



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ September 2023

Reverently Speaking

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:8

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

Mother Teresa once visited Phoenix, Arizona, to open a home for the destitute. During her visit, she was interviewed by KTAR, the largest radio station in town. In a private conversation, the announcer asked Mother Teresa if there was anything he could do for her. He was expecting a request for a contribution, or media help to raise money for a new home for the poor in Phoenix. Instead, she said, "Yes, there is. Find somebody nobody else loves and love them." That was it. That was what occupied the mind and heart of Mother Teresa, "Find somebody nobody else loves and love them."

How genuine is your faith by this standard?

The apostle Paul writes, "Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law...Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:8, 10).

Did you catch that? Love is what it's all about. It's the fulfillment of all the commandments. The quality of our commitment to Christ is determined by our ability to love our neighbor as our self.

We stand in awe of God's power. We see it displayed in the grandeur of the stars in the sky, and the bounty of nature. Do you know how many stars there are in the sky? In October 2016, deep-field images from the Hubble Space Telescope suggested that there are about 200 billion trillion stars in the universe. Doesn't that blow your mind—200 billion trillion stars? And the Lord God created every one of them. It is impossible to exaggerate God's power.

Professional golfer Lee Trevino was playing in a PGA tournament. Lightning struck a tree very near to where he was standing. Someone asked him what he thought when lightning struck that tree. He replied, "I learned that when God wants to play through you had better let him." That's the truth! No thinking person denies God's power.

But even greater than God's power is God's love. And all of God's love is poured out on us. God's love is without equal. God holds nothing back. God's love is all encompassing, eternal, beyond our comprehension.

C. S. Lewis, in his book *The Four Loves*, wrote of two kinds of love—Need-love and Gift-love. Need-love is the most common kind of love. The love of a child for its parent is Need-love. The infant is totally dependent on a parent or other family member for survival. Therefore, he or she learns to love in order to survive.

(continued)

An example of Need-love is an ad that appeared in the personals section of the *Indiana Evening Gazette* back in 1957. It read like this, “Bachelor with 40 acres of excellent land would like to make acquaintance of lady with tractor.” Now, there’s a Need-based relationship.

Here’s an even more honest ad from the 1894 *Davenport Tribune*, “A lady, young, pretty, bright, and poor, desires to make the acquaintance of a man with the opposite qualities.” Let’s see - what qualities are opposite from “young, pretty, bright, and poor”? That’s Need-love.

An example of Gift-love would be that love which moves a person to work and plan and save for the future well-being of his or her family—a future in which he or she may never share. That’s Gift-love. God’s Love is entirely Gift-love. The outstanding example of Gift-love is the cross on which Christ died. “God so loved the world that he gave his only son . . .”

The Bible tells us that “God is love.” “We love because God first loved us.” **This goes to say that those who love God know best how to Gift-Love others.**

The purest kind of love is that which cannot be reciprocated. God’s love is that kind of love. There is nothing that we can do for God. God has need of nothing in this world. He who flung the 200 billion trillion stars in the sky has no need of anything this world can offer. The only way we can gift God is to pass God’s love to our neighbor.

Richard Rohr, the Franciscan social activist and preacher, tells about a prayer he heard following one of his sermons when he was preaching in Africa. An old man prayed, “Lord, let us never move into stone houses.” Rohr had no idea what the prayer meant. Afterward, when he asked of the old man why he had prayed the way he did, the old man said, “You know Africa. You have seen our country. People here live in huts, and the huts have no doors. That is why your family is my family, and my family is your family. But as soon as you move into a stone house, you build a door. On the door you put a lock, and behind your door you begin to accumulate more and more things. Then you have to spend the rest of your life protecting all that you have acquired.”

There are lessons about love for one’s neighbor that we can learn from people in so-called undeveloped countries.

So, how genuine is your faith? How genuine is your love for others? The quality of our discipleship is determined by the quality of our love for our neighbor and for God. The quality of our discipleship is determined by how surely our love for others reflects God’s love for us. God is all-powerful and all loving. The only way we can Gift-Love God is to pass God’s love to our neighbor. “Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.”



Yours in Christ,

Handwritten signature of John Reese.

The Rev. John Reese

**Blessing of the Pets
Saturday, September 30,
10:00a.m.
in the church courtyard**

Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30

First & Second Thessalonians: Keep Calm and Carry On

Have you ever been discouraged in your faith? Or wondered if you are staying grounded in what you believe? This was the issue facing the believers in Thessalonica. So Paul compelled them in two letters to not be deceived by false teachers but remain diligent in doing the work set before them as they looked forward to Jesus' return. In this video Bible study, pastor and author Levi Lusko will guide us through these two letters, revealing what the apostle's words meant to his original readers and how they apply to us today. Levi Lusko is the founder and lead pastor of Fresh Life Church in Montana.

Here is the line-up:

9/10 – The Word is Out (1 Thessalonians 1:1-10)

9/17 – Never Give Up (1 Thessalonians 2:1-12)

9/24 – Born for This (1 Thessalonians 3:1-13)

10/1 – Mind Your Business (1 Thessalonians 4:1-12)

10/8 – Between Now and Then (1 Thessalonians 5:12-28)

10/15 – Keep Calm and Carry On (2 Thessalonians 1-3)

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

Donations to Saint Andrew's Foundation

In Loving Memory of Isabelle Ferrell

Mattie Vega
Stephanie Chapman
Pat Wolfe
Betty Wood

Betsy & Steve Chambers
Richard Ferlita &
James Carmichael

In Loving Memory of Diane Kemker

Pat Wolfe

In Loving Memory of Martha Medel

Pat Wolfe



St. Andrew's is looking for Church Wedding Coordinators - A wedding coordinator works closely with the bride and groom at the church to ensure their wedding day is memorable and stress-free.

We are looking for someone who is friendly, organized, and patient.

There is an opportunity to see what it is all about on September 29th and 30th.

Contact Cate at caterize@aol.com.



From the Parish Register

Transfers In

Llyod & Barbara McFarquhar



Transfer Out

Catherine B. Michelsen
to St. Clement's,
Tampa



Baptism

John Lee Edwards



Deaths

Larry Kleven
Isabelle Ferrell

Youth News

Children's & Youth ministries are gearing up for the school year and we need your help! **Sunday school begins Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 9:30 am on the third floor.** Please reach out to Alicia today to let her know when you can serve!

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 I promise the kids will bless you just as much (or more!) than you bless them with your time.

Please join Alicia on Sunday, **September 24th to plan this year's Halloween house--** which will take place **Saturday, October 28th from 6-8pm**, so please mark your calendars! The planning meeting on 9/24 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. Bring your ideas too -- let's collaborate and make this an event to remember!***

A big thank you to our wonderful VBS volunteers! Paul Henley, Martha Cobb, Elaine Kimble, Jeanette Reese, Sherre Henley, Elicia Kimble, Fr. Ed Henley, and also our wonderful youth-- Shea Polley, Maren Kennel, Fred Noah Schmid, Kate Turlington, Abby Turlington, Sam Scheuer, and Joey Scheuer-- I could've NEVER pulled off this wonderful VBS week without each of you-- truly, you are the greatest blessing, and I am so grateful for each and every one of you! **YOU ARE STELLAR!!!**

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



Rally Day!

Learn about all parish ministries on

Rally Day

Sunday, September 10

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 17 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 Chris Capsambelis at 727-542-4547 or ccapsambelis@gmail.com



Newcomers' Dinner

If you are new to St. Andrew's since 2020, we hope you will join us for a Newcomers' Dinner, **Thursday, September 28th at 6:30pm** at the Rectory, 159 W. Davis Boulevard, Davis Islands. Please RSVP to Lauri, in the office, 813-221-2035.

The Parish Directory is going online!

We will be launching an online (member only access) parish directory. You will be receiving Directory Information Cards that need to be completed for you and your family to be a part of the online directory.

The information will be accessed via our website and will be password protected by each participant. You choose what information will be available for other parishioners to see.

Once we have it up and running, you will be able to edit your own information directly and add your own picture. We will also provide printed copies upon request.

In the meantime, we need the information cards completed and sent back to us via mail, email (administrator@saintandrewstampa.org) and by dropping them in the collection plate.

Pictures can be sent or emailed in as well for us to upload for you.

St. Andrew's Online Directory Information Card 2023

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.

	I want to share the following information:	Also show my:
Do you want to be included?	<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
Which Picture will you use?		
<input type="checkbox"/> I will email administrator@saintandrewstampa.org 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

Address

Email(s)

Phone(s)

Birthday (s) /Anniversary

June Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 6/12/23, there was \$210,876 in ops account and \$86,283 in the parish reserve account.

As of 6/13/23, there was \$19,856 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry.

Total available funds from principal for years 2019 thru 2023: \$376,408.

There was \$2,886,045 in the Foundation principal as of 4/25/23, as opposed to \$2,757,202 on 12/31/22 (an increase of \$128,843 for the year).

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. We did not spend any of the 2022 allocation. Current amount available is \$8,981 (the allocations for 2022 and 2023).

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 sometime this year.

Planned Giving – The Foundation Board would like for the parish to begin a serious effort at promoting planned giving. We could create a legacy society that would ask folks to include St. Andrew's in their estate planning.

Parking Lot Patrol – has launched. Chris Cobb is heading this up and is looking for volunteers to roam the parking lot from 10-10:30AM on Sundays, re-directing the poachers and pleading with them not to steal thy neighbor's parking space in the future.

Foundation Board – met on 5/3 and allocated 3% of the principal for 2023. The allocation for this year is \$89,058. (Each year the range is 2% to 4% of the principal based on a three-year rolling average, as per Foundation by-laws).

Church roof leaks – has returned along north transept wall, in chapel area. There is also a leak in northwest corner of church, near courtyard entrance doors. But Children's Chapel lobby is nice and dry!

Sexton Vacation – Anguel will make his annual trip to Bulgaria from 6/22 till 9/4 (a total of nine weeks). We will pay Anguel for 3 of those weeks (his vacation days), but not for the other 6 weeks. During that time, David Dickinson (parishioner Mike Dickinson's brother) will fill in, just as he did last year.

Choir on Hiatus – during the month of July. Ryan will also be off for July, with Linda Pointer (7/2) and Cheryl Cox (7/9, 7/16, and 7/23) filling in.

Vacation Bible School – is 7/31 through 8/4 with prep days on Sunday afternoons of 7/9 and 7/30. *Volunteers are needed!*

July 2023 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$38,248	\$52,525	\$302,834	\$367,679
Expenses	\$37,677	\$52,525	\$363,953	\$367,679
Net	(\$570)	\$0	(\$61,118)	\$0

Newcomers' Dinner – Let's do this in September or October (hosted by the vestry at the rectory).

Episcopal Visitation – Bishop Scharf will visit St. Andrew's on Sunday, 2/25/24 (the Second Sunday in Lent). Confirmation class for youth will start in the fall (during Sunday school hour) and for adults in January and February (on Tuesday evenings).

Church Audit: Wallace Dixon reported that nothing unusual was found in the audit. None of the vestry members had any questions following their review.

Barbara Brotherton made a motion to approve the parish audit. Brad Hall seconded the motion and the vestry approved to accept the audit unanimously.

Foundation Audit: Allison Besselieu reported that no issues were found. There were no questions for Allison.

Brad Hall made a motion to accept the Foundation audit findings. Kathy Lawless seconded the motion. The Vestry approved the audit unanimously.

Barbara Brotherton asked if the parking lot policing on Sunday mornings has been effective. Experience is that it is working well.

Senior Warden: Richard Ferlita reported that his update was covered in the Rector's Report.

Junior Warden: Fr. Reese reported for Richard Chapman that the new kitchen doors have been installed along with weatherstripping. There was discussion of the mailbox needing to be repositioned as it cannot be installed in the new doors. Richard C is getting closer to finalizing the restroom materials.

Treasurer: Eric Hargens reported that cash flow is very good. Summer revenues are falling off a bit but we are ahead of this time last year by \$25,000.

Committee Reports:

Outreach: Chris Capsambelis reported that Outreach will begin advertising for Operation Smart Start beginning in July.

Fr. Reese would like to schedule Rally Day this year. September 10th was agreed as a good date since school will be back in session and most folks are back from vacation.

Outreach Homeless Program: Kathy Lawless stated that Alicia has arranged for children to get service hours for participating in VBS scheduled this year from July 31st to Aug 4th.

Welcome Committee: Wallace Dixon said a parishioner has agreed to cover 8 o'clock service for the committee. Wallace is working on the draft of the committee's procedures.

Audio Program: Ryan Hebert introduced Paul Scheuer to one of his colleagues from the University of Tampa. Dr. Blackburn runs the Tech Department there and agreed to assist us in the selection of choir microphones in the church. He came on a Wednesday during choir and conducted some recordings. He thinks we can replace the two microphones that are hanging from the front chandeliers with two new units. This will be a cost savings versus putting them in the rafters. He has given a recommendation for the livestream as well. Cost is in the \$2,300 range for the mics plus installation and adjustments. Paul reported that approximately 8 to 15 people are attending via livestream on Sunday mornings. This does not reflect those who are viewing later and is seen as valuable in reaching those in ill health and out-of-towners. There is a new volunteer for the audio program so now only once a month is required per volunteer.

Homeless program – Kathy Lawless reported that first meeting held for the volunteers was well attended. There were new folks who came. It was a good meeting with feedback and ideas. Kathy is preparing Standard Operating Procedures for the volunteers. A woman found us through our website and volunteered to help with the program. Kathy visited Mr Bubbles, the homeless showering service, to see them in action. It is very professional and well organized. Kathy will be meeting with them to show them our parking lot and get them comfortable with our facility. The new kitchen doors are great and everyone appreciates it. Kathy mentioned that adding a gate code or door bell at the courtyard entrance would be welcome.

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.