



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ September 2022

Reverently Speaking

Then the word of the Lord came to me (Jeremiah): Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand.

Jeremiah 18:5-6

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

Have you had a time in your life when you made a terrible mistake that you grew to regret? Ever wished at one time or another that you could go back in time and erase that one pesky "thing" that haunts you, make it right, so that your mind can be at peace? Well, your life is not set in stone. Your past does not have to dictate your life, your success, or your happiness. With God, you always have a perpetual second chance. And I don't mean *one* more chance. I mean a slurry of chances!

It's no mistake that in scripture one of the most popular metaphors is of clay. In ancient Israel, working with clay was vital to community viability. Pots were important for storing food and drink, for lamps, for tableware, and for cookware. Every household had some.

Pottery was fairly easy to make and, once fired, lasted a lifetime (in fact more than a lifetime). Pottery was amazingly durable. Even today, one of the first things archaeologists find in any dig of an ancient site are potsherds. Although they may turn up as broken pieces, they still last through centuries.

So a "potter" was an important trade. Every town had a "potter." The potter's house lay outside of the city walls, usually down the valley, where the potter not only had his clay and wheels, but several kilns – outdoor fire pits that released large quantities of fire and black smoke into the air – not something you wanted inside the city center.

Creating a piece of pottery began with softening and preparing the clay. Because the clay would be dug up, impurities would first be removed, along with foreign objects. Then the clay would be tempered and kneaded. This was done by feet, much as those creating wine would stomp the grapes.

Assistants to the potter would knead with their feet until the clay became soft and pliable. Then the potter would take it and shape it on his double wheel, made of stone and wood. With just the right amount of water, the potter would shape the clay with his hands until he created the desired object. Then he would allow it to dry until it became hard and leathery. At that point, he would fire it in the kiln. Once "tried" by fire, the piece would become invincible.

(continued)

If the potter didn't like the piece that he was making, if it didn't come out the way he intended, or if he wanted to re-form it differently, he could simply de-form it, re-knead it, or re-water it, and the clay would be good as new.

You see, that's the "secret" of clay. It can always be remade. No matter how hard it gets, whether it cracks into a hundred pieces, whether it's a decade old, or whether it's been used and discarded, that clay can be softened, watered, and re-formed into whatever the potter desires. Clay is always restorable. The potter decides its fate.

The Hebrew word for potter is "yatsar," the one who forms. You can see now why the metaphors of clay and potter are so important to scripture.

God, of course, is always the "potter." And we are always the "clay." God molded us from our conception and can re-mold us with God's powerful, creative hands into whatever God desires. Whether God restores us, whether God changes us, or whether God puts us out to dry depends upon our needs, our resistance, and God's hopes for us in the world.

This is what the prophet Jeremiah (18:1-11) tells us about the sovereignty of God. The potter is in charge and can mold your life whichever way God believes will be good for you and good for God's people. If those whom God chooses to carry out God's mission are not willing to live according to God's desires, then God will work to create another vessel who will. God will find a way. God can work with anyone God chooses. And God does.

Discipleship isn't easy. Discipleship is hard. If it were easy, everyone would do it hands down. But discipleship by its nature demands your full attention and your full devotion.

Can you truly put your life into the hands of God? Can you truly let go of everything you want, your agendas, your thoughts, your attitudes, and your certainties and let God remake you into a tool used to feed the world with love, faith, and truth?

God, our grand potter, is ready at the wheel to re-make your life into something spectacular.

Have a past you want to forget? Have hurts you want healed? Have mistakes and brokenness you need repaired? Are you looking for a new chance in life?

Let God take the wheel, the potter's wheel. Just be prepared to come out different than you went in.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese

**Blessing of the Pets
Saturday, October 1,
10:00a.m.
in the church courtyard**

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 line-up:

9/11 – Sell What You Own

9/18 – Hate Father and Mother

9/25 – Slave of All

10/2 – Nowhere Among the Gentiles

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.

Choir News

This Sunday we introduce four new singers to the Louise Lykes Ferguson Memorial Choir: Ethan Lucas - tenor section leader, sophomore, UT music major from New York; Brianna Davies - alto section leader, sophomore, UT music major from New Jersey; Matthew Jay - bass choral scholar, sophomore, UT music major from Illinois; and Craig Polley – bass, former member of the Miami University (of Ohio) men's glee club. Please feel free to extend your hospitality, and to introduce yourself to these people. Welcome to the St. Andrew's family, Brianna, Matthew, Ethan, and Craig! We are grateful for your presence and we look forward to your contribution to our music ministry.

Youth News

Children's & Youth ministries are gearing up for the school year and we need your help! Sunday school begins Sunday, September 11, 2022 at 9:30 am on the third floor.

Are you interested in serving with our pre-K/elementary or middle/high (youth group) Sunday school classrooms? We need you and would love to have your help! You can serve as often as 1 to 3 Sundays per month, and we will supply all the things you need to lead activities and lessons with confidence! This is a very fun 45 minutes of small group time, and we need several volunteers to make this experience as wonderful and interactive as possible for our kids. I promise they will bless you just as much (or more!) than you bless them with your time.

Due to scheduling conflicts for our families who typically host, family pool day will be postponed for the time being. However, we will begin planning for our annual Halloween house in the weeks to come! Please join Alicia on Sunday, September 25th to plan this year's Halloween house. The planning meeting will take place after coffee hour in the parish hall. We want to make this year's Halloween extravaganza the best and biggest yet! Please attend this 30 minute planning time and see how you can get involved!

Please contact Alicia Schmid today at aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com to volunteer, inquire about events, and more.



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 still \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Proceeds will benefit Metropolitan Ministries during their Thanksgiving food drive.

The Outreach Committee will meet on Sunday, September 18 in Room 301 on the third floor, following the 10:30 service. Contact Chris Capsambelis at 727-542-4547 or Derrick Brown at 813-270-2390 for more information.

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.

Donations to St. Andrews Foundation



In Loving Memory of Nell Rorebeck

Leigh Ann Ennis
Earl & Jan Smith
A.G. Divers
Pat Wolfe
Edward & Rebecca Savitz
John Grandoff
David R. Hall III
Carla & Henry Saavedra
Adajean L. Samson
Daniel & Carla Knight
James Compton
M. Karen Clarke
Ruth Eleson
A. Trice Gibbons III
Jeff & Tricia Meehan
Deborah Skyrms
Joanne Duke
Betty Hall Wood
Betsy & Steve Chambers
Michael & Janet Norona



In Loving Memory of Kelsy Epp

David Epp



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!

Donations to St. Andrews Foundation



In Loving Memory of Marion Gustin

Pat Wolfe
Helen Straske



In Loving Memory of Jane Collins

Judy Lawson
Donald & Mary Gould
Staige & Patricia Hoffman
Veterans Council
Ann & James Von Thron
Pat Wolfe
Harriett Phillips
Melissa & William Smith
A.G. Divers
Charlie & Anne Whidden
Guy See
Timothy Ruff
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan B. Simpson
B.J. Grant
Betty Hall Wood
John & Patricia Kurowski
Betsy & Steve Chambers



June Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 6/20/22, there was \$185,346 in ops account and \$83,507 in the parish reserve account.

As of 5/31/22, there was \$21,114 in the Foundation's checking account – 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 \$3,095,327 in the Foundation principal as of 3/31/22, as opposed to \$3,218,925 on 12/31/21 (a decrease of \$123,598 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 online directory that can be continuously updated and shared electronically with parishioners. Pam takes the training course through ACS to learn to operate Realm during the week of 6/26. Her goal is to then have the directory up and running by the end of summer.

Columbarium Project – Mosaic is a work in progress (we recently paid \$2,500 from the Foundation to kick start the project).

Parish Hall Floor – Proposal from E-ZEE Commercial Cleaning to strip, buff, and wax the parish hall floor for \$1,500 was approved at last vestry meeting. Project was executed on 6/15 with satisfactory results.

Children's Chapel Lobby Leak Grows Again– Richard C will report on this, along with the status of irrigation repairs, second floor restroom renovations, and a tree removal project at the rectory (dying laurel oak). The tree was removed this past Friday.

Bishop Co-adjutor Situation – The Rev. Doug Scharf will begin work with the Diocese on 7/1. He will be consecrated/ordained as a bishop on Saturday, 9/24. 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.

Vacation Bible School – is 8/1 through 8/5 with prep days on Sunday afternoons of 7/24 and 7/31. Volunteers are needed!

Vestry Retreat – Saturday, 9/10 from 9AM until 3PM. This will also include our regular monthly meeting for September.

(continued)

August 2022 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$30,895	\$50,564	\$320,912	\$404,512
Expenses	\$41,533	\$50,564	\$391,408	\$404,512
Net	(\$10,637)	\$0	(\$70,495)	\$0

Parish Audit – Pam and Barbara are heading this up. This needs to be completed in time to review and approve at the August vestry meeting, since it must be submitted to the diocese by 9/1. They have decided to conduct the audit on July 8th.

Foundation Audit – Jennifer and Kathy are heading this up. This needs to be completed in time to review and approve at the August vestry meeting, since it must be submitted to the diocese by 9/1. They will need to coordinate with Pat Wolfe.

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

Next vestry meeting will be Monday, 8/8 at 5:30p.m. We will meet in early August, since our September meeting will be early (on Saturday, 9/10).

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT: Richard Felita. Richard F stated we are not going to do the 2nd floor bathroom upgrade at a cost of 40 K. Instead, we will paint the walls, add new stall partitions and window treatments, and upgrade the ceiling. Richard F had a question on the irrigation that affects the parking lot perimeter. Richard C stated that he had Tim Robinson fix most of the zones on the system. He will return to fix the remaining zone leaks, hopefully to include the parking lot perimeter.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT: Richard Chapman. Richard C shared that the irrigation is still being worked on. We installed a light on the mosaic wall for better visibility. An aging laurel oak tree was removed from the rectory front lawn on 6/24 by Independent Tree Service. The parish hall floor has been stripped, waxed and buffed. Richard C will provide a revised cost for the 2nd floor bathroom project.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Lori Taplow stated that revenues are down, but that this year is better than last year at this time. She said that we always recover by the end of the year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

HOMELESS MINISTRY: Sue MacIsaac. Sue shared that she spoke at both services and got two ladies that have volunteered. She still shares concern that her successor has yet to be identified. Her work includes, but is not limited to, maintaining the calendars for volunteers, updating the calendars, sending emails, waiting to hear back from volunteers, responding to volunteers, and coordinating food and volunteers. Krist Gates of Met Ministries wants to give us 4 badges for drivers to pick up food and Sue needs 13 for her 13 drivers who make sandwich pickups. Sue has created a plan asking if Met Ministries can accept the copy of the driver's license of the individual on St. Andrew's letterhead to suffice as a badge allowing them to conduct pick up. Currently the process is too cumbersome. Extensive discussion followed involving numerous aspects of the homeless lunch program. Sue stated that her problem is not having enough support leading and managing the effort. Richard F and Lynn both volunteered for Mondays in August.

PARISH LIFE. Pam Curry. Richard F stated that he knows of several companies who can potentially cater the 11/20 luncheon. The subcommittee planning this event will be chaired by Parish Life. The plan is to have the 10:30 service celebrating St. Andrew's Day, then have everyone proceed (with a bagpiper) to the mosaic for the dedication, then attend the catered lunch. Discussion followed regarding seating arrangements and cost of the event.

OUTREACH: Chris Capsambelis. Operation Smart Start will commence in July. There will be an announcement in the Sunday bulletins, and another announcement in the newsletter on Wednesdays. Chris states that we are hoping that the donors put everything that is needed in the backpack. We prefer that they come ready made. These are for the kids at Cleveland and Kimbell Elementary Schools.

STEWARDSHIP. Gary Cotter. Gary noted he will try to attend the diocesan stewardship conference on 8/27 at DaySpring. He asked if there was a way to turn Sue's dilemma into a larger community opportunity. Gary wants to bring in other people to be a part of the ministry. Lynn added that this seems like an innovative idea to provide a larger solution that has long range effects to our problem.

OLD BUSINESS: Richard F shared that the mosaic project has raised \$12,475 so far. The recommendation is that we put a color picture of the mosaic in the Sunday bulletin and Wednesday email shout out each week so people can see how attractive it is and then encourage them to donate.

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.