same word for

casting out a demon.

If we want to follow — and Jesus is clear that we have a choice — this is the path.

So, if it's not perfect day after perfect day, what does it mean to follow Jesus in our world? That's the mystery our faith leads us to explore, day after day, year after year. That's the question we ask Jesus, as we live our everyday faith. Jesus is telling us here who he is — and who we should be, too. He's talking about the core of his work — and the core of our life as disciples. We live our faith in the answer to his questions.

Who do you say that I am, Jesus asks? Can you follow me? Can you take up your cross, face the burdens of your life, and carry the cares of the world? He has these questions for us.

We have questions, too. Faith demands that we ask ourselves these things.

Does my work use the talents God gave me? By work, I mean however we spend our days: raising kids, paid work, volunteer work.

Do my relationships show the love and grace of God? In the way I talk to my friends, my neighbors, my partner, my kids, am I talking to the face of God in them?

Does my life show evidence of God?

Am I growing in some way, or have I gotten stuck? What do I regret?

If I had three months to live, what would I want to fit into my life?

These questions, and others like them, point us to what really matters, and to where God would have us go. They are signposts, showing us where we're unhappy... missing something... going too fast.... They lead us into the mystery of how we follow God in the places we are, with the gifts we have.

And at the center of it all, there are questions that give meaning to all the others. Who do you say that I am? Can you pick up your cross and follow me? Can you face your burdens, and care for the needs of others? As one writer says, "As life picks up speed and I clock more days and weeks and years, I accumulate more suffering. The human tendency seems to be to fight the difficult parts of life, as if by resisting them I can skip to the good stuff or set a few extra goals to overcome the suffering.... But there's no entry into Christ's presence without the cross. No one has to go looking for one, the cross finds you." (David Goetz, *Death by Suburb*)

The cross finds us. The cross is different for each of us — a cross that fits our strength to carry it, and the service that we can give. A cross that uses our struggles and heartache to connect us to the hurt of the world. A cross that uses our sorrow, as much as our strength.

We can lament that we don't have the picture-perfect life, or we can turn and pick up the crosses in our lives. Pick up the cross of recovery... of the ill family member... of inclusion... of chemotherapy... of getting home in time for family time... of anger management... of trust. Pick up the cross of helping someone with no discernible benefit... of serving somewhere new... of talking to someone you don't agree with, and have nothing in common with, and move more deeply into faith.

That's the core of our faith. Taking up the cross, following the Jesus who loves and serves. That's our elevator speech. That's the essence of our faith.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese

LENTEN & EASTER SCHEDULE

Fridays in Lent
Stations of the Cross 12:10pm

Tuesdays: March 5 • 12 • 19
5:30pm **Eucharist in Children's Chapel**
6:00pm **Tuesday evening Pot Luck Supper**
6:45-7:30pm **Lenten Program**

Sunday, March 24
Palm Sunday
Holy Eucharist and Blessing of Palms
8:00am and 10:30am (*with incense*)

March 25 • 26 • 27
**Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
of Holy Week**
Holy Eucharist 12:10pm

March 28
Maundy Thursday
12:10pm Holy Eucharist
7:00pm Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

March 29
Good Friday
12:10pm Stations of the Cross
7:00pm Good Friday Liturgy

March 31
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: March 24 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.

Youth News

Youth in grades 6 & up are invited to assist in Easter preparations on Palm Sunday during coffee hour (*Sunday, March 24th*) as we pack Easter goody bags and eggs for the big hunt! Look for Alicia in the parish hall and come lend us a quick hand! We will also be taking Easter donations for items to pack in our wonderful goody bags starting on Sunday, March 3rd-- items like individually wrapped candy, pencils, erasers, small toys and trinkets are much appreciated! A marked bin will be placed at the children's chapel entrance of the parish building for all Easter goody bag donations. We will pack goody bags on Sunday, March 24th during coffee hour. All Children are invited to participate in our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, which falls on Sunday, March 31st after the 10:30 service in the courtyard! Bring a basket or bag and join in the fun, making beautiful family memories on this blessed Easter Sunday! All children and youth (this means middle & high school too!) will receive an awesome goody bag following the hunt, but due to space, we will have an official egg hunt for kids who are toddler age through 5th grade in the courtyard. We will also have golden coins inside some of the hidden eggs for additional special prizes! Please contact Alicia Schmid for questions, or to volunteer with our amazing kids & youth at alici-aschmid@rocketmail.com.

Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30

Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess

Often we make a mess of our lives and wonder if there is any redemption. In this six-week video series, pastor and author Tom Berlin helps us see our mess through the eyes of Christ to find redemption and restoration. Using Scripture, devotional tools, and the writings of Ignatius of Loyola, John of the Cross, St. Augustine, John Wesley, Evelyn Underhill, and others, Berlin encourages reflection and meditation through our own brokenness. Only then can we focus on the cross as the place where we truly surrender control, leave our mess, and find redemption. Tom Berlin is currently the Bishop of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Here is the rest of the line-up:

- March 3 - Bless This Mess
- March 10 - No Messing Around
- March 17 - Address This Mess
- March 24 - The Message in the Mess

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 will continue weekly through March 19th. 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 6:45pm. The presenter this year is our own Dr. Ryan Hebert.

Music Notes Unscripted: *What Music Teaches us about God* By Ryan Hebert

- 3/5 Become like children (Matthew 18:3) - Hosted by Daughters of the King
Playing music and creation's playfulness
- 3/12 Forget the former things (Isaiah 43:18) - Hosted by Outreach
The illusion of perfectionism and the perfect performance
- 3/19 The truth will set you free (John 8:32) - Hosted by the Altar Guild
Organ Voluntary? Or Involuntary? Playing with Abandon
(organ recital demo)

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 March 29. 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.

Choir Staff Singers Perform Solo Recitals

Several of our choir staff singers, who are music students at UT, will be giving solo recitals as part of their degree studies. These events are free and open to the public, so please mark your calendars and plan to join them! Parking is available anywhere on campus in the evenings.

3/1 7:30p.m. C.C. Graham, organ - Sykes Chapel

3/22 7:30p.m. Ethan Lucas, tenor - Sykes Chapel

3/30 7:30p.m. Brianna Davies, mezzo soprano - Sykes Chapel

4/23 7:30p.m. Lucas Glenn, piano - Gordon Theater, Ferman Center for the Arts

Celebration of Life

Saint Andrew's is hosting a Celebration of Life for former parishioner, Vestry member and choir section leader, Stephen Rosser, on **Saturday, April 27th** at 2 pm. Some of you may have known Stephen before he departed for New York City ten years ago. His kindness, openness and talent touched many at St. Andrew's and around the Bay Area and he will be greatly missed. As part of our celebration we are gathering many who sang with him in our choir and other exceptional groups to raise our voices in hymns, anthems and songs Stephen loved. If you would like to join us as a singer please contact Betsy Scheuer at elisa-betsy40@gmail.com or 813-434-5159 regarding your interest and for more details. If you would like to assist with or make a financial contribution for the reception following the celebration, please contact Irene Baker at ihbaker1011@yahoo.com or 571-481-8536. Whether you sing or help or attend, we look forward to seeing many of you on the 27th!

School Volunteers needed

Want to help Tampa's littlest citizens? Come spend an hour each week working with a small group of 1st graders at Dunbar Elementary. If you have 45-60 minutes each week to work with a small group of students in one of our 1st grade classrooms, please contact me for more information. Days and times are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and/or Thursdays either between 8:45 and 10:15 or 10:45 to 12:45. The teacher will have all the materials available for you. This enrichment group will allow the teacher to get an extra small group in with some of her struggling readers. Thank you for considering this opportunity. Victoria Klug 813-774-1246 or VictoriaKlug1@gmail.com

New Flower Chart

The 2024 Flower Sign-Up Chart is in the parish hall. Please help adorn the altar during worship by sponsoring flowers. High Altar flowers are \$150 for florist choice, personal choices can be arranged at an additional cost. Chapel Altar flowers are optional. To sponsor both Altars, the cost is \$250. If you have questions, please contact Charlotte Churchill 813-352-0162 cmchurchi18@gmail.com

VESTRY MEMBER ASSIGNMENTS 2024

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Senior Warden – Piers Curry

Junior Warden – Richard Chapman

Treasurer – Eric Hargens

Clerk – Nicole Carr

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Christian Education – Martha Cobb (chair)

Foundation Liaison – Piers Curry (ex-officio)

Helping Hands – Barbara Brotherton (chair)

Outreach – Derrick Brown (chair), Martha Cobb, Wayne Daley

Homeless Ministry – Holly Clemmons (co-chair), Paul Henley (co-chair)

Parish Life – Allison Besselieu (chair), Derrick Brown, Martha Cobb, Don Crawford

Buildings & Grounds – Richard Chapman (chair)

Stewardship & Evangelism – Don Crawford (chair)

Welcoming – Wallace Dixon (co-chair), Brad Hall (co-chair)

Media – Brad Hall (chair)

Diocesan Convention Delegates – Allison Besselieu, Martha Cobb, Wayne Daley
Piers Curry (alternate)

January 2024 Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT

The meeting was called to order with prayer at 5:30pm.

A motion was made by Brad Hall to accept the minutes of the December 18, 2023 vestry meeting as reported and was seconded by Derrick Brown. The minutes were approved unanimously.

As of 1/22/24, there was \$223,804 in ops account and \$81,783 in the parish reserve account.

As of 12/31/23, there was \$26,079 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry.

Total available funds from principal for years 2020 thru 2023: \$332,690.

There was \$3,092,638 in the Foundation principal as of 12/31/23 (as opposed to \$2,757,000 at the end of 2022, an increase of \$335,000 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. Current amount available is \$8,481 (the allocations for 2022 and 2023 less the \$500 we recently spent on church gutter repair).

2024 Stewardship Campaign – launched on 10/1. Many thanks to Brad, Allison, and Derrick for speaking. Brad wrote the letter for the first pledge card mailing (end of September), followed by Senior Warden (end of October), Treasurer (end of November), and Rector (early January).

As of 1/22, we have 133 pledges for 480K (compared to 140 pledges for 422K as of this time last year).

There are still 33 pledgers who pledged 52K in 2023 whom we have not heard from for 2024. 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 your email. The proposed 2024 budget is balanced. But keep in mind that we have yet to hear from those 33 pledgers who pledged 52K in 2023 but have not weighed in for 2024. (Last year, we adopted a 12K deficit budget and finished the year with a 20K surplus). There is a proposed raise of 4% for all employees in 2024.

Motion to approve the 2024 budget was made by Barbara Brotherton and seconded by Richard Ferlita. Discussion followed. The motion to adopt the budget was then passed unanimously.

New Office Computer – Lauri needs a new computer. Cost is \$889. It can be paid from the reserve fund.

Brad Hall made a motion to pay \$899 from the reserve fund for a new computer for Lauri Harder's office. The motion was seconded by Richard Ferlita and passed unanimously.

Tree trimming – The crepe myrtles at the courtyard entrance are in desperate need of a haircut. We have engaged LS Gardens to do just that. Pam is trying to pin them down on a date.

Christmas Lessons & Carols – was on Sunday, 12/17 at 5PM in the church. Attendance was terrific – 153 souls! Great music and a lovely dinner party afterward. Thanks to the Choir & Parish Life!

January 2024 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$46,046	\$55,062	\$46,046	\$55,062
Expenses	\$69,133	\$54,790	\$69,133	\$54,790
Net	(\$23,086)	\$272	(\$23,086)	\$272

Christmas Eve services were 12/24 at 5:30PM and 9PM, Christmas Day service 12/25 at 10:30AM. Overall attendance was 413, best since COVID. We also had 145 Facebook views at Christmas Eve service. The 9PM service had 20% more people than the 11PM service of 2022. So methinks we will keep the late service at 9PM in the future.

Vestry Nominations – we have five nominees for five slots (Nicole Carr, Don Crawford, Piers Curry, Wayne Daley, and Paul Henley).

Annual Meeting – Sunday, 2/4 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 2024 budget during the annual meeting.

Tuesday Evening Lenten Series – will be led by Ryan Hebert. This series will run from 2/13 through 3/19. Each Tuesday will have Holy Eucharist at 5:30PM in Children's Chapel, potluck supper in Parish Hall at 6PM, and presentation at 6:45PM.

Wine Tasting Event – with Chris Sherman and Chris Cobb is on Saturday, 2/17, from 6PM to 8PM in the Parish Hall. Chris Sherman is a retired food critic for the St. Pete Times. *As an added bonus, Allison will be playing her viola at this event!*

Episcopal Visitation – Bishop Scharf will visit St. Andrew's on Sunday, 2/25/24 (the Second Sunday in Lent). Looks like we will have 8 youth confirmands and several adults.

Many thanks to our outgoing vestry members for their leadership and ministry: Pam Curry, Richard Ferlita, Kathy Lawless, Paul Scheuer, and Lori Taplow.

Well done, good and faithful servants!

St. Andrew's received a letter from the Diocese informing that approximately \$111K was to be rebated on a pro-rata basis to the parishes. This practice will be discontinued in the future. \$1,956 was the portion that will be returned to St Andrew's.

Senior Warden: Richard Ferlita thanked the vestry for their unwavering support during his tenure.

Junior Warden: Richard Chapman stated that the remodeling of the 2nd floor restrooms is complete with the exception of the blinds. He hasn't been successful finding a contractor to address the leaks in the church roof as of yet. The roof awning above the church door at the ramp entrance is being repaired.

Treasurer: Eric Hargens reported that we finished with a surplus for 2023. Expenses were 2.2% below budget. The budget reflects the raise in the rate the Diocese is assessing St. Andrew's as well as the increases in water, electric, and insurance line items.

Committee Reports:

Media Committee: Paul Scheuer discussed the installation of the new chandelier microphones and cable repair that has taken place. Anecdotal feedback has been positive.

Parish Life: Pam Curry reported that whoever is taking over Parish Life will need to be aware that the coffee hour for the upcoming visit by our bishop will be hosted by Parish Life. We will need to have a game plan for this. She applauded the work we have all done during and post-COVID.

Homeless Program: Kathy Lawless reported that our ministry has been reported in the Tampa Bay Times. This favorable article has generated some additional donations. The Family Health Center will be present on the 4th Friday of every month in the church parking lot. Kathy is working on documenting the process and guidelines for this program for our volunteers. Holly Clemmons and Kathy have talked about pulling together their numbers to better monitor the finances of this ministry. She is thankful for all who have been involved in the program.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Lenten & Easter Schedule

See full Lenten & Easter schedule inside

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THE FIRST ANNUAL CHURCHIE AWARDS



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

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.