



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

# THE CALL

*Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!*

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ September 2024

## *Reverently Speaking*

*(Jesus said,) "There is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."*

Mark 7:15

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

What makes you special? What makes you unique? What makes you different and sets you apart from others? In scripture, the word meaning different or "set apart" from others is "holy." To be holy for Jews and later for Christians meant to be different, unique, not simply ordinary.

That's an important distinction, because the opposite of not being ordinary is of course to be "ordinary." That's the word we encounter frequently in the scriptures in discussions or disputes with Jesus and his contemporaries. The word is "koinos" –the same word we use for "koine Greek," meaning the "common" language of the people. When the same word is used to describe a person, it has additional shades of meaning: not just common but unhallowed, unwashed, mundane, mediocre, stripped of specialness, or in other words, "ordinary."

The Pharisees used the word "koinos" to describe Jews who broke Jewish purity laws –such as hand washing, eating kosher, or obeying their laws of the Sabbath (shabbat). For the Pharisees, what set Jews apart was their many, many traditional laws, which they followed to the letter.

On one occasion, Jesus' disciples are eating food without first ritually purifying their hands, a practice observed by all Jewish elders as it is recognized as proper Jewish behavior. Putting on their "arrogant" hats, the Pharisees challenge Jesus on their behavior. In disregarding Jewish traditions, they are, in the Pharisees' minds, behaving "commonly" (like the pagans).

Jesus comes back at them with an important concept: what makes you "uncommon" or "holy" does not have to do with following hoards of human laws that you Pharisees and Priests made up and have handed down for generations. What makes you "uncommon" (different from others around you) or "holy" is the state or condition of your heart!

Humans, despite their many differences, react a lot alike. Most commonly, the human heart can easily fall into states of envy, jealousy, arrogance, deceit, insults, judgments, foolishness, and all kinds of other inclinations that can mess up their lives and lead them into trouble. These "common" human inclinations don't bode well for relationships.

Jesus reminds the Pharisees that God chose the Jewish people to be "special" not in order for them to create a boatload of rules for others to follow, to think they are somehow better than other human beings, or to lord their "specialness" over others. God chose the Jewish people to guide the world to God by showing them the beauty and "holiness" of a heart in tune with the Creator! A heart that loves, shows mercy, serves, and cares.

(continued)

To be “holy” meant to have an extraordinary faith and an uncommonly good heart.

Some of you are probably old enough to remember the original Keebler cookie commercials, complete with all those elves. Remember the tagline? “Made by elves and uncommonly good!”

“Uncommonly good” –that’s what it means to be holy. It’s what Jesus meant then, and it still applies today.

To be a child of God, to be a servant of Jesus in our world today, you don’t need to look a certain way, follow certain rules, attend a certain church, or even worship in the very same way.

You are extraordinary, because you have a beautiful heart. When Jesus lives within your heart, everything common and ordinary in your life becomes extraordinary! And you find you can do extraordinary things.

Every single disciple of Jesus is special and extraordinary. That doesn’t mean we’re better than anyone else. It *does* mean we love Jesus with our whole hearts, recognize where our extraordinary gifts come from, and praise him each day. It means we pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us in extraordinary ways so that we can battle the demons of shame, guilt, judgmentalism, and arrogance that make our world, and people, merely “common.”

God never intended for any of us simply to be “common.” God sees each and every one of us as God’s extraordinary gifts, as a beautiful masterpiece of God’s creation. When you allow God’s “uncommonly good” Holy Spirit to live in you, you can’t help but shine in living color to all who see you.

When we live according to God’s extravagant love rather than humankind’s rules and judgments extraordinary things can happen, and probably will.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese



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

## Youth News

Sunday, September 8, 2024 at 9:30am - Sunday school classes resume on the 3rd floor for children & youth! Please contact Alicia Schmid if you are interested in serving— we definitely need more help in 2024/2025!

Saturday, September 14, 2024 from 11am-1pm mark your calendars and meet us for Youth Thrifting Day! Location meet-up TBD.

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 Alicia Schmid today at [aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com](mailto:aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com) to volunteer, inquire about events, and more.



Learn about all parish ministries on

### Rally Day

**Sunday, September 8**

Fellowship and food after the 10:30am service  
Discover new ways that you can share your time,  
talent and treasure at Saint Andrew's!

The Outreach Committee will be hosting our annual **Oktoberfest Celebration on Sunday, September 22 following the 10:30AM service**. The menu will include authentic German fare including brats, sauerkraut, spaetzle, German potato salad, and, of course, German beer.

Proceeds will benefit Metropolitan Ministries. Cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Advanced ticket purchase is appreciated.

For more information, please contact  
Derrick Brown at 813-270-2390 or [darbee45@gmail.com](mailto:darbee45@gmail.com)



# 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 line-up:

9/8 – Is There a God?

9/15 – The Good Book? Wrestling with the Bible

9/22 – Are All Non-Christians Going to Hell?

9/29 – Is Heaven Real?

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,*

## **Wrapping Cupboard is Bare**

It's never too early for the Gabriel Tree team to begin planning! Last Christmas our wonderful team of wrapping volunteers used up almost all our supplies, so the wrapping cupboard is bare.

If your closets are cluttered up with partial rolls of paper, gift boxes in good condition, and ribbons/bows, we would gratefully appreciate donations and will put them to good use.

Please leave them in the Parish Hall with a note saying "Gabriel Tree".



### **From the Parish Register**

✕

**Transfers In**  
Mark & Maria Shroka

✕

## St. Andrew's Directory is now online!

To view the directory online, go to [Saintandrewstampa.org](http://Saintandrewstampa.org) and click on the resources tab, then click on the Members Only tab.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for “Instant Church Directory” to get the download.

You will use your email address listed to create a log-in the first time you use the directory.

Only those who completed the Online Directory Information Card, which gave us permission to include you in the online directory, will be included in this directory and have access. If you did not complete the card and now want to be included in this directory, please complete the card and return it to the office via the offering plate, email or mail.

Need help or have any questions, please contact

Pam Frost at [administrator@saintandrewstampa.org](mailto:administrator@saintandrewstampa.org)

OR Lauri Harder at [secretary@saintandrewstampa.org](mailto:secretary@saintandrewstampa.org)

### St. Andrew's Online Directory Information Card

Please write your name, and then mark the boxes that apply to you. Online password protected access is restricted to those who list their email addresses. Once set up you will be able to edit your information online yourself. We will provide printed copies upon request.

	<b>I want to share the following information:</b>	<b>Also show my:</b>
<b>Do you want to be included?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Birthday (month & day)
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, include me (us) in the directory	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone numbers	<input type="checkbox"/> Anniversary
<input type="checkbox"/> No, Leave my/our information out	<input type="checkbox"/> Email (this is required to view the directory)	<input type="checkbox"/> Childrens' Names
<b>Which Picture will you use?</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> I will email <a href="mailto:administrator@saintandrewstampa.org">administrator@saintandrewstampa.org</a> or mail a picture to the office		
<input type="checkbox"/> I do not want to use a photo-list contact information only		

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Children

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\_Address

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Email(s)

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Phone(s)

# June Vestry Meeting Highlights

## RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 6/17/24, there was \$174,829 in ops account and \$76,959 in the parish reserve account.

As of 5/31/24, there was \$26,063 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry.

Total available funds from principal for years 2020 thru 2024: \$383,377.

There was \$3,143,296 in the Foundation principal as of 3/15/24 (as opposed to \$3,092,638 at the end of 2022, an increase of \$50,658 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 \$12,896. But we are spending \$9,582 of that to repair leaks in the church roof, leaving us with about 3K for the rest of this year.

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

Planned Giving – The Foundation Board would like for the parish to begin a serious effort at promoting planned giving. They plan on putting out planned giving brochures to all parishioners and would like to have an estate attorney come and address the parish. A legacy society can then be established from the people who have named St. Andrew's in their wills.

Parking Lot – has been repaved and re-striped with a new diagonal pattern.

Choir on Hiatus – during the month of July. Ryan will also be off for July, with Linda Pointer (7/7) and The Rev. Randy Hehr (7/14, 7/21, and 7/28) filling in on the organ bench.

Scuba Vacation Bible School – will be the week of 8/5 through 8/9 from 9AM-Noon at St. Andrew's.

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

Parish Audit – Barbara and Allison are heading this up.

Foundation Audit – Victoria and Don are heading this up.

New Nursery Attendant – Abby Lorren (a college student) is gone for the summer. We are using an agency in the meantime (same cost each week).

Sunday morning security guard – SentiTech has been hired to provide a guard on Sundays from 7:30AM until 12:30PM at the cost of \$31 per hour. They began on 3/24.

Sexton Returns– Anguel returned from his annual trip to Bulgaria and resumed work here at St. A on 6/10. We are grateful for Richard Connor, our former sexton, who filled in while Anguel was gone.

Rally Day – discussed maybe Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>? Vestry agreed that 9/8 would work.

## SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Reported that Planned Giving will be a priority for the Foundation, inspired by Jerry Divers. An event after the 10:30 service will be planned with an estate attorney attending, providing information and guiding parishioners through the process. The Senior Warden asked for input and ideas. Vestry members suggested a Will Writing Workshop.

## JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Parking lot is done. It is beautiful and has had zero problems. Motion by Barbara Brotherton to approve payment of \$37,406 to Alto Construction for repaving and striping the parking lot, to be taken from Foundation funds. The motion was seconded by Brad Hall. Motion was adopted unanimously.

Motion by Barbara Brotherton to approve \$12,872 to pay J.P. Griffin for the replacement of the AC unit inside the Church in the Southwest corner. The motion was seconded by Brad Hall. Motion was adopted unanimously.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer reports that expenses are down 13% but revenue is also down by 54%. He reports that this is a typical trend for the summer months.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Helping Hands - Barbara Brotherton reported that there was a funeral planned for Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Outreach - Derrick Brown reported that they are finalizing the rest of the events for the year. Operation Smart Start begins soon, looking for backpacks and school supplies. The committee is considering Dunbar Elementary and other schools close to St. Andrew's as recipients.

The meeting adjourned just after 6pm.

<b>July 2024 Operating Summary</b>				
	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
<b>Revenues</b>	\$41,469	\$55,061	\$296,895	\$385,433
<b>Expenses</b>	\$65,910	\$55,061	\$403,324	\$385,433
<b>Net</b>	(\$24,440)	\$0	(\$106,428)	\$0

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# 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@  
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.