



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ May 2024

Reverently Speaking

Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:5

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

This is the season of college graduations, when celebrities address crowds of eager capped-and-gowned graduates, seated row upon row. Their message often boils down to, "If you just believe in yourself, you, too, can conquer the world." But — apart from a few Christian colleges — commencement speeches rarely have anything to do with believing in Jesus.

They're more likely to have something to do with financial success. Remember the 1967 classic movie, *The Graduate*? In a famous scene, title character Ben Braddock (played by Dustin Hoffman) is taken aside by an older man at a party.

The businessman, Mr. McGuire, whispers to the promising young college graduate, "I just want to say one word to you. Just one word."

"Yes, sir," says Ben, dutifully.

"Are you listening?" asks McGuire.

"Yes, I am."

"*Plastics.*"

"Exactly how do you mean?"

"There's a great future in plastics. Think about it. Will you think about it?"

Plastics manufacturing looked like a pretty good field in 1967. They were making all sorts of things out of plastic — and hardly anybody had ever heard the word "recycling"! Graduate from a top school, get your foot in the door of the infant plastics industry, and who knows how fast and how high you could climb? Why, you might even conquer the world!

Speaking of conquering the world, in the same year that Ben Braddock was hearing the whispered mantra, "plastics," a young teenager named Bill was learning how to play tic-tac-toe on a school computer. Back then, a game of computer tic-tac-toe — that would take 10 seconds with a pad and pencil — demanded all of a school lunch period to come clattering out of a dot-matrix printer. (They didn't have monitors back then, let alone smartphones.) It hardly made sense to play that way, but Bill wasn't giving up his lunch periods because he was a tic-tac-toe fanatic. He was enough of a visionary, even at that tender age, to realize computers wouldn't be that slow forever.

When Bill Gates dropped out of Harvard eight years later and joined his friend Paul Allen in starting a little company called Microsoft, no one ever dreamed he'd become the next Andrew Carnegie or John D. Rockefeller — but that's exactly what happened. If anyone can be said to have conquered the world in our day, it would be Bill Gates, multi-billionaire.

(continued)

But that's not the sort of conquest the author of 1 John has in mind. "Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes Jesus is the Son of God?" That statement's not about accumulating vast wealth, nor wielding enormous power. The author of this letter knew perfectly well there was only one person in his day who could fit *that* description: the emperor of Rome.

No, the sort of world conquest this ancient disciple is describing is very different. It's more of a spiritual reality.

Christ is the Son of God. He is our prophet, priest and king. He was born in a manger, died on a cross and rose to defeat death itself. He came from nothing. He conquered everything.

But what does it mean, in this ancient disciple's understanding, to conquer the world? Most of our Lord's victory is yet to be realized. It won't be revealed until he either returns one day or we find ourselves face-to-face with God. But in the meantime, we can take assurance in the promise that, if Christ is on our side, the world will never conquer *us*.

Sometimes it may appear that, in the great struggle of life, the world is winning. But those struggles are temporary. As Paul famously writes in the second letter to the Corinthians: "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies" (2 Corinthians 4:8-10).

To conquer the world, in Christ, doesn't mean we get everything we've ever desired. It doesn't mean we can crown ourselves anything. It doesn't mean we'll all become Pacific-Northwest software barons or Wall Street tycoons. It *does* mean that in the daily struggles we undergo and persistent challenges we face, the world has no power to master us. How could it? For we are not our own masters. We belong not to ourselves, but to Jesus Christ. And he has conquered everything.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese



Cinco de Mayo



The Outreach Committee is hosting our **Cinco de Mayo luncheon on Sunday, May 5** 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!

Calling all Graduates! If you have a soon-to-be graduate in your family, we want to acknowledge them during the 10:30 service on May 19th. Please provide the following info:

- Graduate's name
- A picture of the graduate
- 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



From the Parish Register



Baptism

George Nelson
Wieloszynski



Marriage

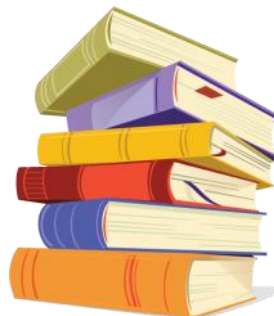
Ryan Putney
and
Dana Ballard



St. Andrew's Reading Group Update

Thank you to everyone who has expressed an interest in starting a reading group at St. Andrew's. It seems that the best time for everyone will be starting in the fall.

If you would like to have your name added to the email list for future updates, please email Pam Curry at plcurry@hotmail.com or call Jan Riasanovsky at 813-767-2673 with questions or suggestions.



Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30

The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News

Walk through the Bible's earliest source for the life of Jesus with scholar Amy-Jill Levine as she examines John the Baptizer, the Little Apocalypse, the Transfiguration, and several of Jesus's most notable stories and parables. The Good News of the gospel message comes alive in this video series as we see Jesus as divine and human, powerful and weak, approachable yet mysterious. We will engage in an in-depth study of select passages that illuminates the Gospel in its historical context and as a source for the other gospels.

Amy-Jill Levine is a retired Professor of New Testament studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School.

Here is the rest of the line-up:

5/5 – The Little Apocalypse: Mark 13

5/12 – Judas Iscariot and the Naked Young Man: Mark 14-15

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

Youth News

Please mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School! **VBS will take place August 5-9 from 9am to Noon.** We will be having planning meetings TBD. Please contact Alicia Schmid at alici-aschmid@rocketmail.com with questions.

Parish Picnic

Last Sunday's picnic was a great success – we had our best turnout ever! We are so grateful to Jan & Earl Smith for once again hosting this event at their lovely home. Many thanks to all the folks on the Parish Life Committee who worked so hard setting things up (and taking things down). A special thanks to Martha Cobb and Bill Nipper, our grillers extraordinaire. And an additional thank you to Bill for supplying the high-quality wieners!

The Truest Friend

A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials, heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine, desert us when troubles thicken around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts.

Washington Irving (1783-1859)

The Writing on the Wall: A Poem for Mother's Day

A weary mother returned from the store,
Lugging groceries through the kitchen door.
Awaiting her arrival was her eight-year-old son,
Eager to relate what his younger brother had done.
"While I was out playing and Dad was on a call,
T.J. took his crayons and wrote on the wall!
It's on the new paper you just hung in the den.
I told him you'd be mad at having to do it again."

She let out a moan and furrowed her brow.
"Where is your little brother right now?"
She emptied her arms and with a purposeful stride,
She marched to his closet where he had gone to hide.
She called his full name as she entered his room.
He trembled with fear--he knew that meant doom!

For the next ten minutes, she ranted and raved
About the expensive wallpaper and how she had saved.
Lamenting all the work it would take to repair,
She condemned his actions and total lack of care.
The more she scolded, the madder she got,
Then stomped from his room, totally distraught!
She headed for the den to confirm her fears.

When she saw the wall, her eyes flooded with tears.
The message she read pierced her soul with a dart.
It said, "I love Mommy," surrounded by a heart.
Well, the wallpaper remained, just as she found it,
With an empty picture frame hung to surround it.
A reminder to her, and indeed to all,
Take time to read the handwriting on the wall.

Source Unknown

March Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR’S REPORT – Fr. Reese

As of 3/11/24, there was \$221,281 in ops account and \$81,783 in the parish reserve account.

As of 2/29/24, there was \$26,801 in the Foundation’s checking account – monies available to the vestry.

We have \$32,918 remaining 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. (On 1/11/24, \$40,000 of the \$72,918 allocated for 2020 was transferred from the principal to the checking account.)

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.

We have \$89,343 available from the Foundation principal as a result of the 3% spending allocation designated by the Foundation Board for 2022 at their meeting on 3/23/22.

We have \$89,058 available from the Foundation principal as a result of the 3% spending allocation designated by the Foundation Board for 2023 at their meeting on 5/3/23.

Total available funds from principal for years 2020 thru 2023: \$292,690.

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 \$119,139 in the Dan Curtis fund for St. Andrew’s within the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay. This fund is designated for church maintenance purposes. Current amount available is \$12,896.

Pictorial Directory – Pam is adding names to the new directory, which will be up and running very soon.

Lenten Series – Tuesdays starting on 2/13 (Shrove Tuesday) and continuing through 3/19. We’ve had about 30-35 in attendance each week and about 18-20 at the chapel service. 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 6:45PM. Ryan Hebert is this year’s presenter. Final session is 3/19, with Altar Guild hosting.

Episcopal Visitation – Bishop Scharf visited St. Andrew’s on Sunday, 2/25 (the Second Sunday in Lent). We had 8 youth and 16 adult confirmands.

Tree trimming – The crepe myrtles at the courtyard entrance were trimmed by LS Gardens.

Foundation Board – will meet on 3/20 at 5PM 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).

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March 2024 Operating Summary				
	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$45,559	\$55,061	\$137,051	\$165,185
Expenses	\$43,052	\$55,061	\$158,503	\$165,185
Net	\$2,507	\$0	(\$21,452)	\$0

Parish & Foundation Audits – Barbara and Allison will conduct the parish audit, Victoria and Don will handle the Foundation audit.

New Nursery Attendant – Abby Lorren is our new attendant.

Overflow Parking – is no longer possible across the street. The law firm is under new management and the gate code has been changed.

Sunday morning security guard – No takers from the Tampa PD to work extra duty at St. Andrew's on Sunday morning. Pam is researching security firms, but no luck so far.

Sexton Away – Anguel will be away in Bulgaria for his annual trip 4/3 through 6/10. We will pay him the vacation time due him, but not pay him for the rest of the time away. Pam is trying to secure two-day-a-week coverage from parishioner Mike Dickinson's Staff Source during Anguel's absence.

Possible Fifth Floor Tenant – Michael Shea, lawyer with St. Michael's Legal Center for Women and Children, Inc., has sent us a vague proposal to lease half of the fifth floor. It states they will pay for the build-out over the course of the next 6-12 months and would want a long-term, ten-year lease. (See attached email.) We will ask for a more concrete, detailed proposal from them.

Senior Warden:

Does Allison need anything for Easter? Said we are doing well.

What does Allison need for Parish Picnic? Said she will circle back after Easter.

Junior Warden:

- Approved the roofing repairs, but waiting to hear back about dates
- Repaving parking lot: finished the bidding process- 3 bid options. Waiting on answers from Alto and Rose to get more comparable bids on Mirafri mat.
- o Richard moved that the vestry ask the Foundation to spend up to \$60k on parking lot. Barbara Seconded. Approved unanimously.

Leak in HVAC room in parish hall ruined the fire alarm panel. Repair cost of \$1,800 to come out of parish reserve fund.

Treasurer:

Looks like we had a small loss but we spent extra for the Bishop's visit plus printing extra bulletins for Easter. Parking revenue is light as well. But the electric bill was lower.

Helping Hands Committee:

One memorial service coming up on 4/27. Have lots of help.

Parish Life:

Allison asked Eric for a tent for parish picnic. He's going to check. Piers and Don also said they have a tent. Paul has two tents, if needed.

Homeless Ministry:

Met yesterday after coffee hour. Kathy Lawless filled them in on what needs to be done. Are excited about new volunteers. Running low on hygiene supplies – request in bulletin and Holly would like to make an announcement during the service. Looking into making bulk purchases.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08pm.

The next regular vestry meeting will be on **Monday, April 15th at 5:30p.m.**

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

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