



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

# THE CALL

*Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!*

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✕ May 2023

## *Reverently Speaking*

*“Jesus said to (Thomas), “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

John 14:6

Waze. Google maps. MapQuest. Apple Maps. We love maps. Our navigations systems. Our GPS.

GPS stands for “Global Positioning System.” 31 Global Satellites provide users with correct directional information 95% of the time anywhere on the surface of the earth. We depend upon those satellites to lead us in the right ways to go. All we need to do is plug into our navigation system of choice, follow the directions, and we arrive at our destination stress-free.

Our navigation systems give us a sense of security, of control, of comfort, and of assurance that we will get where we want to go. Our navigation systems don’t require us to tap into our emotions, to commit to anything much, or to invest a whole lot on our journey, except to keep our eyes on the road and to follow directions.

We want directional indicators for our cars. We would also like to have directional indicators for our lives. How easy it would be if we could just follow directions (as though we are putting together a bookshelf with all of the parts and tools handed to us), and voila! We’ve got jobs, marriages, careers, everything in the bag! How handy would it be if we could do the same thing with our faith. Follow steps 1, 2, and 3, and presto! You’ve made it to heaven. Abide by a group of “dos and don’ts” and bingo! You’ve won a free trip to the pearly gates.

How nice would it be if life were that simple! How even nicer would it be if faith were that simple! But it’s not. No matter how much we wish we could get a roadmap for life or for our discipleship, it just doesn’t work that way, does it?

Life is complicated. Life is messy. Life is rarely rational. Life is relational.

And discipleship is about life – life and relationships!

We want a map. But Jesus says we need a relationship. While we are thinking about how to accomplish a set of tasks and goals, Jesus wants us to be in a relationship with him.

Sounds simple, right? Not as simple as you might think. Jesus doesn’t mean we need the kind of relationship the disciples have had in the past where they simply follow him around and do what he says. Nope. Things are changing. The kind of relationship he wants them to have with him requires them to see him as the focus of their journey, to invest in God in a way that is entirely new, spiritual, communal, and requires an awful lot of trust, faith, emotional intimacy, and heart. That kind of trust won’t come easy to the disciples, and for many of us, it comes no easier.

We want the easy route to heaven. A checklist for attaining eternity. Jesus says it doesn’t work that way.

Thomas (ever the practical, logical disciple) argues, “We don’t know where you are going, how can we know the way to get there?” (Or as we might say today, “Can’t I just put the address into Waze?”) Jesus answers, “I am the Way.”

The “Way” to God isn’t in charting a course to follow or of chalking up good deeds or even checking-off sheets of ministry tasks. The “Way” to God is through Jesus, entering into a spiritual/emotional/out of this world kind of relationship with Jesus through the invisible presence of the Holy Spirit.

It means that Christianity is a “relational” religion. We don’t merely follow Jesus’ teachings or his wisdom, his “to-do lists” or his “ideals for good living” - although he wants us to pay attention to those. We don’t just get a book of stuff to memorize or a list of good deeds to do that will insure our heavenly destination. No, the “way” to walk the “Way” of Jesus is through an intimate, devoted, committed relationship with Him. Faith in who he is. Trust in the ways he will lead us. Willingness to invest in him, and allowing him to direct our lives, even when he takes us in directions that we do not want to go.

It’s not setting our GPS to get to our destination, it’s closing our eyes and trusting that when we give our hearts to Jesus, we’re already there (there meaning where he wants us to be, where we need to be). You see, Jesus doesn’t say, I will come again and take you to heaven. He says, I will come again, and take you to myself, so that where I am, you may be also.

Heaven is wherever Jesus is. The Kingdom of Heaven is wherever and whenever the Holy Spirit touches your heart and soul and you give yourself to him.

He is the Way. He is the Truth. He is the Life. Jesus himself is the destination.

He doesn’t want merely our obedience. He wants to commune with us and live within our hearts. He wants us to bond emotionally and spiritually with him in ways that can uplift us as well as challenge us.

Relationships are messy. They require us to invest not just our heads but our hearts. They mean that we are not always in control. They require love and trust, time, and commitment. And to be in relationship with Jesus requires us to be in relationship with someone we can’t see!

Yes, it was as hard for the disciples then as it is for us today.

But it gets easier the more you get the hang of it. All you have to do is give up charting your own destination or looking for a simple set of rules to reach your heavenly goal and focus your attention on getting to “know” your Creator and Sustainer. Open up your heart to the supernatural, invisible, emotional and spiritual presence of Jesus in your life.

Instead of relying on the GPS, put your trust in the JPS (Jesus Positioning System).

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese



## Youth News

**Sunday, May 21st** is graduation Sunday! There will be a blessing for our graduates and Sunday school teachers. Sunday school teachers and graduates: please be in church for the 10:30am service and coffee hour Sunday, May 21, if you are a family with a senior in high school or college, or a Sunday School teacher—we want to honor all of you on this special day! For our graduates, I need the following info: A picture of the graduate, the graduate's favorite Bible verse, where the graduate is graduating from, where the graduate is attending school next fall if applicable, and the graduate's favorite thing about being part of St. Andrew's.

Sunday School at 9:30 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor goes on through **Sunday, May 21st**, and children's chapel at 10:30 continues through the summer. I am still searching for a few more shining star volunteers to serve during both hours on Sunday mornings. If you are still thinking about serving once a month, why not just come hang out with us on Sunday morning? The other Sunday School teachers and I would love to have your help, and make you feel welcome.

Also, please mark your calendars for VBS 2023: Stellar! **VBS 2023 will take place July 31st - August 4th**, from 9am to Noon. Please mark your calendars and get ready for the following planning meetings: Registration starts **Sunday, May 7th** during coffee hour in the parish hall. Our first youth & adults serving meeting will take place on **Sunday, June 11th** during coffee hour in the parish hall. Building Sundays TBD.

Please contact Alicia Schmid at [aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com](mailto:aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com) for questions or to RSVP to serve this year! It's going to be an amazing VBS as we gather together as a community to shine God's light!



### From the Parish Register

#### **Baptism**

Hatcher Quinlan



#### **Deceased**

Phyllis Schaeffer  
Diane Lee Kemker



### **Donations to Saint Andrew's Foundation**

*In Loving Memory of  
Anita Ramirez  
& Angela Massai*

Pat Wolfe



*In Loving Memory of  
Jane Cantler*  
Doug & Yvonne Stewart  
Ada May Seltzer  
William & Joyce Dellinger



### **Donations to Saint Andrew's Lunch Program**

*In Loving Memory of  
Anita Ramirez*

The Stokes Family

Eileen Self

Patricia Swain

Suzann Corral



*In Loving Memory of  
Nell Rorebeck*

Preston Logan



# Adult Christian Education

**Sunday mornings at 9:30**

## ***How (Not) to Read the Bible: Making Sense of the Anti-Women, Anti-Science, Pro-Violence, Pro-Slavery, and Other Crazy-Sounding Parts of Scripture***

For centuries, the Bible was called “the Good Book,” a moral and religious text that guides us into a relationship with God and shows us the right way to live. Today, however, some people argue the Bible is outdated and harmful, with many Christians unaware of some of the odd and disturbing things the Bible says or how to understand them.

Difficult questions arise when we read the Bible. Is God pro-violence? Does God endorse slavery? Should we all be vegetarians? Are tattoos sinful? Why does the Bible feel so anti-women and anti-science? In this six-session DVD series, Pastor Dan Kimball explores these objections and more. The good news is that there are reasonable responses to these valid and understandable questions. If church has burned you, bored you, or simply never been of interest, come take a deeper look at Jesus – and discover why the Bible might just be more beautiful than you can imagine.

Dan Kimball is on staff at Vintage Faith Church in Santa Cruz, California, and is also on the faculty at Western Seminary. He enjoys comic art, Ford Mustangs, and punk and rockabilly music.

Here is the rest of the line-up:

5/7 – Jesus Riding a Dinosaur

5/14 – My God Can Beat Up Your God

5/21 – Rated NC-17

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

## **Help us help others!**



Your outreach committee is partnering with the members of our homeless lunch ministry in asking for items for our homeless population. For the remainder of April, and the entire month of May, we are asking for dark-colored crew socks, and thin, dark-colored washcloths. Monetary donations are always appreciated as well. Please write “homeless ministry supplies” in your check memo if you would prefer to make a donation in that way. God bless you for helping us to help those who are most in need here in our church community.



# Easter at St. Andrew's April 9, 2023

Visit the website for more photos: [www.saintandrewstampa.org](http://www.saintandrewstampa.org)



# March Vestry Meeting Highlights

## RECTOR'S REPORT – Fr. Reese

As of 3/13/23, there was \$233,872 in ops account and \$86,283 in the parish reserve account.

As of 2/28/23, there was \$31,465 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry.

Total available funds from principal for years 2019 thru 2022: \$287,352.

There was \$2,757,202 in the Foundation principal as of 12/31/22, as opposed to \$3,218,925 on 12/31/21 (a decrease of \$461,723 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. We did not spend any of the 2022 allocation. Current amount available is \$8,981 (the allocations for 2022 and 2023).

Pictorial Directory – Pam and Lauri in office are working on this, it will be an online directory that can be continuously updated and shared electronically with parishioners. Pam is currently learning to operate Realm (which is the update for ACS, our current software system). Her goal is to then have the directory up and running sometime this year.

Planned Giving – The Foundation Board would like for the parish to begin a serious effort at promoting planned giving. We could create a legacy society that would ask folks to include St. Andrew's in their estate planning.

Lenten Series – Tuesdays starting on 2/21 (Shrove Tuesday) and continuing through 3/28. Each evening begins with Holy Eucharist in the Children's Chapel at 5:30, followed by potluck supper in the Parish Hall at 6PM and the program at 6:30PM. Ray Vince is this year's presenter.

Here is the line-up:

2/21 – Youth (Alicia Schmid)

2/28 – Parish Life (Pam)

3/7 – Daughters of the King (Adrienne Love)

3/14 – Choir (Barbara)

3/21 – Altar Guild (Adrienne Love)

3/28 – Outreach (Chris)

We have been averaging 18-20 for the service and 35 for the dinner.

(continued)

March 2023 Operating Summary				
	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
<b>Revenues</b>	\$39,336	\$52,525	\$149,044	\$157,576
<b>Expenses</b>	\$62,414	\$52,525	\$174,537	\$157,576
<b>Net</b>	(\$23,077)	\$0	(\$25,493)	\$0

Stations of the Cross – Fridays in Lent (2/24 through 4/7) at 12:10PM in the church. Come and join us each week for this simple, yet moving, service. It only lasts about 25 minutes.

Anita Ramirez Memorial Service - will be on Saturday, 4/1 at 11AM at St. Andrew's, followed by a reception in the parish hall.

Easter Day is 4/9. Parish Life/Vestry hosts a festive coffee hour after the 10:30 service. Easter Egg hunt for the kiddoes takes place at the same time out in the courtyard.

Parochial Report – Pam submitted this to the diocese.

Parish Picnic – Sunday, 4/16 starting at 1PM at the home of Earl & Jan Smith. Parish life will head this up. Many thanks to the Smiths for being willing to host once again!

Parking Lot Patrol – has launched. Chris Cobb is heading this up and is looking for volunteers to roam the parking lot from 10-10:30AM on Sundays, re-directing the poachers and pleading with them not to steal thy neighbor's parking space in the future.

Foundation Board – will meet soon and designate this year's allocation (range is 2% to 4% of principal based on a three year rolling average, as per Foundation by-laws).

Parish & Foundation Audits – Allison and Barbara are doing the Foundation audit, Wallace and Holly are handling the parish audit.

Richard Chapman, Junior Warden:

Oasis mapped missing valve. Found 6<sup>th</sup> zone unable to establish new controller. New fire alarm panel installed, Fire Marshall yet to inspect. Fountain still leaking intermittently. A/C in office still needs a little work. Selecting door for kitchen still in progress.

Eric Hargens, Treasurer

Contributions up 25%. Parking up 41% probably due to numerous special events. Currently 50-60% under budget with expenses.

Barbara Brotherton, Helping Hands

The service for Anita Ramirez, which will be catered, will be at 11:00 A.M. April 1, 2023

Kathy Lawless, Homeless Committee

The transition from Sue MacIsaac to Holly Clemmons is going well. There is a work in progress to document some of the procedures, volunteer names, etc. Holly asked about Klean Kits, will discuss with the Outreach Committee when it meets next. Will possibly go back to asking for items on a monthly basis for razors, socks, etc. in the Sunday bulletin.

Richard Ferlita commented that planning for the Parish Picnic is moving along. Paul will help with the grill. The Easter Brunch is in the works. Richard will purchase recycle bins at Staples.

It was discussed that the ushers should be sure to tell anyone remaining in the Fellowship Hall during the church service that they should be in the church. For cleanliness, a bottle of hand sanitizer should be at the food station during coffee hour.

Next meeting Monday, April 17, 2023, at 5:30 P.M.

### Outreach Committee

Join us for our **Cinco de Mayo luncheon on Sunday, May 7th**, following the 10:30 service. Tacos with all the trimmings, yellow rice, and black beans are among the items on the menu. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Proceeds will support our Operation Smart Start initiative. Hope to see you there for food and fellowship.



## St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



### **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 all ages

#### **Church Location:**

Marion & Madison Streets

Mailing Address:

509 E. Twiggs St.

Tampa, FL 33602

Phone: (813) 221-2035

Fax: 224-0945

Web: [saintandrewstampa.org](http://saintandrewstampa.org)

E-mail: [secretary@](mailto:secretary@saintandrewstampa.org)

[saintandrewstampa.org](http://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.