



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ October 2024

Reverently Speaking

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

Isaiah 43:2

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

A scary few days, eh? Millions of people are suffering from the effects of Helene. Where is God in all this? People have long called hurricanes and other like events an "act of God." The Bible suggests so. The prophet Ezekiel believed that God used tremendous storms as a weapon to punish the unrighteous: "Thus says the Lord GOD: In my wrath I will make a stormy wind break out, and in my anger there shall be a deluge of rain, and hailstones in wrath..." Likewise the Psalmist catalogues those elements of the natural world that follow God's commands: "fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind..." The most famous of all the stories is Noah and the flood. The biblical view is simply this: God controls this world...and that means nature too.

The story of Noah leads some folks to believe that God uses nature as a weapon. Years ago, that eminent theologian, Tammy Faye Bakker, declared that Hurricane Hugo's destructive visit to Charlotte was God's vengeance on the city for the mean treatment Jim Bakker got in the pages of the Charlotte Observer (although she never explained why the steeple of First Presbyterian Church was damaged but nothing happened to the newspaper building). In the late 1980s a hurricane headed toward Pat Robertson's headquarters in Virginia Beach. Pat said he prayed that the storm would be diverted, and it was (it made landfall at some neighboring city). He never did explain though, why, if his prayer was so powerful, he did not just pray that the storm head harmlessly out to sea.

Why do we have hurricanes? Hurricanes arrive, not because God is out to get some sinful city, but because the prevailing winds, ocean currents and frontal zones combine in ways that create them. This is so in good times and bad and without respect to the moral climate or condition of the people who happen to be living in a storm's path. Jesus made it plain. We remember it in the venerable phrasing of the King James Version: "[God] maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

It is interesting that that statement occurs in the context of Jesus' teaching on love: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous." The point, of course, is that God cares about ALL of us, even those we might not be getting along with at the moment.

We can add to that those we do not even know, and that is one of those wonderful side effects of disasters like Hurricane Helene. There are all sorts of agencies and entities that are ramping up to aid folks from Florida up to North Carolina. And there are a countless number of volunteers who have been helping with clean-up and repair. People WILL reach out to other people.

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I remain convinced that God's hand IS in the midst of events like Hurricane Helene - not managing the weather but managing human response. There are stories of true heroism. If you've been watching the news at all, you have seen many people doing heroic things in the aftermath of Helene. Last weekend, while cleaning out the garage at the rectory, we had several folks walking by stop and offer to help. Some we knew from the neighborhood, some we had never met before.

Hurricane Helene was a bad and dangerous experience and one that I never wish to repeat. But the strong winds that were ahead of us last week were the winds of kindness, friendship, courtesy and love. Not even the dangerous winds and storm surge of this deadly hurricane could ever change the determination, the fortitude or the compassion of the many wonderful people who have come together to help one another.

Yes, we have had a scary few days, but Helene is gone now. Thank God. But another will come...and another and another. Such is the cycle of nature. Where will God be? Right where God always is. In the words of Isaiah, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."

I pray

- that we remember God is not in the wind, fire, or earthquake but with us always;
- that people will love the creator more than the creation so much that losing everything will be nothing compared with what could be lost;
- that we keep a sense of humor;
- that we remember God is still in charge;
- that in the midst of rebuilding our material world, we nourish our souls

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese

Make a Pledge for 2025

Please return your pledge card for 2025 as soon as possible. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail, cards are available at the back of the church, in the Parish Hall, or through the parish office (813-221-2035).

Make a commitment and support St. Andrew's in the coming year.

Youth News

Sunday, October 6, 2024 & Sunday, October 13, 2024 - after services we will have signups for the annual Halloween house Extravaganza! Please see me in the Parish Hall on either date to sign up for this fabulously fun annual event! We need as many youth & families volunteering as possible!

Friday, October 25, 2024 from 6-8pm - St. Andrew's Annual Halloween House Extravaganza! Please mark your calendars, invite friends & neighbors, and join in this free, fun event!

Please contact aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com if you have any questions.

Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30

Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith

Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? How can we know? Often, we treat such questions as the enemy of faith. But uncertainty doesn't mean our belief is lacking. Doubt can be a path to a deeper, richer encounter with God.

In *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith*, join best-selling author and pastor Adam Hamilton as he discusses some of our most significant sources of doubt and shows how a steady trust in God can emerge from them.

Hamilton approaches these sources of doubt with honesty and insight, drawing on the rich wisdom of the Bible, Christian tradition, and his experience walking with thousands of people on their spiritual journeys. Though you may wrestle with doubt, you'll discover a faith that—rather than providing simple answers—includes belief and trust as well as uncertainty and mystery.

Here is the rest of the line-up:

10/6 – When Prayers Go Unanswered

10/13 – Why Do the Innocent Suffer?

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

Drew, Taylor, Eli and Grayson Meriwether

✠

Baptisms

Aiden Michael Kennington

Jacob Riley Kennington

✠

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU



This is the well known slogan of the Episcopal Church and it can be found on signs outside churches around the country, including outside St. Andrew's. And as I prepared for this year's stewardship campaign, I found myself thinking about what it means to be welcome somewhere.

We all know what that feels like from visiting a grandparent, a favorite relative, or a close friend; walking into their home knowing you are loved without exception and with no strings attached. I then realized that every welcome started with the same thing – an open door inviting me to come inside.

For over 150 years, St. Andrew's doors have been open for us, our families, and our community. In a city that has grown rapidly and in a world that seems to be becoming more impersonal, distant, and disconnected, St. Andrew's has been and continues to be a place with open doors that offers everyone an unconditional welcome.

St. Andrew's open doors lead to something different for everyone. For my family, we came to St. Andrew's without a lot of experience with organized religion and we found a church focused on building a loving relationship with God that welcomed us. When my wife met with Father Reese to discuss having our family baptized, we assumed there would be some class or test we would need to take. Instead, we found that we were welcome to be baptized simply because we wanted to be part of St. Andrew's; no other conditions or strings attached. For you, what was on the other side of St. Andrew's open doors may be the church's tradition, the friends you have made here, the beautiful music provided by Dr. Ryan Hebert and the choir, the children's and youth ministry led by Alicia Schmid, the opportunities to participate in worship support, the homeless lunch program, or St. Andrew's many other ministries and programs.

When I walk up to St. Andrew's doors, I see an institution that has existed for 150 years and a building that has stood for 120 years. The church's sturdy wooden doors and strong concrete walls make St. Andrew's seem like it will stand forever; that it is inevitable. But we know from our own lives that nothing lasts forever – family, friendships, our community, our society, even our relationship with God – unless it is cared for, loved, and maintained. And that also is true for St. Andrew's and its open doors. St. Andrew's is not inevitable, its open doors will not always be open, unless we hold them open.

St. Andrew's members for over 150 years held the doors open for their families and for us. Now it is our job to do the same for our families and future congregants.

As you fill out and return your pledge card, take some time think about the people who held St. Andrew's doors open for you, about the first time you walked through them, about why you keep walking through them today, and make a pledge to St. Andrew's to help keep its doors open now and far into the future.

Sincerely,
Don Crawford

Recital

From the churches of J. S. Bach to the theatres of Broadway's Jason Robert Brown, the recital promises to be a full program of pieces throughout the ages. We will explore a range of emotions and stories from the thought-provoking and miserable lows of Schubert's *Die Winterreise* to the beauty and ardor of the sea in Faure's *L'Horizon Chimerique*. Enjoy an evening in St. Andrew's fantastic sanctuary (an acoustic wonderland in many ways) and travel the world with Marshall Corzette on **Sunday, October 27th at 5PM.**

All Saints' Evensong

Please join us for candlelight **Choral Evensong on Sunday, November 3 at 5:00p.m.**

Evensong is the quintessential prayer service of the Anglican tradition and is almost entirely sung. Since we do this service only once a year, please take advantage of this opportunity. The music will commemorate the faithful departed and will honor the vast numbers of parishioners who have gone onto their heavenly rest, and whose lives and service helped shape our beloved church.

The Louise Lykes Ferguson Memorial Choir will sing anthems by John Goss and William Harris and a Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis setting in B-flat by Stanford. We hope you will join us for this beautiful service on All Saints' Sunday.

Please plan to attend and to invite a friend! A reception will follow in the parish hall.

New Assisting Priest

The Rector is pleased to announce that The Rev. Ralph M. Campbell II will be joining the staff as Assisting Priest, effective October 1. Fr. Rick will be with us each Sunday morning, will preach about one Sunday per month, and provide pastoral care and visitation of the homebound and shut-ins.

Fr. Campbell was raised in Ohio and graduated from Ohio University in 1969 with a BA in history. Responding to the Lord's call, he attended The General Theological Seminary in New York and received a Masters of Divinity degree in church history in 1973. He was ordained a priest on November 30th, 1975.

Fr. Campbell served in the Diocese of Oregon from 1974 to 2005 and was Rector of St Timothy's, Salem, for 26 years. He developed a comprehensive prayer-book based Christian formation process from pre-school to adult using Episcopal resources - Godly Play for children, Journey to Adulthood for teens, the Catechumenate for adults preparing for Holy Baptism, and Cursillo. During his tenure at St Timothy's, Fr. Rick brought the parish to self-supporting status, and guided the parish in a \$500,000 building expansion.

In 2006 Fr. Campbell became Rector of St Ann's Parish, Sayville, Long Island, retiring in 2010 and moving to Florida in 2011. He is licensed to serve not only in the Diocese of Long Island, where he is a canonically resident priest in good standing, but also in the Diocese of Ohio and the Diocese of Southwest Florida. He served as the Assisting Priest here at St. Andrew's from 2016 until 2020, when he was called to be Priest-in-Charge at St. Elizabeth's in Zephyr Hills.

Fr. Rick is honored to be called as assisting priest at St Andrew's. He believes it is a privilege to serve all of you. He looks forward to a fulfilling ministry at St Andrew's through worship, teaching, and pastoral care.

August Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 8/12/24, there was \$153,666 in ops account and \$76,959 in the parish reserve account.

As of 7/31/24, there was \$77,006 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry. (37K of this will pay Alto for parking lot re-paving and 12K will pay Griffin for the new AC unit in the church, which is being installed on 8/13.)

Total available funds from principal for years 2021 thru 2024: \$332,459.

There was \$3,302,999 in the Foundation principal as of 7/23/24 (as opposed to \$3,092,638 at the end of 2023, an increase of \$210,361 for the year).

There is also \$119,139 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 about 3K. (We spent \$9,582 from this fund to repair leaks in the church roof this year. Sutter Roofing is coming out on 8/14 to address the remaining leak in the NW corner of the church.)

Scuba Vacation Bible School – was the week of 8/6 through 8/9. Monday, 8/5 was rained out by Debby. Good turnout of around 26 kids. Many thanks to Alicia Schmid and all the volunteers (both teens and adults) who made this a fun week for the wee ones.

Vestry Retreat – is Saturday, 9/7 at DaySpring. Plan on meeting from 9AM until 3PM.

Parish Audit – done and submitted to Diocese.

Foundation Audit – Victoria and Don are heading this up. We will approve it at vestry meeting and then submit it to the diocese by the due date of 9/1.

Eric Hargens moved that we approve the Audit as submitted. Barbara Brotherton seconded. The Foundation Audit was unanimously approved.

Deanery Convocation – for Diocesan convention delegates is on Wednesday, 9/4 at 7PM at St. Mark's, Tampa. Our delegates are Allison, Martha, Wayne, and Piers (alternate). The convention is on Saturday, 10/12 in Punta Gorda.

Rally Day – is Sunday, 9/8 after the 10:30 service.

Oktoberfest – is on Sunday, 9/22, after the 10:30 service.

Annual Campaign – set to launch at the end of September, as per our custom. Don Crawford is chairing the stewardship campaign.

Foundation Board – the death of Jerry Divers resulted in a vacancy on the Foundation Board. This slot is the one that is appointed by the Rector. I have appointed Gray Sanders to this position, which expires in February 2026.

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August 2024 Operating Summary				
	MTD Actual	MTD Budgeted	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted
Revenues	\$62,893	\$55,061	\$359,788	\$440,495
Expenses	\$47,535	\$55,061	\$475,172	\$440,495
Net	\$15,357	\$0	(\$115,384)	\$0

Vestry Resignation – Holly Clemmons has resigned from the vestry due to personal reasons. The vestry can appoint someone to serve out the rest of Holly’s term, which ends in February 2026. Jennifer Smith, who served on vestry 2019-2022, is willing to serve again. Barabara Brotherton moved that Jennifer Smith replace Holly Clemmons on the vestry for the remainder of her term. Brad Hall seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Father Stadel is retiring at the end of September. John suggested having a party for him at the end of September. Father Rick Campbell will be replacing him Oct. 1.

Church Property Insurance is the seconded biggest expense and will be increasing. The Diocese is offering an option to raise the deductible from 2% to 3%. 20.91% increase versus 13.5% increase. John recommended taking the higher deductible deal. Don Crawford moved that the vestry raise the deductible from 2% to 3% and all perils to \$10,000. Barbara Brotherton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next vestry meeting will be on **Saturday, September 7th** during the vestry retreat.

SENIOR WARDEN’S REPORT

Piers would like to go over the planned giving format at the retreat. Also, to consider while the Foundation value grows, what can we do at the Church level to best utilize these funds. He also pointed out that people are more responsive to planned giving when there’s an actual plan.

Fr. Reese noted that we may have to make an insurance payment from Foundation funds if we have a budget deficit next year.

JUNIOR WARDEN’S REPORT

Richard reported that the southwest corner AC was replaced. Sutter, the same roofer that fixed previous leaks, looked at the leak in the northwest corner of the sanctuary and did repairs. Waiting for the report.

Executive committee received a quote to remove the plants around the parking lot and mulch it with new edges. Proposal is for \$9,929. Richard Chapman moved to approve the low maintenance proposal from Oasis to spend \$9,929 from Foundation funds to mulch the parking lot edges and remove the bushes. Brad Hall seconded. The vestry unanimously approved the \$9,929 low maintenance proposal, to be paid from Foundation funds.

Martha said the gate on Marion street is not locking properly. Richard suggested new push bars.

TREASURER’S REPORT

June’s revenue was down 37% for contributions. Parking lot revenue was also under budget. Expenses were fine. Contributions were coming up a little. Wallace asked about the \$81,000 deficit. Eric said he’s not concerned because a lot of contributions come in Quarter 4, especially in December.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach Report – Martha said 21 bags plus supplies and uniforms were taken to Dunbar Elementary. Then there were more bags for a total of 36.

Youth group is up and running. They are redoing the room on the 6th floor.

Parish Life- Allison volunteered to organize party for Fr. Stadel after 10:30 service on 9/29.

Homeless Ministry- Paul said Metropolitan Ministries would love to be invited to events that benefit them.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Blessing of the Pets
Saturday, October 5, 10:00a.m.
in the church courtyard

IF WE COULD TALK TO THE ANIMALS: PETS REFLECT ON THEIR OWNERS



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

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Deadline for articles for

The Call: 15th of each month

for the following month's

newsletter. Submit articles to

Lauri in the church office.