



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE CALL

Honoring the Past — Embracing the Future!

Downtown Tampa, Florida ✦ June/July 2019

Reverently Speaking

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds

Romans 12:2a

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

One of my favorite movies is the 1952 classic, *The African Queen*. The film takes place in Central Africa during the First World War. It stars Humphrey Bogart as Charlie Ulnut, a gin-swilling riverboat captain and Katherine Hepburn as Rose Sayer, a very straight-laced missionary. One night, as they float down a crocodile infested African river, Charlie gets rip-roaring drunk. Rose is aghast by his behavior and angrily scolds him. Charlie tries to justify his behavior by claiming getting drunk every once in a while is only human nature. Rose straightens her shoulders and says, "(Human) Nature, Mr. Ulnut, is what we are put on this earth to rise above."

There is great truth in that observation. Wanting to associate only with people who are as much like us as humanly possible comes naturally. It is human nature. As people of faith, however, we are to live by a higher standard than doing what comes naturally. We are called to be the instruments of God in building a world where all the children of the Creator live in a unity of peace, harmony, and justice. That requires rising above human nature.

While it is a challenging task, it is possible to go against what comes naturally. As Paul puts it in the book of Romans, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds..." (Romans 12:2a). The New Living Translation, which makes an effort to translate the meaning of the text rather than simply translate the words, puts this passage beautifully. "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think" (Romans 12:2a NLT).

Perhaps with a tinge of light-hearted humor, religion writer Paul Prather suggested that there is a scientific basis for understanding the biblical admonition to be transformed by changing the way we think. Prather cited the science of neuroplasticity, also called brain plasticity or brain malleability. As close as I am able to understand the science, as human beings we are born with brains already downloaded with certain software. We come programmed with certain tendencies, predispositions, or personality traits. For instance, we think it is human nature to want to associate with people we consider just like us because our brain came programmed for that conclusion.

Fortunately, we are not doomed to live out our lives with the "software" with which we came. The computer that sits on top our shoulders is always getting updates and fixes for glitches based on differing needs and new experiences. To take that out of the language of computers

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and put it into the language of psychology, we have the capacity to learn, to mature, and to change. To put it into theological language of Romans 12:2, you do not have to copy the behavior and customs of the world, God can transform you into a new person by the renewal of your mind. That means God can make you into a new person by changing the way you think, by the way you believe, and by the way you behave.

To be perfectly honest, I do not know enough about the science of neuroplasticity or brain malleability to offer an informed opinion. I do know from experience and observation, however, that people can rise above what comes naturally to do what is right in the eyes of God.

Consider the story of Nelson Mandela, the first president of a united South Africa. Mr. Mandela was born in a tiny village of cows, corn, and mud huts in Transkei, a region where black Africans were forced to live apart from white Africans. As a young man he gravitated toward violent groups that challenged the laws of apartheid. The white South African judicial system sentenced him to life in prison. For many of his nearly three decades in prison, he labored under a hot African sun using a hammer to make big rocks into little rocks. Indignity upon indignity was heaped upon him — including being denied permission to attend the funerals of his mother and his eldest son.

When Mr. Mandela was released from prison, he had reason to be angry and bitter about the way white South Africans had treated him. He had reason to say the time of white dominance was over; now it was time for black dominance. That did not happen. Instead of leading a bloody race war by calling for revenge of all past injustices, Nelson Mandela called for compromise, forgiveness, and reconciliation in a nation where all races are represented.

How does that happen? It is just one of those mysteries of God's grace. It is a fulfillment of the promise that a person can be transformed by the renewal of the mind. For those of us who live between the times, it is an incomplete glimpse into how the world will look when the will of God is done on earth as it is in heaven.



Yours in Christ,

The Rev. John Reese

Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30am

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) in the Parish Building.

Thursday morning Bible Study began a new study on Jan. 10 at 10:30am in the library, The Gospel of John using N.T. Wright's study guide. "Nothing in John's Gospel is there by accident... And all the details in John are designed ultimately to come together. In these studies we discover the clues John gives that we might see even more clearly the reality of who Jesus is, the new creation He inaugurates and the difference that all makes." Please join us for this exciting study of Jesus through John's eyes!

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



Father's Day Brunch

The women of St. Andrew's will be fixing brunch in celebration of Father's Day on June 16th after the 8:00 & 10:30 am services.

Please contact Janet Norona at noronajanet@gmail.com if you can help.



From the Parish Register

Baptisms

Everett Scott Mitchell
Sebastian Christopher Ulibarri



Transfers Out

Christopher & Stephanie
Rogers
to Palma Ceia Presbyterian,
Tampa



Columbarium niches now available

The columbarium is located north of the Children's Chapel, 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.

KleanKits: We are collecting for the Klean Kits for the homeless.

For May we welcome your donations of stick deodorants. Going forward we will be collecting socks, washcloths, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Your giving is so appreciated!



ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

2019 IS FULL OF FUN & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

We had a great VBS meeting last week, however we only have had 2 families sign up their children, please register by phone or email if your child is going. We are asking for any help with the renting of the bus for the Cornerstone Kids to attend our VBS, this is a great opportunity to get the Gospel to so many young ones. Yes, we still need a photographer for VBS, if you are interested, please let me know ASAP, and anyone who is interested in volunteering in any way during the VBS program. And, if anyone has a tv/vcr/dvd combo player they don't use anymore it would be greatly appreciated in the youth department.

Even though it's summer, we will be holding a joint, relaxed, one room Sunday school for all kids/youth. So do not despair, come in for the adult Sunday school & send the younger ones to my class. Please contact me, Victor Van Pelt at christianed@saintandrewstampa.org or 813-898-3415 with any questions.



We are running our own summer program at St. Andrew's. **Vacation Bible School** this year is June 10th to June 14th. The hours are 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Our kids will be joined by the Cornerstone Kids from St. James House of Prayer. Please fill out the Registration Form on the next page and return it to Victor in the office or at church on Sunday.

The ages for VBS are PK through Grade 5. Older youth can help with the little ones, and the activities. There will be a youth activity for our older helpers every afternoon.

Escape School June 15: This is a unique and needed program open to anyone. It will teach kids what to do should someone try to "take" them from off the street, a store, etc.. There will be Law Enforcement there, A Karate Instructor demonstrating self-defense techniques and situations, and the Masons Lodge will be offering free child I.D. cards and fingerprinting for all who attend. All this will take place on the 6th floor youth area.

Announcements coming soon on when training will occur.



Camp dates for this year:

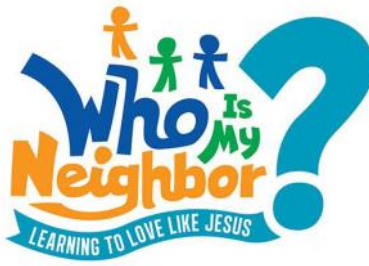
Elementary School July 7-12

Middle School June 16-21

High School June 23-28

Register at www.dayspringfla.org

Please contact Victor at christianed@saintandrewstampa.org or 813-898-3415 for information on upcoming youth activities



St. Andrew's Episcopal VBS 2019 Registration Form

Fill out this form to register children, youth volunteers, and/or adult volunteers for VBS 2019, June 10-14, 2019

Child/ Youth #1 Name _____

Parent/ Guardian/ Volunteer (please circle one) _____ Cell Phone # _____

Email Address: _____

Is your child a VBS PARTICIPANT or YOUTH VOLUNTEER (rising 7th grade & up)? (Please circle one)

Child's Date of Birth _____ (must be 3 years old and fully potty trained by June 9, 2019)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Child/ Youth School Name _____ Last Grade Completed _____

Allergies or Special Needs? _____

Buddy Request? _____

Child/ Youth #2 Name _____ (must be 3 years old and fully potty trained by June 9, 2019)

Is your child a VBS participant or Youth Volunteer (rising 7th grade & up)? (Please circle one)

Child's Date of Birth _____

Child/ Youth School Name _____ Last Grade Completed _____

Allergies or Special Needs _____

Buddy Request? _____

Child/ Youth #3 Name _____

Is your child a VBS participant or Youth Volunteer (rising 7th grade & up)? (Please circle one)

Child's Date of Birth _____ (must be 3 years old and fully potty trained by June 9, 2019)

Child/ Youth School Name _____ Last Grade Completed _____

Allergies or Special Needs? _____

Buddy Request? _____

T-shirt size (please circle one per participant/ Volunteer and give a total #)

Child Sizes: YXS YS YM YL YXL # _____

Youth/ Adult Sizes: AS AM AL AXL A2XL A3XL # _____

Total # of T-shirts _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone # _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

CHURCH OFFICE USE ONLY \$25 per child/ \$75 max per family

Paid Y N SCH Amount \$ _____ (check # _____) Check MO Cash

MOTHER'S DAY & YOUTH SUNDAY



April Vestry Meeting Highlights

RECTOR'S REPORT – Fr. Reese

- As of 4/23/19, there was \$153,468 in ops account and \$108,127 in the parish reserve account. As of 3/25/19, there was about \$30,430 in the Foundation's checking account – monies available to the vestry. We have another \$13,324 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. (\$30,000 has already been transferred to the Foundation checking account from the 2016 allocation, which totaled \$43,324). 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. 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. And there was \$2,576,464 in the Foundation principal as of 3/31/19. 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). At our 2/25/19 meeting, Vestry authorized a 6.5K draw on this fund to pay for church roof repairs of tiles broken during January termite tenting. This work is currently in progress.
- Organist/Choirmaster Search – Richard will report. We have three candidates coming to audition on the following Sundays: 5/5 (Ryan Hebert), 5/12 (Paul Erickson), and 5/26 (Matthew Gender). Each candidate will rehearse the choir the prior Wednesday evening & on Sunday morning, then conduct the choir & play the organ at the 10:30 service. We will have a supply organist on 5/19, 6/2, 6/9 and 6/16. The new organist/choirmaster will (hopefully) start on or around 6/17.
- Lenten Series - The presenter this year was The Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Williams. We had about 25-30 folks each week. We had an average of 18 in the Children's Chapel for the Eucharist each Tuesday. Many thanks to all the groups that hosted the dinners!
- Stations of the Cross – Fridays in Lent at 12:10PM in the church. We averaged five souls each week.
- Easter Day – over 500 attended. Great music, terrific food, & fine fellowship! Many thanks to Parish Life for hosting!
- Parish & Foundation Audits – Ben is chairing parish audit and Peter is chairing the Foundation audit.
- Sesquicentennial Celebration – St. Andrew's turns 150 in 2021 (the parish was founded in 1871). This, of course, will be an ongoing process as we prepare for 2021 festivities.
- Monthly Vestry Meeting Reporter – Need a volunteer to speak on **Sunday morning, 5/5** at both services, giving parishioners highlights of 4/29 vestry meeting. (Thanks, Anita, for reporting this past month!)
Donreece Brown has agreed to present the next Sunday Vestry briefing to the parish.
- 717 Parking Proposal – Peter and the Rector met with Jason Accardi of 717 Parking on 4/24. Jason has a proposal for 717 to expand their operation in our lot from during the day on weekdays to evenings and weekends as well. Peter will report.
- Cinco de Mayo – after 10:30 service on Sunday, 5/5, Mexican luncheon sponsored by Outreach, proceeds go to helping Cornerstone Kids attend our VBS in June.
- Deanery Clericus – St. Andrew's hosts the Tampa Deanery Clericus (Episcopal clergy from Tampa area) on Tuesday, 5/7 at 9:30AM.
- Mother's Day Brunch – following both services on Sunday, 5/12, sponsored by the men of the parish. POC is Winston Blake.
- Final Youth Sunday – of the program year will be 5/19. We will also honor our Sunday School teachers and recognize our high school and college graduates that morning.

April 2019 Operating Summary

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$42,488	\$47,095	\$171,227	\$188,382
Expenses	\$50,937	\$47,095	\$188,186	\$188,382
Net	(\$8,449)	\$0	(\$16,959)	\$0

A courtyard plaque for Jack Levy in the amount of \$262.38 (to be paid from Foundation funds) was approved via email vote and was approved in today's meeting.

Barbara Brotherton made a motion that we approve the courtyard plaque for Bobbie Faber in the amount of \$243.00 and pay it from Foundation funds. Brad Hall seconded. The motion was approved

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Richard Ferlita

*In the final stages of the search for Organist/Choirmaster - thanks to Fr. Reese, Don Crawford, Peter Baker, Ben Borsch and Richard Ferlita for their efforts.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – George Levy

*Roofing tiles came in late last week. Work is expected to begin work tomorrow. Able to get half a pallet of 180 tiles at \$660 with some tiles to spare. Won't need reserves for that and hope to finish the job this week.

*Contractor who painted the building also did some work on the window sills in the Parish Hall. George has requested a quote from Al Leach Painting to replace the wood and repaint the sills as well as rotten and rusted jams. Some dry rot but not termites. May need some treatment if needed. Starting here with this quote but may need other quotes.

*Exterior lights that shine on the children's chapel and walkway were out. We had bulbs replaced.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Piers Curry

*Other income contains funds for some of the repairs that have been carried out. An unplanned and non-repeating gift has been applied to revenue. We are in good shape. We are looking good going into the summer months.

CHRISTIAN ED – Brad Hall

*Looking for names of graduates to honor them on Sunday, 5/19.

*Easter egg hunt on Easter Day went well – lots of kids.

OUTREACH – Ingrid Muellerleile

*Martha Cobb spoke to the congregation on March 31st, at both services, on behalf of the Outreach Committee to thank everyone for their support of our adopted elementary schools. She highlighted the ongoing needs of the students, particularly with simple necessities, and reminded us all she is happy to collect any gently used clothing items for them. Martha said that she received very positive feedback.

*We received a nice email from Metropolitan Ministries thanking us for our contribution for the Easter Boxes of Hope. The contribution of our parishioners totaled \$575 which helped them serve over 2,500 meals to families in our community.

*Plans are well under way for the Cinco de Mayo luncheon coming up this Sunday. Thank you, Father Reese, for including this in your announcements, as we have definitely generated some excitement and anticipation for Sunday. We have already received monies for pre-sales and also donations.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE – Lori Taplow

*Wallace Dixon determined that the artwork for the mugs in the welcome bags is not available. So he is working on recreating it and will show it to us when ready. Once the artwork is approved, he will reorder the mugs.

PARISH LIFE – Don Crawford & Lori Taplow

*After the summer, we will put something in the bulletin to seek new members for Parish Life. Easter Sunday was successful, with many hands involved and lots of food.

OLD BUSINESS

*Awaiting Canon Michael Durning's notes to address our recent retreat.

NEW BUSINESS

*Roaches in the kitchen. Source is the boxes with fruit, etc., from the homeless program. Paula will make sure the boxes will be taken away by the delivery crew.

*Peter and the Rector had a meeting with Jason Accardi of 717 on 4/24. Jason suggested that 717 expand our parking lot operation to include evenings and weekends. Currently, we allow use of 2/3 of the lot to 717 on weekdays from 6AM until 8PM and we receive a portion of the proceeds. Jason suggested that we change the signage and consider a parking monitoring machine for after hours parkers. Vestry was not in favor of a monitoring machine, but is willing to listen to other possible proposals from 717. Peter will contact 717 and continue negotiations.

*Tampa Port Ministries has a grant in the amount of \$7,500. They seek a Summer Intern to work with their Outreach, perhaps someone looking to go into ministry, perhaps. College students are eligible. This is a paid internship.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

509 East Twiggs Street

Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TYPE-A'S MEET THE LABYRINTH



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.