



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✕ December 2018

Reverently Speaking



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

About a year ago, a pastor and his wife spotted a small advertisement about nativity scenes. The website offered nativity figures hand-made by a Chinese woodcarver. The pieces included stable animals, Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. So the couple ordered the 16-piece set. In due time the package arrived.

The order included a stable that could be pieced together. After assembling the stable, they unwrapped the hand-carved pieces and placed them in the scene. The pieces were beautiful. They were quite happy with the craftsmanship and the uniqueness of the display. Then they noticed something odd. They could not find a baby Jesus. Since the set also came in a large wooden box — a box that was full of Styrofoam peanuts, old newspapers used for wrapping and the like — they sifted through everything, pawing around, throwing stuff into the air. But still no baby.

So they wrote to the woodcarver about this. The website said that baby Jesus was included. Where was he? He replied that he had discontinued baby Jesus because customers invariably lost the little baby woodcarving. The pastor asked him if he would carve a baby Jesus for them. He said yes, but that he could not get it to them in time for Christmas. They would have to wait until February.

The question for us today is: Do we have baby Jesus in our scene, as it were — not just in a nativity scene, but in our lives throughout the year? Is there room for Jesus in your life this time of year?

We usually have room for our family, our spouse, our children and even extended family. This is as it should be, of course. Christmas is often a time when the family comes together. It's a time when many of us realize that the presence of the family is more important than the presents of the family. Presents don't equal *presence* and the former cannot be a substitute for the latter.

We also have room — not just for family — but for many other things. We have room for television and gaming, we have room for online surfing on Pinterest, Facebook and other sites. We have room for hobbies. We have room for eating out. It's wonderful that we have room for all of these things, all of which can be and should be blessings in our lives. But without room for Jesus, without that spiritual connection, without that longing to be in relationship with God through Jesus Christ, we are just doing fun things until we die and it is all over.

Truth is, having baby Jesus in the nativity scene is good news. It is "tidings of great joy!" Finding room for Jesus is not a negative thing. It is not a somber, dread, dreary and dull thing. On the contrary. *(continued)*

With Jesus in our scene, our lives are suddenly purposeful. We have direction.

Jesus came to Earth, after all, for a reason —

- He came to find those who are lost.
- He came to fill the emptiness.
- He came to point us to the way, the truth and the life.
- He came to reveal God.
- He came that we “may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10).

But some of us have momentarily lost Jesus. He’s around here somewhere. You know that you put baby Jesus *somewhere* for safekeeping — someplace that you’d remember when it was time to retrieve him for an important occasion, like his birthday.

But sometimes we can’t find him, can we? We’re too accustomed to living without him. And when we need him — well, we just don’t know what’s become of him.

He’s in a drawer or a closet or a long-forgotten corner somewhere. We’ll find him someday, we’re sure of it. But right now, we have no clue.

So life must go on. We construct our nativity scenes, our lives, and everything looks great, at least at first glance. But close inspection reveals something’s off. We’re all looking at different things. We really aren’t worshiping the Child who, in any case, is not in the manger. We all look preoccupied, as though we’re wondering what we’re doing.

We’re still suffering from post-traumatic shopping disorder.

The Chinese woodcarver said that many people simply lose baby Jesus. He’s so easy to lose, after all. There’s nothing malicious about it. People don’t *intend* to lose Jesus, he said. In fact, they probably made a commitment to keep Jesus, and put Jesus front and center where he belongs.

But he got lost. Somehow, we weren’t paying attention. Perhaps he was set aside to make room for other elements of the scene, and the intention was to return him to his rightful place in our lives.

But it didn’t happen. However, it *can* happen. We *can* return Jesus to his rightful place. I pray you will be looking for Jesus this Advent season – and that you will find him at Christmas.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. John Reese



WHAT: Santa Fest 2018

WHEN: Saturday, December 1 from 8 a.m.—noon

WHO: Anyone who wants to have some fun and help us raise funds for children’s & youth ministries!

WHERE: St. Andrew’s Parking Lot

WHY: To raise funds for children’s & youth ministries while we connect with the community and have a blast together!

St. Andrew's Day Fish 'n' Chips Dinner

The Outreach Committee is celebrating our Patron Saint with a good old fashioned Fish and Chips luncheon. (Chicken tenders will be available for Landlubbers!) Funds raised will go to support our Outreach Christmas projects. This will be a very authentic English/Scottish event.

Sunday, December 2nd after the 10:30am service
\$10.00 per adult, \$5.00 per kid • Take-away service provided



WHAT: Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

WHEN: We will have practice every Sunday from 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. and a final dress rehearsal on **December 15** from 10:00am-noon. The Christmas Pageant will take place on **Sunday,**

December 16 during the 10:30 service.

WHO: Children & Youth Birth-12th Grade who want to participate in telling the Christmas Story this year

WHY: To tell the story of Christmas and share joy, hope & peace!

For more information please contact Jim Morgan at
christianed@saintandrewstampa.org, or jameskmorgan53@gmail.com,
or call 813-233-6230

Gabriel's Giving Tree



Gabriel's Giving Tree supports needy children from Cleveland and BC Graham Elementary Schools. All gifts should be brought in to the church by Sunday, Dec. 9th. Donations are also greatly appreciated in either cash or checks made out to "St. Andrew's Episcopal Church" with "*Gabriel's Giving Tree*" in the memo line.

The Gabriel Giving Tree Party will be
Saturday, December 15 at 12noon-2pm

Volunteers are needed for games, treats and present delivery!



FLORIDA PRO MUSICA Larry Kent, Director

"Renaissance Christmas" Concert Saturday, December 15, 7:00 p.m.

Florida Pro Musica's 10-voice *a cappella* ensemble, directed by Larry Kent, will perform an intimate candlelight concert in the **Children's Chapel at St. Andrew's**. This 8th annual *Renaissance Christmas* concert will include some familiar songs of the season plus rarely performed masterpieces of the Renaissance by Victoria, Gallus, and Guerrero. Join us for an exceptional one-hour concert, followed by a reception to meet the musicians. **Tickets are \$20**, and seating is very limited. Visit www.FloridaProMusica.com and click on "Buy Tickets."



SAINT ANDREW'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 15 — 12:00 p.m.

Gabriel Giving Tree Christmas Party



Sunday, December 16 — 10:30 a.m. service

Christmas Pageant



Sunday, December 23 — 11:45 a.m.

Greening of the Church



Sunday, December 23 — 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Lessons & Carols

followed by Parish Christmas Party



Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve services

5:30 p.m. — Choral Eucharist (Rite II)

11:00 p.m. — Choral Eucharist

(Rite I with incense)

A string ensemble will play

at both services, with pre-service music at

5:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.



Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day service

10:00 a.m. — Choral Eucharist (Rite I)

Gifts for Christmas Flowers & Music

Please return this form by
December 15 in order for your
dedication to be printed in the
bulletin.

☐ \$_____ donation
to Christmas Flowers:

In Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for _____

Given By: _____

☐ \$_____ donation
to Christmas Music:

In Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for _____

Given By: _____

This form may be mailed or
placed in Sunday's collection
plate. Proceeds beyond
Christmas expenses will be
used to fund other special
music and flower needs
throughout the year.



RECTORY CHRISTMAS PARTY

*You are invited to join the Reeses for a Christmas party
on Friday, December 21st • 6:00—10:00pm
159 W. Davis Blvd
(NE corner of W. Davis and Barbados, on Davis Islands)*

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, after the 10:30am service

All hands on deck to help load Christmas trees, poinsettias, lights and wreathes
to decorate our beautiful church for the Christmas holidays!

Volunteers ages 8 to 80 needed! With many hands this task can be accomplished quickly!

Christmas Lessons & Carols and the Annual Parish Christmas Party

Sunday, December 23rd at 5:00PM

**Saint Andrew's to continue its tradition of
Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas**

Every year more churches throughout the United States are discovering the beauty of the simple traditional English service of "Nine Lessons and Carols." The structure of the service is as simple as the title: nine passages of Scripture are followed by nine carols. But the content of those readings and the traditional way of conducting the service have become very meaningful to many congregations. The service has a profound dignity and simplicity. The lessons are each read by a different reader; the readers are representative of different age groups and roles within the church (child chorister, congregation member, Vestry person, priest, etc.) After each lesson, the congregation and/or choir sing a carol or anthem reflecting on that passage of Scripture. This service was first sung in 1880 in Truro, England, and has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world.

Come join the Louise Lykes Ferguson Memorial Choir in celebrating this centuries-old tradition of Christmas which is enjoying a Renaissance in North America, followed by a festive Christmas Party with food and drink for all.

transforming generosity



Dear St. Andrew's Family,

In the past few weeks, we've been talking about transforming generosity in our lives. I've been touched and energized by members of our congregation who have shared their stories with me.

In his letter, our Stewardship Chair, Brad Hall, reminded us of how *generosity can transform us, our community and our church*. Your financial generosity empowers the ministry of St. Andrew's and transforms our community on a daily basis.

We can *transform what generosity looks like* as well. As we call upon you to be generous financially, we also ask you to be generous in welcoming new parishioners, in caring for those in need, and in maintaining our beautiful church home.

Your pledge is about more than our parish budget. It is about how we transform generosity and allow generosity to transform us. I know that as we change the lives of others through our ministry our lives will be changed through this work. In an act of transformational generosity, Jesus gave his life for the world. And for you and me. By giving we walk in Jesus' footsteps. We live out our call to discipleship.

On behalf of the Vestry, thank you for your faithful witness to God's transformative call on our lives. I'm grateful you are part of the St. Andrew's family.

Faithfully,

Piers Curry

Piers Curry, Treasurer

Treasurer

Transforming Generosity: 2019 Pledge

As part of my/our commitment to transforming generosity in 2019,
I/we pledge \$_____. I/we plan to fulfill this pledge:
_____ weekly, _____ monthly, _____ semiannually, _____ annually.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Please contact me about including the church in my estate plans.



Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30am

Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph

We're not that different from Joseph. True, we may not be part of a story that will be remembered for all time, but like Joseph, we encounter circumstances that we'd never choose for ourselves. At times, it can be tempting just to walk away, but Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand, faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides. Join Pastor Adam Hamilton in this four-week video series during Advent as he examines Christmas through the eyes of Joseph and learn to accept and glorify God's will even when our situation makes it difficult to do so. From his beginnings as a humble carpenter to his all-important role as the earthly father of Jesus Christ, Joseph's place in the nativity story is sometimes overlooked but contains valuable lessons for all of us. Absent from much of the biblical narrative, Joseph never spoke a word, but his courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God's salvation plan for humanity.

Here is the line-up:

12/2 - A Carpenter Named Joseph
12/9 - Whose Child is This?
12/16 - Raising a Child Not Your Own
12/23 - The Journey to Bethlehem

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

Thursday morning Bible Study is studying the Letters of John using N.T. Wright's study guide. "In his letters, John expresses delight at believers who are 'walking in the truth': behaving with that integrity which reflects the gospel. This involves not just correct doctrine and proper outward behavior, but also love for God and fellow believers. It's this love, John writes, that shows that the truth of the gospel has really been grasped, not as an abstract idea but as what it is, the very life of God Himself at work in his people. These nine studies help us become believers who are 'walking in the truth' in our own day - people in whom the very life of God is at work for all to see." Join us in the library at 10:30am on Thursdays. Study guides are available at \$7 from Alice Prucha.

Make a Pledge for 2019

Please return your pledge card for 2019 as soon as possible. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail, cards are available at the back of the church, in the Parish Hall, or through the parish office (813-221-2035).

Make a commitment and support St. Andrew's in the coming year. Currently, we have 107 pledges for \$299,445.

New Lay Eucharistic Minister Needed

We are in need of an additional person to serve as a Lay Eucharistic Minister at the 8AM Sunday service. Duties involve carrying the Gospel book, handling the offering plates, serving the altar, and distributing the chalice during holy communion. As an option, one can also read the Lesson and the Prayers of the People. Time commitment would be approximately one Sunday per month. *If you feel called to serve, please contact the Rector (451-5521).*

Ushers Needed for the 10:30 Service

Ushering is open to men and women of the Parish. The ushers serve on a rotation with each Usher assigned a certain Sunday of the month to serve. Through attrition we have three openings and we can always use additional volunteers to fill in as needed.

If you have questions, or if you are ready to volunteer, please contact Frazier Carraway at fcarroway@saxongilmore.com.



Many Thanks: Several weeks ago Kathy Lawless donated to the church sweatshirts and assorted t-shirts in various sizes. These items were donated by Kathy's employer. We were able to make over 30 packages of one sweatshirt and 2 t-shirts which were distributed to the homeless folks during the church lunch program. The distribution came in time for the cold snap we had last week.

Last Sunday Kathy again brought several boxes of nylon jackets, t-shirts, and canvas bags for the Outreach Committee. We were able to make 21 packages of one nylon jacket, one t-shirt, and one canvas bag. These will be available for distribution within the next weeks as the weather appears to be getting cooler.

October 2018 Operating Summary				
	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$39,568	\$48,210	\$345,959	\$482,101
Expenses	\$56,241	\$48,210	\$467,960	\$482,101
Net	(\$16,673)	(\$0)	(\$122,000)	(\$0)

October Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT – Fr. Reese

As of 10/9/18, there was \$101,146 in ops account and \$111,487 in the parish reserve account.

As of 6/30/18, there is \$19,329 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry.

We have another \$43,324 available from the Foundation principal as a result of the 2.5% spending allocation designated by the Foundation Board for 2016 at their meeting on 2/8/16.

We have another \$53,473 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.

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.

And there was \$2,596,448 in the Foundation principal as of 9/30/18 (an increase of \$46,712 since 6/30/18).

There is also \$101,711 in the Dan Curtis fund fbo St. Andrew's within the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, with \$7,237 in grant money currently available (a combination of unused past distributions and the distribution for 2018).

Vestry Nominations – time to recruit the nominees, then convince them to run.

This year's nominating committee is Chris, Holly, Al, Cate, Jim, Lori, Peter, and Piers (all outgoing vestry members plus exec com members).

Pet Blessing – was in church courtyard on Saturday, 10/6 at 10AM. It was the biggest turnout since I have been here.

Oktoberfest – was on Sonntag, 10/7 after the 10:30 service, hosted by our Outreachers. It was wunderbar! Great food (and plenty of it). Danke schon to all who helped out on this tasty project!

Diocesan Convention - at Punta Gorda on Saturday, 10/13. Our delegates are Paula, Al, Don, and yours truly.

Thanksgiving Day Service – on Thursday, 11/23 at 10AM. Come and give thanks to the One who made the turkeys.

Fish Fry – Sunday, 12/2 after the 10:30 service, served by our Outreachers.

2019 Stewardship Campaign – is in full swing. Thanks, Brad, for once again heading this up!

Brad spoke at services on Sunday, 9/30. Pledge cards were mailed out that week. So far, we have twenty-six pledges totaling \$75,000. Next round of pledge cards will go out on 10/30. Third round of pledge cards will be sent 11/27. Postcard reminders will go out first week of January and again the first week of February.

Director of Children's and Family Ministry Search Committee – Jim will report, but one person has been interviewed for the position by Jim Morgan and me. Here is the ad we are running on Craig's List, with the diocese, and in the weekly email shout out:

Director of Children's and Youth Ministries

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in downtown Tampa is seeking an energetic and creative part time Director of Children's and Youth Ministries. Responsibilities include: planning and directing a volunteer-staffed Sunday School, including researching and selecting appropriate curriculum; leading a chapel service for children on Sundays; coordinating the involvement of children and youth in the main church service; and managing all special programs and activities related to children and youth. The position is 20 hours per week, including Sunday mornings. Resumes and communication to: The Rev. John Reese at rec-tor@saintandrewstampa.org

Organist/Choirmaster Search Committee – Richard will report.

Interim Musicians – Coleman Flentge began as Interim Handbell Choir Director and Interim Cherub Choir director on 10/2. He is already a member of both the handbell choir and the adult choir. Michelle Thomas started as Interim Choirmaster on 10/3 and is leading the adult choir and children's choir. Linda Sparks will start as Interim Music Director/Organist on 10/21. She will be in charge of the music program and will supervise both Michelle and Coleman. Linda is committed as interim through Easter.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Peter Baker

Peter is focused on the search for an Organist/Choirmaster and a Director of Children's and Youth Ministries. The chairs of those search committees will report on those efforts, which also have taken a lot of Peter's time. The 717 sign in the parking lot is leaning again and Peter will notify 717 of the issue.

Peter is working on generating nomination for the upcoming Vestry election. Lots of people are considering running and Peter currently has 2 definite yeses. There was a brief discussion of whether the Vestry has an appropriate number of members, and Peter suggested that we maintain the Vestry at its current size. Peter said participation at the Anchor Ball was excellent and a good time was had by all. Peter thanked those who attended.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Al Getz

Al thanked Richard Ferlita for providing pallets for the basement. Pam has notified the appropriate people to have the holes in the parking lot fixed. The fire alarm, which had been malfunctioning, has been repaired and is working again. Termite tenting at the Church is being done in January. The Rectory is being tented in mid-November. The light dimmer panel in church still is an issue. Al is waiting on a company from Orlando with experience to fix the issue. The Ark on the children's playground is having some maintenance issues with the cross and swing set. Al discussed the issue with Doug Taplow and hopes to have them corrected soon.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Piers Curry

Piers stated that we have collected 78% of the budgeted pledge offering for the year, but past years indicate there will be an increase in pledges being made in November and December. However, the balance in the operating account is decreasing. Expenses for the year are under budget, which is helping with this issue.

Acolytes – Richard Ferlita

Richard had a training session with lots of new acolytes, including some new parishioners who have only been at St. Andrew's for a short time. The program has been attracting a lot of interested participants, including children who are interested in being crucifers.

Organist/Choirmaster Search Committee – Richard Ferlita

The search is going well, and Richard is getting a positive response from the choir and the community, with some local organists approaching him about the position. He has gotten average salary information from the American Guild of Organists and Association of Anglican Musicians for use in the process. A job description has been written and is being reviewed by Fr. Reese. Given the start of Advent season, finding a permanent candidate will take time, but we have continuity of leadership through Easter with the current interim leadership.

Christian Education and Children's and Youth Ministries Search Committee – Jim Morgan

Jim has received one response to the current advertisement and has reviewed her credentials. Jim will interview her tomorrow and Fr. Reese has already done so. If both think she is a good candidate, they will ask her to present a lesson at an upcoming Children's Chapel. Jim expressed that the part-time nature of the position has made it difficult to find candidates. Martha Cobb is handling the Halloween House and is looking for other volunteers to assist. Jim also appreciates everyone's help with the children's program, including Pam Curry. Jim also has been in contact with families to be sure they are comfortable after Ms. Alicia's departure. Confirmation class has about 20 participants. In the next 2-3 years, there may be enough teens for a youth group.

Outreach – Holly Clemmons

Octoberfest was a success and raised \$800, which is being donated to Metropolitan Ministries. Holly thanked all the volunteers. The turkey packing day will be November 17, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Parishioners can also donate money and Publix gift cards. The Outreach Committee will use those funds to purchase additional items for the packages. The Fish Fry will be on December 2, 2018. The price is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. Proceeds will go to Gabriel's Giving Tree. The Giving Tree party will be on December 15, 2018 and the tree will be up in the Parish Hall starting on November 18.

Stewardship – Brad Hall

The pledge drive is going well. Brad will provide Richard with template letters for the upcoming mailer for the pledge drive. Paula Stewart will speak to the congregation on Sunday about pledging. Brad needs volunteers for upcoming Sundays.

Old Business

Lori Taplow is working with Lauri Harder to finalize the photo directory.

New Business

The Vestry Nominating Committee is meeting after this meeting to discuss the search for Vestry nominees.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

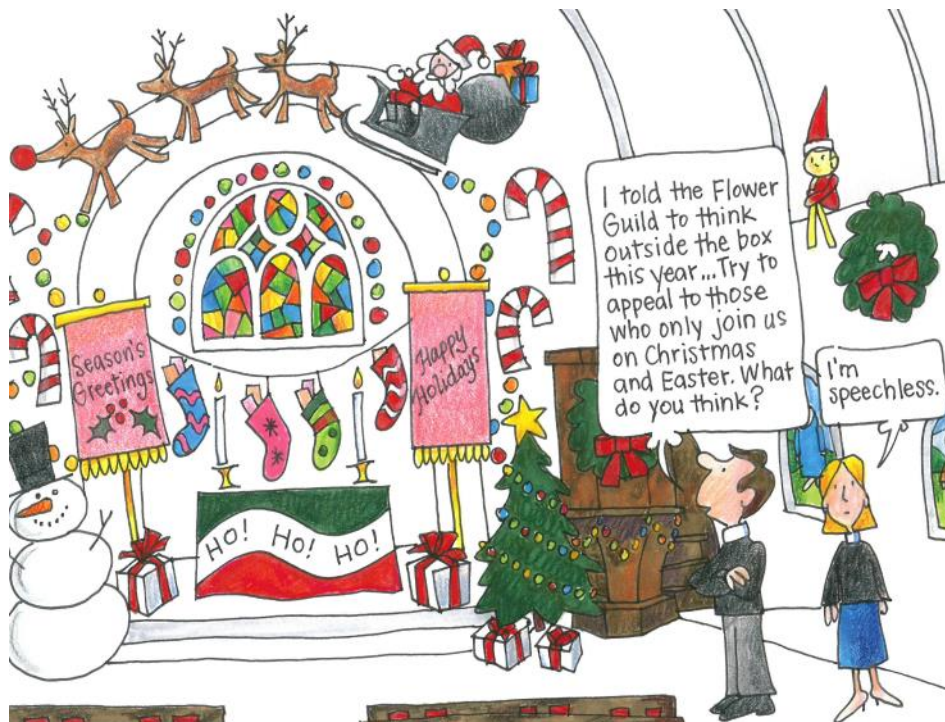
Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



ST. ANDREW'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

see page four



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
Kathy in the church office.