



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✕ November 2020

Reverently Speaking

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 Peter 4:10

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

There was an American businessman by the name of Wilson. He was tired of the Great Depression, rising taxes, and increasing crime. So in 1940 he sold his home and business and moved to an island in the South Pacific to get away from it all. Balmy and ringed with beautiful beaches, it was a paradise. Sounds like the perfect setting, doesn't it? The name of that island was Iwo Jima.

If you know your military history, Iwo Jima was an island where fierce fighting between American forces and the Japanese took place in 1945.

Compare that story to the life of Booker T. Washington. Washington started life as a black American slave. At the age of sixteen, he walked almost five hundred miles from his slave home to Hampton Institute in Virginia. When he got there, he was told that classes were already filled. But that didn't stop him. He took a job at the school doing menial jobs: sweeping floors and making beds and anything they wanted just so he could be around the environment of learning.

He did these jobs so well that the faculty found room for him as a student. He worked his way up at the school, became a famous teacher, the first black faculty member at Hampton Institute. He became a writer and the author of "Up From Slavery." He was a popular public speaker. And he eventually founded Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, where he brought George Washington Carver to teach and do all his research which changed and improved farming techniques.

Booker T. Washington used it and we all gained from it.

UCLA basketball coach John Wooden may have said it best, "Don't let what you can't do interfere with what you can do!"

The same holds true in our giving and in the use of our gifts and graces in the life of the church and in service to Christ. We can't let what we can't do get in the way of what we can do or what God can do through us.

Maybe your finances are in such a shape that you can't tithe. Or maybe you can't give because you're out of work and there is nothing to give. That's OK. God knows your heart. God knows what you want to be able to do, so don't let the fact that you can't give what you want to give keep you from doing what you can. Continue to invest yourself.

You see, you can support the church and invest in God's work with your presence, your prayers and your service until you get back on your feet and you can support it with your gifts. *(continued)*

If tithing is the issue for you, then challenge yourself, as a spiritual quest, to grow 1% at a time until you are tithing. Don't be a hoarder. Invest yourself in the Church.

"Don't let what you can't do interfere with what you can do!" You have to use it or lose it.

Do you remember Jack Benny? He always did the same routine over and over again. A robber comes up to him and says, "Your money or your life?" There is no answer. Then the question again: "Your money or your life?" Benny still doesn't say anything. The robber says it a third time: "Your money or your life?" Jack Benny finally answers: "I'm thinking, I'm thinking."

That's really what stewardship is all about. It's definitely what stewardship campaigns are all about, to get us thinking about our relationship with God through Christ. It's not really about your money or your life. The truth is, if you've given your life to Christ, He already has your life. And if he has "all of you" then "all of you," including your money, is invested in Him.

You see, the church isn't an organization you give dues to. The church is the body of Christ made up of disciples who have surrendered their lives to Him. The Christian faith is a cause we invest our lives in because we've been given new life. We have to lose it to gain it and once we've gained it, we have to use it or lose it.

Remember that Jesus saves and we're called to invest in a life that honors Him and brings glory to God. What will you give to St. Andrew's in 2021?

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese

THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE

Choral Eucharist

Thursday, November 26 - 10:00 a.m.



A wonderful day of the year to give thanks to our God!

Outreach News

Thanksgiving Boxes of Hope

The holidays are upon us and this year we are asking for monetary gifts rather than the traditional food purchases for Metropolitan Ministries Thanksgiving Dinner. If you are able to help, please purchase a gift card from Publix or donate to the church with the memo line 'Thanksgiving.' All donations have to be received and delivered to Metropolitan Ministries by November 11th. Any amount is appreciated. Please feel free to contact Sue MacIsaac (813-382-8790) with any questions or concerns.



Helping Hands Looking for More Hands

Our Helping Hands Community is looking for more members. During the initial segment of our COVID 19 pandemic our Helping Hands were postured and ready to provide support to members of the parish as needed and as appropriate. With our church slowly returning to normalcy, Helping Hands wants to be ready to be able to provide a variety of support to our church community. To do that well, they are looking for generous, hard working, kind, and compassionate ladies to join their ranks. IF you are interested in being a member of the Helping Hands Community, please contact Lynn Dorman via email (lynnd1125@gmail.com) or phone (404-293-0395) or grab her after church.

2020 Gabriel Tree Project

Despite the 2020 challenges, the Outreach Committee is committed to the Gabriel Tree Project, where parishioners provide gifts and clothing for children at two local schools. The process this year, however, will be different.

Those wishing to donate can do so in one of three ways:

- A. Select a child's name, purchase and wrap the gifts, and drop them off at the Parish Hall by Sunday December 6th or any time earlier.
- B. Select a child's name and make your donation to St Andrew's, noting the child you selected and how much to spend. The Parish Elf will shop, wrap and deliver your gifts to the church, and you will receive a thank you note with a photo of the items purchased with your donation.
- C. Send a donation for the program to the Church and the Parish Elf will select a child and shop/wrap for you. Again, you will be notified of the child's name and gifts purchased.

We are starting earlier this year. Each Wednesday, the parish email shout out includes a list of children's names, sizes and wish gifts. We have reduced the number of children covered, but if the response is strong then we can and will add more names to the list.

Stewardship 2021

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

It's that time of year again: fall, football, and ...Stewardship!

Stewardship is a time for each of us to consider thoughtfully and prayerfully the many ways St. Andrew's plays an important part of our lives. What does St. Andrew's mean to us? How is that meaning reflected in our pledges to the Stewardship Campaign?

Yes, unquestionably 2020 has been difficult and challenging, but challenge also can represent opportunity and growth. We have much to be thankful about at St. Andrew's. We have adapted to the challenges and we are using these opportunities to grow. We have vastly expanded and improved our audiovisual capabilities and remote/virtual services. Even with changes in service attendance necessitated by the pandemic, we remain financially sound and strong. We run a lean and frugal budget, but one which allows us to maintain a beautiful parish, offer beautiful worship, and serve our community. Your pledges make all of this possible.

Thank you for your generous support in last year's campaign and in this year's donations. I ask you please, now, to renew (and perhaps to increase) your 2021 pledge. Included is a 2021 pledge card. If you've not done so already, please send it in. Consider the amount you pledge, and bear in mind how it reflects your relationship with St. Andrew's.

If anyone has any questions or wants to discuss making a financial pledge to St. Andrew's, please feel free to contact me.

Cordially,

Gray Sanders

L. Gray Sanders
Senior Warden

FAITH·FILLED GENEROSITY: my 2021 pledge

In gratitude for God's many blessings, I/we pledge \$_____.

I/we plan to fulfill this pledge ____weekly, ____monthly, ____semiannually, ____annually.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

___ Please contact me about including the church in my estate plans.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 E. Twiggs St. Tampa, FL 33602

Adult Christian Education

Adult Christian Education Sunday mornings at 9:30

Explore the most popular sermon ever delivered!

The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7, contains some of Jesus' most profound and most memorable teachings. What might these teachings have meant to his disciples and to the others who first heard them? How do they enhance our reading of the rest of the Gospel of Matthew, and how do they speak across the centuries to listeners today? How, if we pay careful attention to his words, does Jesus provide us a road map to living as God would have us live?

In the six-session DVD series *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine introduces the major topics in the Sermon on the Mount, explains historical and theological contexts, and shows how the words of Jesus echo his Jewish tradition and speak forward to reach hearts and minds today. Dr. Levine is professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Here is the rest of the line-up:

11/8 - Our Father

11/15 - Finding Your Treasure

11/22 - Living into the Kingdom

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

Youth News

Children's Ministry - This coming Sunday, November 8th, we will be having children's Sunday School via Zoom. It will run from 9:30 to 10:10 and will be hosted by our awesome Donreece. If you would like your children to participate, please contact me and we will send you a link for Sunday. Advent starts on November 29th. We have Advent calendars for the kids/youth and we want to make it a children's function while social distancing. There will be ways to interact throughout Advent and I would really encourage you do this with your children. We have the calendars here and would love to get one to you! All you need to do is contact me, Victor Van Pelt, at either 813-898-3415 or christianed@saintandrewstampa.org with your information and I will get this right out to you.

Youth Ministry- We are continuing with our bi-weekly zoom meetings for the youth this Saturday, November 7th at 11:00am. It's not too late to get involved, so if you have some youth, have them contact me and we will get them in. We are still running Sunday School for the youth as well on Sundays from 9:30 to 10:10. We should have the kinks worked out of the invites via outlook and hope to see everyone this Sunday. Youth not involved yet? Just send me their info and I will get a link to them for class. I can be reached at either 813-898-3415 or christianed@saintandrewstampa.org

September Vestry Meeting Highlights

Present via Zoom: Father Reese, Ingrid Muellerleile, Gary Cotter, Sue MacIsaac, Lynn Dorman, Jennifer Richardson, Don Crawford, Peter Baker, Donreece Brown, Ben Borsch, Gray Sanders, Jim Morgan, George Levy, Jennifer Smith, Anita Ramirez, Piers Curry.

Absent: none

The meeting was opened with prayer at 5:30p.m.

Peter made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 20th Vestry meeting. The motion was seconded by Sue. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 9/14/20, there was \$190,018 in ops account and \$88,414 in the parish reserve account.

As of 9/14/20, there was \$23,227 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry.

Via an email vote on 6/30/20, vestry approved the new audio visual project for the church, along with a phone/internet upgrade for offices, parish building, and church. Foundation made initial payments of \$2,403.68 to PBX-Change (total cost is \$4,807.35), \$1,122.60 to ACCI (total cost is \$2,245.20), and \$7,589.95 to Layton A/V Audio Visual Solutions (total cost is \$15,179.91).

We have another \$33,473 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: \$20,000 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.

And there was \$2,598,360 in the Foundation principal as of 6/30/20, as opposed to \$2,785,795 as of 12/31/19, a decrease of \$187,435 for the year to date. Also, the Foundation recently received a gift of \$10,000 from a parishioner in support of the church AV upgrade. *Huzzah!*

There is also approximately \$99,000 in the Dan Curtis fund fbo St. Andrew's within the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, with \$3,116 in grant money left available for 2020. This fund is designated for church maintenance purposes. (We recently paid out \$5,500 from this fund to repair the northwest corner of the church roof. We are now leak-free in the church!)

Sesquicentennial Celebration – St. Andrew's turns 150 in 2021. We are hoping to have Choral Evensong on All Saints' Day, Sunday, 11/1 at 5PM. But with the coronus amongus, the rest of the program year remains murky.

Virtual Church – continues unabated. With Coleman returning to singing duties, Paul Scheuer is now manning the phone at the 10:30 broadcast. Paul reports that we have several parishioners willing to become part of the broadcast ministry team that will run the new video system that will be installed in late October. They will all receive training from the Layton representative.

In-Person Church – resumed on Sunday, June 14th. After doing Morning Prayer for three months, the 10:30 service reverted back to its usual Holy Eucharist format on September 6th. The average in-person attendance at both services combined (8 and 10:30) was 50 in July and 59 in August. We had 69 at the Sunday services on

September 2020 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$23,982	\$48,385	\$387,978	\$435,468
Expenses	\$53,167	\$48,385	\$417,365	\$435,469
Net	(\$29,184)	\$0	(\$ 29,386)	\$0

9/13. Our normal summer in-person attendance averages about 150.

There is Adult Christian Education at 9:30AM in the third floor library. There is no nursery, children's Sunday School, Children's Chapel, or coffee hour. Victor will launch a 9:30AM Zoom Sunday school class for kids starting 10/4.

New Vestments & Altar Hangings – Parish recently received the gift of new green vestments and altar hangings. This set made its debut on 9/13. The old set of green vestments has been donated to a church in Africa. We still have our second set of green vestments and hangings, which we used this past summer and will continue to utilize in the future, in tandem with the new green set.

Church audio visual project update – Via an email vote on 6/30/20, vestry approved the new audio visual project for the church, along with a phone/internet upgrade for offices, parish building, and church. We confirmed this at the July vestry meeting. Total payments will be \$4,807.35 to PBX-Change, \$2,245.20 to ACCI, and \$15,179.91 to Layton A/V Audio Visual Solutions, all to be paid from Foundation funds. PBX-Change and ACCI have completed the new internet/phone set-up. Layton's portion should be completed in late October (there is a backlog for the numerous cameras that we are ordering). In the meantime, we shall continue to broadcast with a phone on a stick.

The new, recurring, monthly phone/internet bill with PBX-Change will be \$724.35, as opposed to our current \$600 per month with Proximiti. Thus, there will be an annual increase of about \$1,500 for phone/internet services.

Lumina Choirs – We have a proposal from them to continue to rent the 3rd floor classroom for the program year. None of their choirs will be using our facilities during the next year due to the plague. Perhaps they will return next fall – who knows?

Sue made a motion that Peter draft a document agreeing to the \$100 monthly payment offered by Lumina, accepted on a month to month basis and to be reviewed monthly. Anita seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Pet Blessing – in church courtyard on Saturday, 10/3 at 10AM.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT—Gray Sanders

Gray stated he is moving forward with forming a committee to complete the church inventory. He informed the Vestry that we have received paperwork regarding litigation for a slip and fall that occurred last year on the church steps. It is being reviewed by the church's carrier.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – George Levy

George reported that despite the heavy rains, no leaks have been discovered in the church. Since four of the metal posts in the courtyard entrance gate (Marion St.) had to be replaced, proactively, George floated the possibility of painting the fence to give it a protective coating against future rust problems.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Piers Curry

Piers reported that he has gone through proactive year end planning with Father Reese and Pam, with the conclusion that we have had a very good year despite the COVID crisis. Plate offerings and non-pledge offerings are off. Pledge monies are good into August. Parishioners have kept up very well with their pledges. A few concerns were expressed regarding end of year funds to be received, as we are not sure what the normal push at year end will look like. With the PPP it looks like St. Andrew's will end up in the black, and he plans to carry over the PPP funds into 2021 to offset any deficits that may occur.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OUTREACH:

Sue reported that since taking back the daily homeless lunch, they are feeding approx. 90-100 daily. Metro Ministries Mobile Brigade Team is helping the homeless on Fridays, to obtain birth certificates and ID's. Further investigation will take place regarding adding medical care by the team. The Brigade is planning to distribute hot meals for Thanksgiving. She reported that the school supplies drive went well. Plans are being made to continue with Gabriel's Giving Tree again this year. Sue was pleased to announce that a very generous gift was received for the project.

HELPING HANDS:

Lynn reported that they were in need of volunteers.

STEWARDSHIP:

Gary reported that he attended the Horizon Stewardship Zoom meeting. He plans to use key points from the meeting regarding how to approach our parish. He reported that average giving to churches nationally is \$1200 annually, and reminded the Vestry that COVID allows a \$300 tax deductible donation for 2020. He asked for volunteers to speak in front of the parishioners in October/November how relationships and giving affect their lives at St. Andrew's.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



TURKEY DINNERS FOR METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES

(see page 3 for how you can help)



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@](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.