



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ September 2021

Reverently Speaking

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.*

James 1:22-25

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

Studies show that people check the mirror upwards of 40 times a day. For some, looking in a mirror is simply a matter of gathering data; for others, it's to confirm the worst. To this end, we can always find a mirror, and perhaps that's why we take mirrors for granted. We use them for practical purposes and for décor. When driving, good drivers check their side mirrors and rearview mirrors for safety reasons. We use mirrors to reflect light. And me? Well, I use the mirror to help fight off the nose hairs and ever-encroaching uni-brow that are plaguing my golden years.

But what about the mirror that the apostle James used 2,000 years ago? It certainly was not a piece of glass coated with silver nitrate. James might have been aware that the Romans were experimenting with the use of glass in the first century, but his mirror was probably a piece of polished bronze or copper. Whatever it was, there's no doubt that his readers knew what a mirror was.

The mirror described by James is amazing. He calls it "perfect," and according to the 20th-century Scottish divine, William Barclay, it's perfect in at least three ways:

1. It is God's law. Humans may pass bad laws, and we can all think of a few. This amazing "mirror," however, is the "perfect law" because it comes from God.
2. It cannot be bettered. This law comes from God! This is as good as it gets. In fact, it is the law of "liberty" or freedom. And liberty is what we all want, is it not?
3. It is directed toward an end. God's law is perfect because its goal, end or purpose is to fashion vessels of perfection who *are* what they are designed to be (the *imago Dei*) and who *do* what they are designed to do (reflect the *gloria Dei* and put God on display).

But if you look into this amazing mirror and walk away, that's not going to happen, is it?

We tend to talk to mirrors, or to our doppelganger in the mirror. Happens all the time: You get up in the morning. You have sleep lines etched in your face like you slept all night on a waffle iron. Your hair looks like it has been supercharged with 500 volts of electricity. And those bags under your eyes look like they've just come off the baggage claim at the airport. You stand in front of the mirror and take a look. "Oh, my goodness! That can't be right!"

(continued)

James' mirror is amazing because we must lean into the mirror to see better.

As the late, great Yogi Berra, catcher of the New York Yankees for many years, used to say: "You can see a lot by looking." Yes, you can. That's why we often lean toward the mirror to get a better look at ourselves.

True practitioners of God's word are those who humble themselves, who are on their knees in an attitude of contrition and repentance, who bend to the will of God and are obedient. We become better versions of ourselves and the world becomes a better place when we look into God's mirror — the perfect law — and act on what we see.

Robert Fulghum tells of a seminar he once attended in Greece. On the last day of the conference, the discussion leader walked over to the bright light of an open window and looked out. Then he asked if there were any questions. Fulghum laughingly asked him, "What is the meaning of life?" Everyone chuckled and got ready to leave. But the leader held up his hand to ask for silence, saying, "I will answer your question."

He took his wallet out of his pocket and removed a small, round mirror about the size of a quarter. Then he told this story: "When I was a small child during World War II, we were very poor and lived in a remote village. One day on the road, I found the broken pieces of a mirror. A German motorcycle had been wrecked in that place.

"I tried to find all the pieces and put them together, but it was not possible. So I kept the largest piece. This one. And by scratching it on a stone, I made it round. I began to play with it as a toy and became fascinated by the fact that I could reflect light into dark places where the sun could never shine. It became a game for me to get light into the most inaccessible places I could find.

"I kept the little mirror, and as I grew up, I would take it out at idle moments and continue the challenge of the game. As I became a man, I grew to understand that this was not just a child's game, but a metaphor of what I could do with my life. I came to understand that I am not the light or the source of the light. But light — be it truth or understanding or knowledge — is there, and it will only shine in many dark places if I reflect it.

"I am a fragment of a mirror whose whole design and shape I do not know. Nevertheless, with what I have, I can reflect light into the dark places of this world — into the dark places of human hearts — and change some things in some people. Perhaps others seeing it happen will do likewise. This is what I am about. This is the meaning of my life."

May we look into the mirror and act on what we see. When we do, we will be better for it, and so will everyone we interact with.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John +", with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Rev. John Reese

Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30

The Wired Word, facilitated by the Rector, examines a current event from the previous week and analyzes it through the use of Biblical references. Come and see how Scripture can help us make sense of what's happening in the world today.

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

Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today

What if the Ten Commandments were not just a set of ancient rules, but a guide to experiencing the good life today?

Nearly everyone has heard of the Ten Commandments, the list of “thou-shalt-nots” found in the Bible. Jesus saw these commandments not as onerous burdens, but as guideposts to help us experience a good and beautiful life.

In *Words of Life*, Pastor Adam Hamilton brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history. He considers the commandments in their historical context, exploring the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, unpacking how Jesus reinterpreted them, and showing how every thou-shalt-not was intended to point to a life-giving “thou shalt.” He also looks at how the latest research in science and psychology illuminates these commandments, rightly understood, as a way of ordering one’s life beautifully in the present day. In a culture marked by workaholism, materialism, and social media-driven envy, God has given us a time-tested path that leads to gratitude, confidence, and peace.

This ten-week DVD series features Adam Hamilton teaching from locations in Egypt. Here is the line-up:

- 9/12 – No Other Gods Before Me
- 9/19 – Do Not Make an Image for Yourself
- 9/26 – Do Not Misuse God’s Name
- 10/3 – Remember the Sabbath and Keep It Holy
- 10/10 – Honor Your Parents
- 10/17 – Do Not Kill
- 10/24 – Do Not Commit Adultery
- 10/31 – Do Not Steal
- 11/07 – Do Not Bear False Witness
- 11/14 – Do Not Covet

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

Youth News

Here is what's coming up at St. Andrew's over the next couple months for children, youth, and families. We hope you will join us as we are making up for lost time and looking onward to spend time together that will be full of faith, fun, and fellowship. Confirmation and Sunday school start Sunday, September 12, 2021 at 9:30 AM! Do you have a heart to serve with young people? I am looking for a few more teachers for Sunday school from about 9:15AM until about 10:20AM. You don't have to have an education degree, serve every week, or even be an expert on the Episcopal Church. We will provide lessons, safeguarding training you can take in your free time online, and whatever else you need to be a success as a Sunday School Teacher! All you need is a willing heart.

Sunday, September 12, 2021 at 9:30AM

Sunday School In-Person Resumes, and Confirmation Classes for Youth Begin!

Sunday school classes for preschool and elementary and youth confirmation classes for middle and high schoolers begin in-person on our third floor on Sunday, September 12th at 9:30am. Interested in serving at least once a month? Please contact Alicia Schmid today! We still need teachers in elementary and youth classrooms and assistants to serve with our kids and youth as well, and we'd love to have your help. Even serving once each month helps us share God's love with our kids.

Sunday, September 12, 2021

Children's Chapel at 10:30 a.m.

Join us for chapel time just for kids! We currently need adult helpers and would also love youth helpers—kids look up to our teens, and this is a great way for them to serve. Sing songs in worship, hear cool Bible stories, and much more! Our time in chapel lasts for about 40 minutes, and kids are brought in to their parents during the service at the passing of the peace.

Halloween Extravaganza 2021—We need all hands on deck for this fun event!

Please join our planning team and be part of this year's event. We may not have VBS in 2021, but we still have plans to enjoy fun & fellowship this year! Our annual Halloween event is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to come together and have some great family fun while we share God's love with our communities and church family during a night of fun for all ages.

Please join us for the following Halloween Extravaganza planning meetings:

Halloween Extravaganza Planning Lunch 1

Sunday, September 26th, in the Parish Hall from 12-1pm

Halloween Extravaganza Planning Lunch 2

Sunday, October 10th, in the Parish Hall from 12-1pm

Halloween Extravaganza Decorating Lunch

Sunday, October 24th, in the Parish Hall from 12-2pm

Halloween Extravaganza—THE Event!

Saturday, October 30th, in St. Andrew's Parking Lot and Courtyard

Event Team please attend from 5:30-9:30PM (set-up), Event takes place from 6:30-8:30PM

Invite friends, neighbors, everyone! This is going to be an awesome event and we will take ***all precautions*** to be safe and healthy!

Please email, call, or text Alicia Schmid at aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com anytime for questions, to volunteer or inquire about serving, or to RSVP. Thank you all for being part of St. Andrew's parish.

Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm Adult Inquirers' Class

New to St. Andrew's and the Episcopal Church? Or just trying to brush up on the faith? Then join us for this seven week series exploring the Episcopal Church. We will use *Looking at the Episcopal Church*, a book by The Rev. William Sydnor. We will comprehensively cover the church's symbols, customs, practices, history, creeds, sacraments, and mission. If you plan to attend, please contact the Rector so he can order the correct number of books. The cost is \$15. This class is required if you wish to be confirmed or received into the church during Bishop Smith's visitation on Sunday, November 21st at the 10:30 service.

Here is the line-up:

October 5 – Introduction to the Episcopal Church (*this session meets in the church*)

October 12 – The Worship of the Church

October 19 – History of the Church

October 26 – The Holy Scriptures and Creeds

November 2 – The Church Year and Sacraments

November 9 – The Ordained Ministry and the Mission of the Church

November 16- Ministry of the Laity

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

Outreach Committee Update

Many thanks to [the](#) wonderful and great parishioners of St. Andrew's for all of the backpacks and school supplies donated for the two schools we sponsor. The supplies have been evenly distributed to Cleveland Elementary and Kimbell Elementary. You also donated \$650 to the fund, which will be a blessing to both schools. The Social Workers at each school prefer gift cards to Target and Walmart so that they are able to buy school clothing for needy children. The gift cards will also be distributed evenly between both schools. The Outreach Team thanks everyone for their generous donations and support of our annual [backpack](#) project!



From the Parish Register



Deceased

Donald McGinnis



Donations to Saint Andrew's Foundation



In Loving Memory of Nancy Dinkle

Nathan Simpson
Pat Wolfe



In Loving Memory of Joanne Baldy

John & Nancy Bayless
Sue MacIsaac
Paul & Elizabeth Bentschner
Barbara & Les Ryals
Pat Wolfe
Lindsey & James Robbins
James Moore
Frank & Elizabeth Rief
The Rorebeck Family
The Maynard Family
Jean Turner
Tommy & Lee Touchton
John & Susan Touchton
Betty Wood
Stephen & Betsy
Chambers

June Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 6/14/21, there was \$215,330 in ops account and \$84,294 in the parish reserve account.

As of 6/16/21, there was \$33,353 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry. But we owe Air Masters \$12,789 for the new AC units recently installed at the rectory, which will be paid with Foundation funds.

The remaining \$26,473 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 was transferred to the checking account on 5/11/21.

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.

We have another \$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.

And there was \$3,002,934 in the Foundation principal as of 3/31/21, as opposed to \$2,929,677 on 12/31/20 (an increase of \$73,257 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, with \$4,371 in grant money available for 2021. This fund is designated for church maintenance purposes.

On Sundays, there is Adult Christian Education at 9:30AM in the third floor library. There is nursery care from 9:30AM until noon. Both our attendants are fully vaccinated and full precautions are taken. Alicia has a 9:30AM Zoom Sunday school class for the kids and in-person Children's Chapel at 10:30AM. She is also doing a monthly youth activity off-site. (For June, it is a pool day on Sunday, 6/27.) There is no coffee hour for now. Should we re-start it?

Discussion centered on restarting coffee hour, as a soft opening, with a larger event for Rally Day. Vestry members will host through the soft opening. Consensus was we should remove the ropes from the pews, thereby allowing all pews to be used.

Vacation Bible School – is 8/4 through 8/6 with prep days on Sunday afternoons of 7/25 and 8/1.

Parish & Foundation Audits – Lynn is chairing the parish audit, Piers is chairing the Foundation audit. Audits need to be completed in time for approval at 8/16 vestry meeting, with audits due in to diocese on 9/1.

Sesquicentennial Celebration – St. Andrew's has turned 150 in 2021. Here is a list of possible events

July 2021 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$38,340	\$46,754	\$278,537	\$327,283
Expenses	\$41,547	\$48,776	\$337,462	\$341,437
Net	(\$3,207)	(\$2,021)	(\$58,925)	(\$14,153)

for the rest of the year:

Rally Day – Sunday, 8/29 (food provided by the various parish organizations)

Dinner Banquet – Saturday evening, 9/25 at Palma Ceia (Chair TBD)

Choral Evensong – Sunday, 10/24 at 5PM (with reception hosted by Parish Life)

Bishop's Visitation & Confirmation – Sunday, 11/21 at both services (with reception catered, overseen by Parish Life)

Christmas Lessons & Carols – Sunday, 12/19 at 5PM (with reception hosted by Parish Life)

Anniversary Booklet – Chris & Julie Capsambelis are heading this up, with help from Ray & Jeannie Vince and Paul Scheuer.

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.

Confirmation Classes – Sunday mornings August through November for youth, Tuesday evenings September-November for adults.

Chapel Lobby Ceiling Leak – It's back. It may be the new roof, or it may be a pipe. We are running tests.

Rectory Roof – George has solicited two bids for a new shingle roof for the rectory. Rusty the Roofer of TNT (the commercial roofer who has repaired our church roof and Chapel lobby roof) is at 25K, Done Rite Roofing is \$19,110. George recommends Done Rite.

Jim moved that we accept the bid from Done Rite Roofing, and have the funds taken out of the Foundation Funds. Gary seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Rectory AC – Two new units were installed on 6/4 and 6/7. Quote from Air Masters is for \$12,789. Vestry voted by email to approve this expenditure and to use Foundation funds to pay for it. **Jim moved to accept, with Richard seconding, and passing unanimously.**

Organ Expenses – We have two bills from our organ tuner, Longmore & Associates, to the tune (pun intended) of \$775 (our normal periodic tuning) and \$550 (to build a wooden frame around the video monitor now attached to the organ). We normally pay for these organ expenses from Foundation funds. **Kathy moved that we pay from the Foundation, with a second from Gary. Passed unanimously.**

Name Tags – Time to go to print on these. **Father will pursue the rectangular plastic magnetic name tags. He was approached by a donor who offered \$500.**

Lumina Relocating – Lumina children's choirs have relocated to a place that offers plenty of social distancing for their rehearsals. Thus, they will move out of their room on the third floor on 7/31 and sever their connection to St. Andrew's.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Gray Sanders Absent

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – George Levy Absent.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Richard Ferlita Richard delivered an updated financial report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HOMELESS MINISTRY: Doing well. Metro Ministries is looking to formalize our relationship with a contract. There is language in the contract that is detrimental to St. Andrew's and Gray advised against signing. Gray and Sue will investigate further.

PARISH LIFE: Pam and Lori are making plans for all the upcoming events.

NEW BUSINESS:

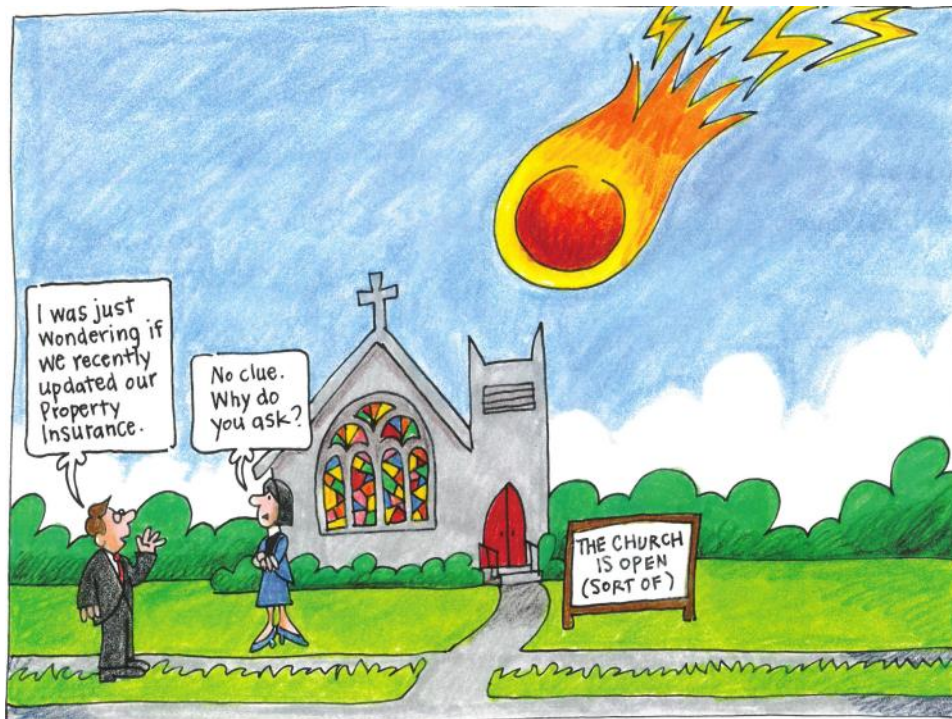
Sue has been approached by parishioners who would like to beautify the Columbarium area. Sue proposed that we spend \$3,200 from Foundation funds (Sue has an estimate) to dig out roots and level the bricks in the Columbarium area. Vestry will further pursue this beautification project.

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@](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.