



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

# THE CALL

*Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!*

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ October 2022

## *Reverently Speaking*

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses ...*

Hebrews 12:1

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

Back in 1976, at a meeting of the Homebrew Computer Club of Palo Alto, California, Steve Wozniak unveiled a new computer. He and his business partner, Steve Jobs, had just invented it. Its plastic keyboard poked up through an opening in a wooden case — yes, a wooden case (how quaint!) They called it the Apple I. It was the first commercially successful personal computer.

Some of us have been personal computer users since the 1980s, or even earlier. We witnessed changes that came along in rapid succession, particularly in storage capacity. We went from floppy disks to CD-ROMs. Then the internet and World Wide Web arrived and connected us in ways we couldn't have imagined just a few years before. But then came another marvel, a technological development you couldn't hold in your hand, or even visualize with your eyes: that mysterious reality known as "the cloud." For most of us, that's where our data resides today. Many of our machines no longer even offer a slot to load up a CD-ROM.

Everything syncs to the cloud automatically. You scarcely have to worry about losing your family photos or documents. They're out there, safely squirreled away in the cloud!

But cloud computing, on which so many of us depend, is not the original cloud. That distinction belongs to another cloud — one that's equally invisible, more mysterious and harder to wrap our minds around. You can read about it in Hebrews: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses ..." (12:1). A great cloud of witnesses surrounds us, says this anonymous apostle. And who are these witnesses, this vast cloud of people who surround us on every side? The preceding verses lay it all out for us.

The apostle writes to us of faith, held by Abraham and Sarah, Jacob and Joseph, Moses and the whole company of wandering Israelites. Even the prostitute Rahab — that colorful Mata Hari character who helps Joshua fight the Battle of Jericho — deserves a plaque in the Hebrews Hall of Fame.

It's a cloud of *witnesses*: martyrs of the faith who bore courageous — and occasionally grisly — witness to God's bottomless justice and love. They bear witness still, as they live on in this mysterious cloud that is eternal life.

The letter to the Hebrews was written to Christian believers who are suffering for their faith. This is a church undergoing hard persecution. The writer of this letter — their pastor, in modern terms — is wishing for them the spiritual gift of endurance, so they can get through this season of heartache and one day bask in God's glory in this life or the next.

So, what do you say to someone who's suffering? Lots of us struggle to find the words. Let's say you have a friend or family member in the hospital. You know things aren't going so well, medically. The doctors can make the patient comfortable, but they can't make it all better.

*(continued)*

You're thinking about making a visit to the hospital, but you hesitate. You don't know what to say. You want to find some pearl of spiritual wisdom to share, but you're coming up blank.

There are those familiar platitudes:

- "Everything happens for a reason."
- "God never gives us more than we can handle."
- "Just hang in there, things will get better."
- "Keep thinking positive thoughts."
- "I know exactly how you feel." (*No, you don't.* No one knows exactly how another person feels, ever.)

None of these sayings are likely to bring much comfort. They're the kind of thing we say to another person to make *ourselves* feel better.

The best thing to do is just *be* there. Have you heard the adage, "95% of life is showing up"? That's especially true of sitting with someone who's suffering. You don't need to say much of anything. But your mere presence says more than words ever could. During this post-hurricane time, go ahead and reach out to someone you know who has suffered because of Ian.

When you spend quality time with a suffering person — when you practice the ministry of presence — you take your place among the crowd of witnesses. You're just one among many, but your presence reminds your friend there are many others.

Keep an eye out for signs of that cloud of witnesses, both living and dead. They have a way of finding us when we need them most. They have a way of directing us to the God of peace. So get out there — and join the cloud.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese



Come join us for the return of our annual Oktoberfest celebration on **Sunday, October 16** following the **10:30AM** service hosted by your Outreach Committee. Brats, spaetzle, cabbage rolls, sauerkraut, German beer and more! Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Proceeds will benefit Metropolitan Ministries during their Thanksgiving food drive.

### Save The Date

Remember Sunday, November 20, 2022!! This is the special day that the church dedicates the St. Andrew's Mosaic in the Columbarium. After the 10:30 service, the 150th Anniversary Gift from the parishioners will be dedicated. A luncheon will be provided after the dedication to the parishioners. Watch for your invitation in the mail. And remember, you must RSVP in order to attend the luncheon. We look forward to seeing everyone as we gather for fellowship.

## Youth News



## Adult Christian Education

### Sunday mornings at 9:30

#### *The Difficult Words of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings*

Jesus provided his disciples teachings for how to follow Torah, God's word; he told them parables to help them discern questions of ethics and of human nature; he offered them beatitudes for comfort and encouragement. But sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult. He instructs disciples to hate members of their own families (Luke 14:26), to act as if they were slaves (Matthew 20:27), and to sell their belongings and give to the poor (Luke 18:22). He restricts his mission (Matthew 10:6); he speaks of damnation (Matthew 8:12); he calls Jews the devil's children (John 8:44).

In *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine shows how these difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how they have been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation.

The six-session DVD features Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Here is the rest of the line-up:

10/9 – Outer Darkness

10/16 – Your Father the Devil

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

## Sunday mornings at 9:30

### ***The Last Supper on the Moon: The Ocean of Space, the Mystery of Grace, and the Life Jesus Died for You to Have***

Have you ever noticed that all throughout your life, the moon has been staring at you? Its presence in the sky is constant, yet impossible to fully grasp. The wonder of it caused David to write, "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them?" (Psalm 8:3-4).

Centuries later, the pull of the moon led John F. Kennedy to make a declaration that the United States would send men to walk on its surface--a goal realized with the historic Apollo 11 mission. What's lesser known is that moments before leaving the lander, Buzz Aldrin partook of a special meal--the *Last Supper on the moon*. The lunar Last Supper was full of meaning, just as it had been when Jesus first took of the elements with his disciples.

In this five-session DVD study, author and pastor Levi Lusko journeys back in time and forward in hope, using the 1969 lunar mission as an analogy of God's mission of salvation. Along the way, he explores the wonder of God's love in sending Jesus from "outer space" to die for your sins--and how that incredible love has the power to transform your "inner space."

Here is the line-up:

10/23 – Crisis in the Skies

10/30 – Prepare for Lift Off

11/6 – Obstacles in Orbit

11/13 – Mission Accomplished

11/20 – The Journey Home

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

## Reading Group Volunteers

Do you have an hour a week to help facilitate a reading group in one of our City's Transformation schools? Our school, Dunbar Elementary, is in the heart of our city at the intersection of Rome and Main streets. Please go to the Hillsborough County School District website and complete the SERVE form, indicating Dunbar Elementary. Once completed and approved, please email me and I'll send out the electronic sign up sheet. Thank you for helping me to transform our youth. [VictoriaKlug1@gmail.com](mailto:VictoriaKlug1@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Victoria Klug

813-774-1246 (text is best)

## Concert for All Saints' Sunday

This year we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday with a choral concert. The centerpiece of the concert will be John Rutter's most beloved masterwork, Requiem, as well as other anthems to commemorate the faithful departed. The concert will take place on **All Saints' Sunday, November 6 at 5 PM**, and it will be free and open to the public, although donations will be accepted at the door. A reception will follow in the parish hall.

We hope that you will plan to join us and invite your friends for this concert featuring the Louise Lykes Ferguson Memorial Choir and professional chamber orchestra, under the direction of Ryan Hebert and Coleman Flentge.

If you would be interested in sponsoring one of the chamber orchestra musicians (\$500 each) in honor or memory of a loved one, (cello, flute, timpani, harp, glockenspiel, oboe, and organ) please contact Pam Frost in the office (813-221-2035). And we thank you for your generous support of the Friends of Music at Saint Andrew's!

If you can help with set up, clean up and/or bring a dish to share for the reception following the concert, please contact Loueita Hargens at 813-760-9052.

## Outreach

The Outreach Committee is kicking off our annual *Metropolitan Ministries Thanksgiving Boxes of Hope*. We are asking that you purchase and bring to church the following items based on the first letter of your last name:

A-E: gravy, cereal, canned fruit, canned yams

F-M: bagged or canned beans (black, pinto, refried), cranberry sauce, peanut butter, boxed macaroni and cheese, canned vegetables

N-Z: bagged or boxed stuffing, bagged rice (yellow or white), canned or boxed potatoes, dessert mix, cookies

Labeled boxes are provided in the Parish Hall for your food donations. Gift cards for turkeys are also welcome, as are check donations made out to St. Andrew's with "Turkey Pack" in the memo line. Metropolitan Ministries has a critical need this holiday season to serve Tampa's less fortunate population, so let's make this our best year of giving ever!

## Donations to Saint Andrew's Foundation



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Jane Collins**  
Hugh Martin



## Blankets for the Homeless

For the next several months the Homeless Ministry will be collecting blankets. If you have any unused blankets taking up space, please bring them to church and put them on the table in the annex by the side entry door heading towards the playground. Also, we are always looking for volunteers.

Please call Sue MacIsaac 813-382-8790 for information.

# August Vestry Meeting Highlights

## RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 8/1/22, there was \$159,387 in ops account and \$78,713 in the parish reserve account.

As of 6/30/22, there was \$21,119 in the Foundation's checking acct– monies available to the vestry.

We have \$20,659 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. (On 1/27/21, \$20,000 of the \$75,659 allocated for 2018 was transferred from the principal to the checking account. On 7/21/21, another \$20,000 from the 2018 allocation was transferred from the principal to the checking account. On 10/5/21, another \$15,000 was transferred from the principal to the checking account.)

We have \$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 \$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 \$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.

Total available funds from principal for years 2018 thru 2022: \$328,011.

There was \$2,725,845 in the Foundation principal as of 6/30/22, as opposed to \$3,218,925 on 12/31/21 (a decrease of \$493,080 for the year to date).

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.

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 by autumn.

Columbarium Project – Mosaic is a work in progress (we recently paid \$2,500 from the Foundation to kick start the project). We are currently advertising this giving opportunity parish-wide. As of 8/1, 46 donors have given \$14,725 for this project. Price quote from the artist is \$10,120 for the mural and \$1,840 for travel and installation (for a total of \$11,960). Artist will install it the weekend of September 17/18. Dedication will take place after the 10:30 service on Sunday, 11/20, along with catered luncheon. Today the total is \$15,225.00 that we have collected from parish members.

Mural Lighting - A new fixture was installed on 6/22 by Jolamar (our electrician) on the columbarium wall to illuminate the new mural. Cost was \$417.25. We need to request payment for this from the Foundation. Sue MacIssac moved that the vestry request \$417.25 from the Foundation to make the payment; and Barbara Brotherton seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote of the vestry.

(continued)

## August 2022 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
<b>Revenues</b>	\$30,895	\$50,564	\$320,912	\$404,512
<b>Expenses</b>	\$41,533	\$50,564	\$391,408	\$404,512
<b>Net</b>	(\$10,637)	\$0	(\$70,496)	\$0



**Bishop Co-adjutor Situation** – The Rev. Doug Scharf began work with the Diocese on 7/1. He will be consecrated/ordained as a bishop on Saturday, 9/24 in Sarasota. Bishop Smith will retire at the end of this calendar year. Thus, the Diocese will be paying two salaries for a six-month time period.

**Sexton on Vacation** – Anguel makes his annual trip to Bulgaria 8/10 through 10/16. (He will be paid for his vacation days accrued, but certainly not for the whole time he is away.) We will use temps during Anguel's absence. Financially, it should be a wash.

**Vestry Retreat** – Saturday, 9/10 from 9AM until 3PM. This will also include our regular monthly meeting for September. The Rev. Ed Rich will be our facilitator.

**Mosaic Dedication & Parish Luncheon** – Sunday, 11/20, after the 10:30 service.

**Anchor Ball** – to benefit the Seafarers' Ministry at the Port of Tampa on 12/3. Peter & Irene Baker will buy 2 tickets for \$500. They would like the church to purchase 6 tickets for \$1,500. Thus, St. Andrew's would have its own table. We have done this in the past, distributing the tickets for free to parishioners who wish to go. Attendees are then encouraged to bid on auction items. There was a motion by Loueita Hargens to use outreach funds to purchase 6 tickets by the vestry; & Barbara Brotherton seconded the motion. Discussion was had & the motion was passed by unanimous vote.

**Parish Audit** – Pam C and Barbara completed this with Pam Frost. There was a motion by Jennifer Richardson to accept the Parish audit as completed by Pam Curry and Barbara Brotherton; Brad Hall seconded the motion. Discussion included Pam Curry complementing Pam F. and describing her audit experience. The motion was approved unanimously by the vestry.

**Foundation Audit** – Jennifer and Kathy completed this with Pat Wolfe, Foundation Treasurer. There was a motion by Brad Hall to accept the Foundation audit as completed by Kathy Lawless and Jennifer Richardson; Barbara Brotherton seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Planned Giving** – The Foundation Board would like for the parish to begin a considerable effort at promoting planned giving. George Bedell, Chairman of the Foundation Board, recommended that "We could create a legacy society that would ask folks to include St. Andrew's in their estate planning. This could even be incorporated into the annual stewardship campaign, which needs to launch at the end of September." George shared his thoughts about planned giving.

**SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT:** Richard Felita. He shared that he's been working on the Mosaic project & noted we have donations from 49 parishioners & they each got a handwritten note thanking them for their donation. Sue shared that Nancy Turner will speak to the congregation at the 8AM & 1030AM services on 9/18 in order to generate more donor interest. The artists are installing the mosaic that weekend.

**JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT:** Richard Chapman shared that he's still working on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor restroom quote & will be adding mulch to the playground. He is continuing work on the irrigation system.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Lori Taplow stated that "we are in our summer slump that we expect to come out of ....and that is our story." Currently we are \$59,000 in the red. We are under budget on expenses. Lori mentioned that if we put information out regarding EGiving that would give an automatic debit from accounts, it might "even us out a little."

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**HOMELESS MINISTRY:** Sue MacIsaac. The ministry is going well, and the ministry was given a great gift from DOK of water for the homeless mission for one year.

**PARISH LIFE.** Pam Curry. Richard & Pam have been meeting to plan the Nov 20<sup>th</sup> party. They have made a \$500 down payment to Catering by the Family for up to 150 guests. Pam noted that she wanted all of the guests to be together & did not want to separate guests. She notes that they have planned to put a tent in the parking lot adjacent to the columbarium. Richard F recommended that we put a \$500 deposit down for the tent. Jennifer Richardson moved that the vestry request up to \$5,000 from the Foundation in support of the columbarium celebration. Sue McIsaac 2nd the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

**OUTREACH:** Chris Capsambelis. Operation Smart Start ended yesterday and Martha Cobb worked to wrap this up. There were 44 bags filled with everything and 22 other backpacks. Martha Cobb reported that 50% went to her school and 50% to Nekiesha Hammond's school. Chris C shared that the monetary donations totaling \$1,070.00 significantly helped the effort. Derrick thanked Richard and Holly and Kathy and Martha for their assistance with the back packs.

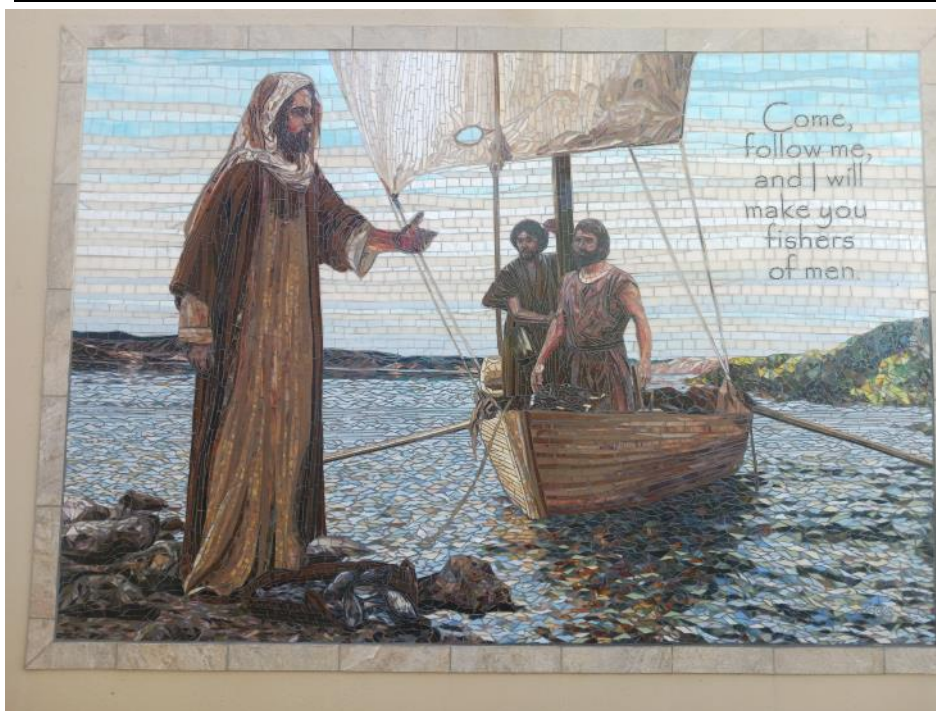
## St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

### Columbarium Mosaic



### 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)

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[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.