



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✕ May 2021

Reverently Speaking

Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture (Isaiah 53), he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

Acts 8:35

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

Change is difficult. It's a challenge in families, in businesses, in churches, in communities and in entire countries. In fact, the only person who really likes change is a baby with a wet diaper.

Throughout history, people have been afraid of innovation. The list includes:

German writer Johann Georg Heinemann, who warned people in 1795 about *reading*. He said that consuming words leads to a "weakening of the eyes, heat rashes, gout, arthritis, hemorrhoids, asthma, apoplexy, pulmonary disease, indigestion, blocking of the bowels, nervous disorder, migraines, epilepsy, hypochondria and melancholy." Be careful about reading!

In 1854, author Henry David Thoreau criticized the construction of a magnetic *telegraph* from Maine to Texas. He said, "But Maine and Texas, it may be, have nothing important to communicate."

In 1906, composer John Philip Sousa lamented that *phonographs* were causing "deterioration in American music."

In 1926, the Knights of Columbus warned that the *telephone* would "break up home life and the old practice of visiting friends."

About the same time, a dean at Princeton observed that *cars* were becoming a threat to America's young people. "The general effect of the automobile," wrote Howard McClenahan, "was to make the present generation look lightly at the moral code." He worried that youths with cars would begin to drive all over the place on Sundays ... everywhere but church.

And finally, in year 2008, *The Atlantic* magazine asked the question, "Is Google making us stupid?" The jury is still out on that one.

Resistance to change is a constant in human life, even around innovations that have proved to be beneficial: Reading, telegraphs, phonographs, telephones, cars and the Internet. Yes, there are problems associated with each, but, on the whole, they've been a huge help to people around the world.

In the eighth chapter of Acts, an angel of the Lord challenges a Christian named Philip to innovate. "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is, the Bible tells us, a wilderness road (v. 26). The angel is ordering Philip to leave the city of Jerusalem, and to go in a new direction off the beaten path.

(continued)

As he begins his journey, Philip meets “an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians” (v. 27, NIV). This man has two strikes against him from a religious point of view: First, he is a foreigner, and admittance to the assembly of the Lord is generally reserved for the Israelite community. Second, he is a eunuch, and the Torah is explicit that a eunuch cannot be admitted to the assembly of the Lord.

But the Ethiopian believes in the God of Israel, and he has just made a long and difficult journey to worship in Jerusalem. He is now on his way home, and is reading Isaiah 53.

At this point, the Holy Spirit gives Philip another innovative order. “Go over to this chariot and join it,” says the Spirit, even though the man is an Ethiopian and a eunuch (v. 29). This is a change from what Philip has been doing in Jerusalem and in Samaria. But it doesn’t seem to bother Philip that God would take him from Jerusalem where he’s having huge revival meetings, performing many miracles, bringing many to Christ, and send him out to a desert to talk to one man, a foreigner at that!

The angel of the Lord said, “Get up and go” (v. 26), and Philip got up and went. Simple. God says “Get up,” we get up. God says “Go,” we go.

Philip moves in a new direction by joining the Ethiopian eunuch and helping him to understand Scripture. That’s precisely what we need to do today - to take steps to sit beside and to guide.

So what happens when we sit beside and guide? We give straight answers to tough questions. The Ethiopian eunuch asks, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” (v. 34).

Philip doesn’t answer, “I think you need to undertake a careful examination of present-day studies in biblical history in order to assess their diverse orientations and different methodologies, while, at the same time, not neglecting the risk that the exclusive use of one methodology runs vis-à-vis a comprehensive understanding of the biblical testimony and of the gift of God given in Christ.”

No, Philip simply says that the prophet is talking about Jesus. He proclaims “to him the good news about Jesus” (v. 35). He tells him that Jesus died on the cross like a sheep led to slaughter, to demonstrate just how far he will go to show his love for us. This sacrifice brings us forgiveness of sin and the restoration of a right relationship with God, whether we are American, Ethiopian, man, woman or eunuch. And then, to prove that death is not the end, God raised Jesus from the dead and raises us as well.

That’s the Jesus story, as simple as can be. It’s what the Ethiopian eunuch needed to hear, and what the outsiders of our society need to hear as well. It’s a story we can tell - if we are willing.

So go ahead – sit beside and guide. Give straight answers to tough questions. And bring some folks the good news.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John +", with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Rev. John Reese

St. Andrew's 150th Celebration Planning Session

This past year has been quite a challenge for all of us. However, we are ready to get back on track and start the creative process. There will be a planning meeting on **May 15** for all parishioners interested in assisting in the planning and the implementation of activities. We will meet at **10 A.M.** in the Parish Hall, with breakfast treats available for those still sleepy individuals. We hope to start celebrating in September or October depending on directives from the Diocese and the medical professionals. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Richard Ferlita at rferlitasf@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Happy 150th Birthday, Saint Andrew's!



Choral Concert at St. Andrew's

The section leaders of the Louise Lykes Ferguson Memorial Choir will present a concert at St. Andrew's on **Pentecost Sunday, May 23** at **3 o'clock** in the afternoon. The program will feature repertoire we've sung throughout the church year, and will include all of your favorite anthems and spirituals. Coleman Flentge will perform solo selections for handbell tree, and Dr. Hebert will play organ pieces on the Fisk. You may attend in person, or watch from home via livestream. The program is presented in appreciation for the continued support of the music ministry during this difficult time, but also to celebrate St. Andrew's 150th year. The concert is free, but donations to the Friends of Music Fund are encouraged. Please plan to join us!



Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30am

Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit

Learn to walk more closely with God with the boldness and the zeal of the apostles.

There's no better explanation for how to live out the Great Commission—following the instruction of the resurrected Jesus Christ to spread his teachings to all the nations of the world—than in the Acts of the Apostles. It is a unique and crucial book that chronicles the story of God's grace flooding out to the world through the lives of the apostles in the decades immediately following Christ's ascension into heaven. In the video series *Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit*, author and biblical scholar Matthew Skinner explores six key themes that illustrate the ways in which reading Acts is capable of igniting our imagination about the character of the Christian gospel, the work of God's people (the church), and the challenges of living faithfully in a complex and changing world.

Matthew Skinner is an ordained teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Here is the rest of the line-up:

5/09 – Saints around the Edges

5/16 – This Changes Everything

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



From the Parish Register



Transfer In

Richard Jordan

from Fifth Ave Presbyterian, NY

Dehart & Patty Ayala

from St. John's, Tampa

Charles & Elizabeth Palm

from St. Clement's, Tampa



Baptism

Brianna Senga Kayaga



Deceased

William Maxfield

Allen Getz

Donations to Saint Andrew's Foundation

In Loving Memory of

Charlie Carl

Robert Thomas

In Loving Memory of

Virginia Mullen

Pat Wolfe

Mary Goodson

In Loving Memory of

Ann Crowder

Pat Wolfe

***In honor of our 50th
Wedding Anniversary
Siegfried & Linda Barry***

Calling all Graduates!

If you have a soon-to-be graduate in your family, we want to acknowledge them. Please provide the following info:

- *Graduate's name
- *A picture of the grad
- *The name of the high school or college they are graduating from, and their future university or career goals.
- *The graduate's favorite Bible verse
- *One fun fact about the graduate

***Please send this information to
Lauri in the office at***

secretary@saintandrewstampa.org

Youth News

Upcoming Children & Youth Activities:

Sundays

We have Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. on zoom

It's just 40 minutes, you can wear your jammies, and bring your bed head (no judgment whatsoever!). We pack every minute full of faith, fun, and fellowship. Games, fun, and connection for all ages.

Meeting ID: 870 1375 1335

Passcode: 346sUq

If any adults or youth in grades 9 & up are interested in assisting with Sunday school, or want to join us, just show up with the meeting ID & passcode, or reach out to Alicia Schmid anytime at aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com I would LOVE to have your presence and help!

Sundays

Nursery care in the nursery from 9:30 a.m. - Noon

Nursery staff, who are fully vaccinated, will be taking all necessary precautions. Please call the church office with questions.

Sundays

Children's Chapel in the Courtyard at 10:30 a.m.

Join us for chapel time in the courtyard just for kids! We would also love youth helpers—kids look up to our teens, and this is a great way for them to serve. Sing songs in worship, hear cool Bible stories, and much more! Our time in chapel lasts for about 40 minutes, and kids are brought in to their parents during the service at the passing of the peace. If weather is too hot or rainy, we will relocate to the 6th floor so we can spread out.

Sunday, May 23rd from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Explore Lectio on the Go at the Tampa Riverwalk

We will meet in St. Andrew's courtyard and walk to the riverwalk by way of Curtis Hixon park, enjoying the sights of downtown as we pause for inspiring Godly reading, reflection, and prayer. Invite a friend, dress comfortably, and bring water (also consider wearing insect repellent as needed). We will need volunteers to read short readings aloud. *Lectio on the Go* is open to anyone who feels led to attend! Please join us for this meaningful event, that is sure to bring peace and connection to all who attend.

Please email Alicia Schmid anytime at aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com to get involved in any youth, children's, or family activities! My door is open to each of you anytime. Thanks for all you do to help make St. Andrew's the wonderful parish that it is.

March Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 3/8/21, there was \$235,748 in ops account and \$85,344 in the parish reserve account.

As of 3/10/21, there was \$21,651 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry.

We have another \$6,473 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: \$47,000 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.

We have another \$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.

And there was \$2,965,582 in the Foundation principal as of 2/25/21, as opposed to \$2,929,677 as of 12/31/20.

There is also approximately \$99,000 in the Dan Curtis fund fbo St. Andrew's within the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, with \$4,371 in grant money available for 2021. 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 or coffee hour. Alicia launched a 9:30AM Zoom Sunday school class for youth that started on 2/14. Alicia had an outdoor youth retreat on 2/28 at St. Leo's. Nineteen kids and adults attended. She will try and resurrect in-person Children's Chapel on Sundays at 10:30.

Annual Stewardship Campaign – is now concluded. As of 3/10/21, we have 159 pledges for 420K, which is 5K less than last year at this time.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Gray Sanders

None.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – George Levy

George presented 2 proposals for the repair/replace/restoration of the church fence.

First bid– Ornamental Designs for \$1600, and Best Made for \$1050. George is recommending that we use Best Made for the repair, as we have history with the vendor, and their scope of work does not involve removing the section of the fence from the property. The repairs would be made onsite.

March 2021 Operating Summary				
	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$49,195	\$46,754	\$133,688	\$140,268
Expenses	\$41,383	\$48,776	\$144,490	\$146,330
Net	\$7,911	(\$ 2,021)	(\$10,802)	(\$6,065)

George made a motion to accept the proposal from Best Made for \$1050 and proceed with the repairs, with the funds coming from the reserve account. The motion was seconded by Richard, and passed unanimously.

The second scope of work regarding repairs to the fence involves treating the rust and painting the entire fence. George presented 4 bids for \$5,460, \$6,940, \$18,100 and \$27,584. The bid of \$5,460 was submitted by Leach Painting, which performed the work on the interior of the sanctuary, and George has confidence in their work. Leach suggested adding to the work, painting the railings in the courtyard, for an additional \$400, for a total of \$5,860.

George made a motion to proceed with the work on the fence painting with Leach Painting for a total cost of \$5,860 with funds coming from the Foundation. Jennifer R seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

A project for refurbishing nine plaques inside the church is being proposed. Also, the memorial plaques on the courtyard wall are filling up, so the heading 'In Memoriam' needs to be moved up higher on the wall in order to be able to add future plaques. There are a few new plaques that need to be hung and some current plaques that need to be relocated on the wall. Father is proposing we use Metal Refinishing, the firm that refurbished the brass in the sanctuary. Costs would be \$3,000 for the interior plaques + \$3,500 for the outdoor plaques. Father will investigate further, and present a formal proposal at the next vestry meeting..

TREASURER'S REPORT – Richard Ferlita

Parishioners have been very generous. There was discussion regarding E-giving, and several Vestry members praised its existence. Recent expenditures have included the quarterly maintenance fee for the elevator, and replacing some fire extinguishers and emergency lights. Pads in the church pews will be refurbished, with the expense being entirely covered by a parishioner. Pledges are up \$32,000 since we adopted the deficit budget, bringing us closer to a balanced budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OUTREACH:

Easter Boxes of Hope are underway.

HOMELESS MINISTRY:

Sue reported that 2 generous donations were received from a parishioner and the Daughters of the King. The program is doing well.

HELPING HANDS:

Lynn is planning for the upcoming kitchen cleanup and inventory on Friday, March 19th from 12-4. Volunteers from Daughters of the King will be helping.

AUDIT COMMITTEE:

Lynn stated they would proceed with the parish audit in late June.

MEDIA COMMITTEE:

Paul reported that he was able to help a parishioner navigate and resolve their difficulty in connecting to streaming our services on Sundays.

OLD BUSINESS:

George is looking for ways to clean the top of the reredos (the marble wall behind the altar). The ash from the wicks on the candelabras are causing soot to form. He suggested fashioning a tall cleaning pole to clean the high marble. Richard suggested we look into using a different, smokeless oil, and Jennifer R suggested we look into switching to cartridges. Richard will investigate.

Paul proposed adding videos to our streaming to commemorate and acknowledge our 150th Anniversary. Richard will send Paul slides with the 150th template design to be added to our website, and include it in all the streaming videos and the bulletins. Ryan is proposing putting on a large concert (which would also be streamed) to showcase the church. It was suggested that we reach out to the Tampa Bay History Center. Richard will follow up with Paul to show him where the archived photos are in the church.

Pam wanted to give accolades to Alicia for the St. Leo Youth Outing, and all the activities she organized for the youth. She thought she did an excellent job.

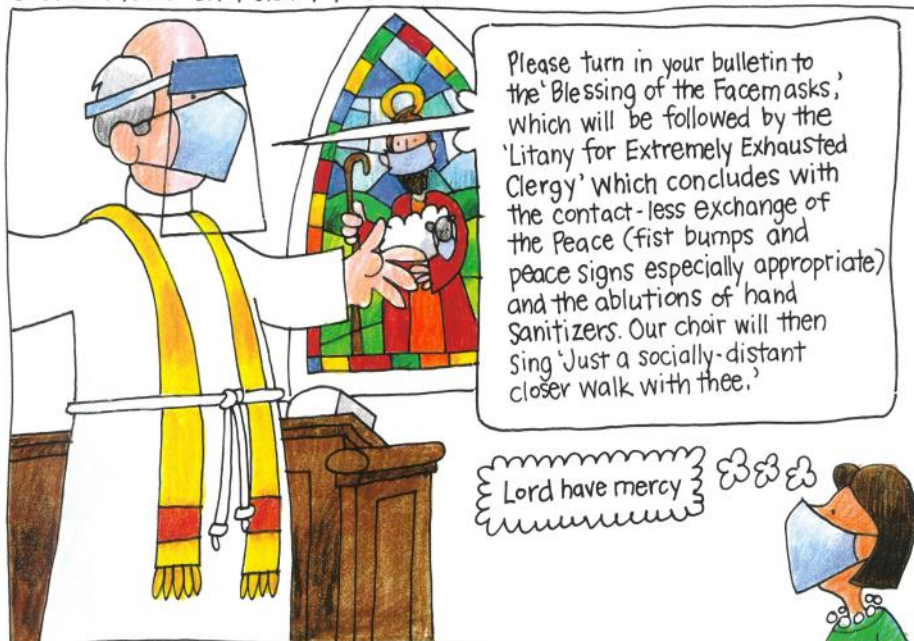
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUPPLEMENTAL LITURGIES FOR COVID-TIDE



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.