



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ January 2019

Reverently Speaking

Straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:14

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

The first few days, even weeks, of January are sort of shocking. Most of us can't believe another year has flown by. *Tempus fugit*.

In some ways, January is an exciting month because it is a *transitional* month — a month of beginnings.

In fact, the name of this month has associations with the concepts of beginnings, doorways, openings, gateways and transitions.

There's little doubt that the name derives from the Roman god Janus, although not everyone agrees that the month was so-named because of its aptness as the first month of the year.

Janus is usually depicted as having two faces, one looking to the past and one to the future. Recall that the Roman calendar (from the Latin *calends*) began with March, not January.

For us, September, October, November and December are months 9, 10, 11 and 12 respectively. But for the Romans, these months were numbers 7, 8, 9 and 10 — and thus September comes from *septem*, October from *octo*, November from *novem* and December from *decem*, Latin for "ten."

In 1582, Pope Gregory adjusted the calendar so that January became the first month of the year. And in 1752, the British and the colonies adopted the same calendar which we call the Gregorian calendar.

So, it's January, a month that evokes mention of the Roman god Janus, god of beginnings, opportunities and transitions. This is a perfect moment to consider which direction we're going as we face the year unfolding before us.

The question for us as we enter the year 2019 is whether we will look forward through the eyes of faith, or backward toward what once was. It's not always a bad thing to look back on the past. In fact, in the Bible we are given constant reminders to "forget not all his benefits" (Psalm 103:2). Looking back and remembering.

But looking backward can also be dangerous and destructive. Lot's wife famously looked back and became a pillar of salt, according to the account in Genesis 19:26. Brooding about failures and mistakes is not good for our spiritual and mental health. Dwelling on "what might have been" does not help us get to "what might be."

The apostle Paul quite intentionally refused to spend time in the past ruing his mistakes. He was a persecutor of the church. He stood by while Stephen was stoned to death. He used his skills, position and education to do as much harm as possible against the first followers of Christ. And, his pedigree as a Jew is impressive.

But, he says, he doesn't dwell on that. In fact, he considers all of that trash that should be taken out and placed at the curb for pickup. And then forgotten.

Janus would have us face the year 2018 and perhaps years prior. That might be a good thing. But it could be dangerous.

Janus has another face. It looks toward the future. And this is where we are today. We are looking ahead and wondering what's next. "What will this year bring forth? What will I be able to achieve? How will my family and I be affected by this or that force? What will I do to improve my health and wealth? What will happen that will alter my life? What can I reasonably expect?"

And perhaps we're wondering, "Where is God leading me? What can I do better to utilize my gifts in the kingdom of God?"

The apostle Paul has some ideas that might help us.

Paul not only writes about forgetting the past, but he says, "Straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

Paul wasn't thinking of the turn of the calendar, however, but of the turn in his life that began with his Damascus Road conversion. And in that journey, Paul does something intentional about the backward look: He chooses to *forget* what lies behind.

He does something intentional about the future as well: Using the imagery of a footrace in which all the attention of the runner is focused on the finish line, Paul says he *strains* forward to what lies ahead, pressing on toward the goal of eternal life with Christ.

And although the ancient Roman god Janus reminds us of our tendency to look backward, it is Jesus to whom we look forward. The author of Hebrews cautions us, invoking the same racing or running metaphor as the apostle Paul: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, *looking to Jesus* ..." (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Just days into 2019, while we know we have not yet reached the goal of full identification with Christ, let us press on, living with the tensions between our dreams and deeds *and* looking to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith." All the best in the New Year!

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

Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, anxiety disorders are reaching epidemic proportions. We are tense. Why? Change is one reason. Sociologists speculate the world has changed more in the last thirty years than it has in the last three hundred. Every day seems to bring new change and threats. We also face personal challenges - job loss, cancer, divorce, addiction, bankruptcy. Add to personal challenges those of a global nature imported into our lives every few seconds thanks to smart phones, TVs, and computer screens.

Anxiety just comes with life. However, as God's Word reveals, it doesn't have to *dominate* life. In this five-session video-based Bible study, Max Lucado looks at seven admonitions from the apostle Paul in Philippians 4:4-8 that lead to one wonderful promise: "The peace of God which surpasses all understanding." As he unpacks each verse, he shows how God is ready to give comfort to help us face the calamities in life, view bad news through the lens of sovereignty, discern the lies of Satan, and tell ourselves the truth. We *can* be anxious for nothing, and discover true peace from God that surpasses all human understanding.

Here is the lineup:

1/6 – Rejoice in the Lord Always

1/13 - Let Your Gentleness Be Known to All

1/20 - In Everything by Prayer... with Thanksgiving

1/27 - The Peace of God... Will Guard Your Hearts

2/3 - Meditate on These Things

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.



Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, February 10, 11:45am
to hear Annual Reports
and elect five new Vestry members

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, March 3rd at the 10:30 service.

Here is the line-up:

1/15 – Introduction to the Episcopal Church (*this session meets in the church*)
1/22 – The Worship of the Church (*this session meets at the Rectory, 159 W Davis Blvd*)
1/29 – History of the Church
2/5 – The Holy Scriptures and Creeds
2/12 – The Church Year and Sacraments
2/19 – The Ordained Ministry and the Mission of the Church
2/26 – Ministry of the Laity

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

2019 PLEDGE REPORT

<u><i>Pledges received</i></u>	<u><i>Total Amount Pledged for 2019</i></u>	<u><i>Total Amount Pledged for 2018</i></u>
<i>134</i>	<i>\$358,069.00</i>	<i>\$415,609 .00</i>

7 New pledges for 2019
41 Increased their pledge for 2019
22 Decreased their pledge for 2019
64 Made the same pledge in 2019 as in 2018
134 Total number of pledges received in 2019

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!

We have currently received **134 pledges for \$358,069.**

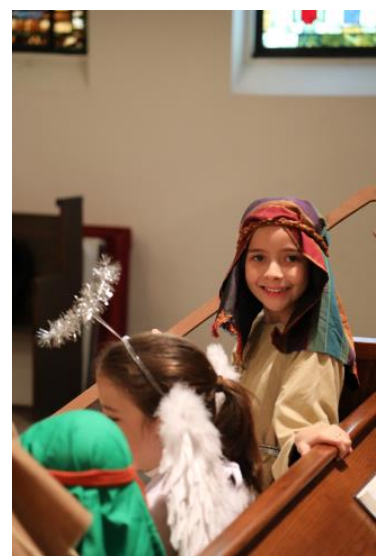
St. Andrew's 2019 Stewardship Donors

Chris & April Adams	Susanna Fenhagen & Anthony Morrison	Marsha Otte
Thomas & Elise Akins	Richard A. Ferlita & James W. Carmichael	Anne Paige
Sandra E. Alley	Carole R. Fields	Robert E. Parr
Patrick & Allison Allman	Michael Fradley & Jamen Voss	William J. Peterson
Irene & Peter Baker	Pat Frank	Tania & Mike Phillips
Mrs. A. Lacy Baldy	Michael & Lisa Gari	Jack & Roma Plimmer
Lisa & Mac Barrow	Charles & Anne Garrison	Wayne & Anna Putney
Siegfried & Linda Barry	Allen O. Getz	Anita E. Ramirez
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Mr. & Mrs. Steven Cantler	Margo & Larry Kemm	Gregg & CJ Smith
Chris & Julie Capsambelis	Fran Kerr	Maxwell & Teri Sobel
Charles Caro	Helen T. Kerr	Carol Jean Spoto
Claire & Frazier Carraway	James Key	Jerold & Anne Stadel
Betsy & Steve Chambers	Carole T. King	Linda K. Stevens
Samuel & Sandra Childs	Charles & Victoria Klug	Paula Stewart
Charlotte Churchill	Katherine Lawless	Kathi Stoy
A. Dennis Clarke	George E. Levy	Catharyn Szuba
Holly Clemmons & Katie Pastorius	Adrienne Love	Matt & Carolyn Tapie
Chris & Martha Cobb	Leslie Lowe	Doug & Lori Taplow
Gary Cotter	Sheridan & Guy Marr	Jean N. Turner
Don & Summer Crawford	Analee & Matt Mayes	Milton & Georgia Vahue
Rosann Creed	Kimberly & Carey Maynell	Russ Versaggi
Mark Crofoot	Rosemary S. McAteer	Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Vince
William C. Crowder	Michael & Linda McGhee	Christopher & Maureen Watson
Piers & Pamela Curry	Donald & Laura McGinnis	George Western
Oliva Curtis	Martin McKinney	John & Pat Wolfe
William & Stacy Curtis	Luis & Martha Medel	Betty Wood
Robin DeLaVergne	Catherine Michelsen	
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Dickinson	Robert & Wanda Mitchell, Sr.	
A.G. Divers	James M. Moore	
Wallace A. Dixon	James K. Morgan	
Dennis & Melinda Dundore	John & Susan Mueller	
Doug Dusini & Rachel May	Ingrid Muellerleile	
Dr. & Mrs. James Endicott	Michael & Janet Norona	
David Epp		

Thanks for supporting St. Andrew's in 2019!!

GABRIEL'S GIVING TREE PARTY..





...AND CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2018

November 2018 Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT

As of 11/5/18, there was \$87,752 in ops account and \$109,110 in the parish reserve account. As of 6/30/18, there is \$19,379 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 \$103,437 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).

2019 Stewardship Campaign – is in full swing. Thanks, Brad, for once again heading this up! Brad spoke at Sunday services on 9/30 and 11/4. Paula Stewart spoke on a Sunday in October. Anyone else willing to get up and give a two minute stewardship plug? Second round of pledge cards went out on 10/30. Peter, thank you for writing the letter that accompanied that mailing. Third round of pledge cards will be sent 11/27. Is there a vestry member willing to write that letter? Postcard reminders will go out first week of January and again the first week of February. Currently, we have 98 pledges for 254K, which is about the same amount as this time last year.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Peter Baker

Peter met with Jeff Coleman to get copies of the plans for the 6th floor and 4th floor. Currently no prospects for renting our 6th floor space.

Linda Sparks is visiting the Vestry meeting. She is our interim organist.

Vestry charter currently includes a gender limitation that we should address. We can amend the charter to exclude this limitation.

(continued)

November 2018 Operating Summary				
	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$32,912	\$48,210	\$378,941	\$530,311
Expenses	\$45,088	\$48,210	\$513,049	\$530,311
Net	(\$12,176)	(\$0)	(\$134,107)	(\$0)

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Al Getz

The Church is being treated for termites in January. The rectory is being tented this Friday.

The dimmer panel was repaired to correct the flickering lights in the church and seems to be working.

There is a broken pew in the back of the church. Al will investigate the needed repairs.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Piers Curry

We are running in the red; revenues down, but expenses are under budget. Other income is down but we know we get a bump at year end. Contributions – pledge offerings are improving and the gap is closing. December is when we close the gap, historically.

Plate offering is up for the year. Special Services are down. Audit Committee – inventory happening after Thanksgiving with Piers and Fr. Reese.

CHRISTIAN ED – Jim Morgan

A candidate for Christian Ed Director is coming in to interview tomorrow with Fr. Reese. He cannot audition until Dec 2nd.

The pageant practice starts this weekend. Coleman will prepare the Youth and Cherub choir to sing.

STEWARDSHIP - Brad Hall

Brad will take the 8:00 service and Don the 10:30 to address the congregation on the benefits of Stewardship this Sunday. Piers will take the next Sunday.

OUTREACH – Holly Clemmons

Richard has turned over a check for Thanksgiving packing. Next is the drive for Thanksgiving Boxes of Hope. It will take place at 10AM this Saturday. Outreach meeting scheduled after the 10:30 service. Martha has submitted some of the information for our Gabriel Giving Tree. More will be submitted from Nekeshia Hammond.

Tickets are available for the Fish Fry on December 2nd.

Gabriel's Giving tree party from 12-2 on Saturday, December 15th.

ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER SEARCH – Richard Ferlita

Putting together the job description. It will be written, approved and published. AAM would like a copy. Episcopal News Service, Yale Sacred Music website were suggested as places to publish our open position.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30PM. Next vestry meeting is **Monday, 12/17 at 5:30PM.**



Columbarium niches available

The columbarium, located north of the Children's Chapel, is now complete and arrangements can be made for eternal rest at St. Andrew's. Each niche can hold two urns, and the cost per niche is \$2000. For more information contact the Rector.

Donations to Saint Andrew's Foundation



In Loving Memory of Joseph White

David Epp
Rosann Creed
Edward & Susan Tetz

In Loving Memory of Henry Brown

Pat & John Wolfe
Haynes & Jane Carswell
John Gandoff
Catherine O'Kelley Rome
Betty Murray Shinn
Sonya Endicott
Susan & David Curtis
Gwynne Young



Weddings

**Michael Karl Beck
and
Gabriella Nicole Gonzalez**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, February 10th

following the 10:30am service



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.